

Parish Councillors

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DORMINGTON AND MORDIFORD GROUP PARISH COUNCIL.

Newsletter January 2010.

A Happy New Year to you all from the members of the Parish Council. It's been a difficult, if picturesque, start to the year. It's been a stern test for Amey who now run the maintenance of the highways for Herefordshire Council. Anthony Bush, Parish Liaison and Rural Services Officer, has notified us that during the recent prolonged spell of adverse weather conditions, in line with other councils, they have had to concentrate on gritting and salting the A and B roads in the county. In such conditions extreme caution is advised in using minor roads and pavements. Details of the gritting routes are published on the website www.herefordshire.gov.uk. Waste and recycling collections have been disrupted, but every effort has been made to resume normal collection dates. Fire and Rescue advise parents to keep children away from icy bodies of water. NHS services remain under pressure & people are urged to only use 999 calls in life-threatening situations. Instead of using Accident & Emergency consider using a local Pharmacy or calling NHS Direct on 0845 46 47 or visiting it on-line at <http://www.nhs.uk/>.

F. Dees.

The Adoption of the sewers at Dormington.

The Maltings was built in 1996 by Tay Homes Ltd. The builders constructed sewers from the houses to connect to the small sewerage works on the outskirts of the village, which was enlarged by Welsh Water to cope with the extra demand. The sewers, however, had to be officially adopted by Welsh Water upon Tay Homes meeting the necessary conditions, including a CCTV survey. For various reasons, including take-over of Tay by Redrow Homes and the Foot and mouth epidemic, Welsh Water have still not yet adopted the sewers, despite regular prompting from the Parish Council.

The issue came to a head just before Christmas when a blockage in the sewer (caused by tractor damage to an inspection chamber in a field) resulted in untreated sewerage running from a manhole cover in the middle of the highway, down the road and into a rainwater drain, with cars splashing it up onto the pavement and grass verge.

This was reported to Welsh Water but it was over a week before the problem was resolved, as a gesture of goodwill, by Welsh Water. Neither Welsh Water nor Hereford Council would accept responsibility long term, however. Matters became more urgent after a letter had been sent from Hereford Council to all the residents of the Maltings demanding that they resolve the problem within 48 hours—over a weekend ! Councillor Nick Brewin has now enlisted the help of the local MP, Bill Wiggin, to finally get the sewer adopted. He has written to all the parties involved and we hope he will be successful—especially before the next General Election !

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Affordable Housing. Thanks again to all residents who completed the recent Housing Needs survey. The results supported the need identified in the Parish Plan for more affordable housing. An 'in-fill' site in Dormington has been identified as potentially meeting the required criteria and the landowner is willing, in principle, to assist. More detailed plans are being prepared and will be discussed at the forthcoming Parish Council meetings.

Traffic Control. There has been some debate as to whether to extend the double yellow lines outside Mordiford Primary School. The Parish Council suggested that there should be an extension in order to reduce the congestion. There was strong opposition to this suggestion from local residents and people using the school; accordingly that idea has been abandoned. The Parish Council would welcome any other proposals to ease traffic congestion in the area. We also propose to consult with Herefordshire Council about measures to contribute to road safety in the vicinity of Sufton Rise

Nick Brewin

Youth Club. It has been suggested that it would be helpful if there could be a rota drawn up of adult volunteers who would be willing to take an interest in the club. A leader is not needed, rather people who could be on hand to advise and support the members of the club. We have one volunteer so far. If you feel you could support these enterprising young people by taking a turn on the rota please contact the clerk. She would also like to know if there is any interest in an under 14s night, which might be possible, provided there are enough parent volunteers to form a rota.

Parish Council logo/letterhead. We are launching a competition for a design for a PC logo/letterhead. The design must include Dormington and Mordiford Group Parish Council and the clerk's details. There will be a small prize awarded to the winner. Deadline May 1st. Results announced in the newsletter following.

Get involved. This year the Parish Council has budgeted £500 for you, the community, to spend. We would like to receive your ideas on how the money could be spent. It must be legal, feasible, and benefit residents in the parish. The £500 could be spent on one item, a few small items, a contribution towards a more expensive item or a contribution towards an enhanced service. Please send your ideas to the clerk or any other councillor before the 1st of May, there will be an opportunity to see ideas already received at the annual parish meetings held on the 20th April. All eligible ideas will be printed in the June newsletter and residents will be asked to prioritise ideas. The most popular ideas will be agreed at the next scheduled Parish Council meeting and spending authorised. We hope you will find this an empowering process and we look forward to your ideas.

Planning Meeting. Peter Yates, Planning Policy Manager for Hereford Council, will attend a meeting at Mordiford School on Feb. 9th. to discuss the forthcoming document which sets out the development of the county until 2026; it is a very important consultation as individual sites for development are likely to be identified and it concerns everyone in the county.

Mel Preedy. Clerk.

Footpaths

During 2009 the Parish Paths Officer managed to walk all of the paths in our parish to check on their condition. Some problems were rectified when possible, and more significant problems were reported to the Rights of Way officer at Herefordshire Council. In the case of the Loop Walk beyond Penteloe Glen, The Forestry Commission has been approached to dig out the ditches with a view to draining the path where it is excessively muddy. The picnic site viewpoints at Swardon Quarry and Checkley Barn are being maintained, with the grass cut, and it is hoped that picnic benches will be provided on both sites this Spring. Some stiles have been replaced by self closing gates and it is hoped to continue with this programme of improved access during the year ahead. If any landowner has a deteriorating stile on their land (and there are quite a few in the Checkley area) and would like to replace it with a free gate kit supplied, please apply to the Parish Council. Remember that a rotting or wobbly stile can only be repaired and not replaced with a new stile under new rules. The Parish Council has applied for a grant to take over some of the costs of the maintenance of its paths under the P3 scheme, but we have yet to hear if we are successful. Meanwhile, with the New Year the Parish Paths Officer has started a new programme of checking all of our paths and the new waymarker badges (yellow arrow on black) will soon be appearing to replace damaged ones.

John Litchfield.

Your Parish Council. Please remember that all residents are welcome to attend Parish Council meetings which are held approximately six times a year. There is always a short open forum for you to raise topics and ask questions. Meetings are advertised on the village notice boards well in advance and the minutes are also posted there and on the Parish Council website www.dormingtonmordifordgroup-pc.gov.uk.

Dates for your diary

Advance notice of Parish Council meetings 2010, which take place at the School, Mordiford at 8.00 pm. All welcome.

Feb. 2nd. March 2nd. May 4th.

Annual General meetings.

Dormington. April 20th. 8.00pm. St. Peter's Church.

Mordiford. April 20th. 8.00pm. Mordiford School.

Planning Consultation meeting.

Mordiford School. Feb. 9th. 7.30 pm. Speaker Peter Yates.

Frances Dees. Editor.