

Dormington & Mordiford Group Parish Council Councillors
July 2012

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Responsibilities : -

Emergency Co-ordination:

Peter Davies: 07968080554, Jan Ashton-Jones: 01432 870827

Planning: Ray Dickson, Peter Davies, Cheryl Shearer and John Lee

Churchyard and Burial Ground: Peter Davies, Jan Ashton-Jones, Lorna Radnor

Footpaths: John Lichfield (Footpath Officer), John Lee, Jan Ashton-Jones

Finance: Nick Brewin, Cheryl Shearer, Brian Dukes, Ray Dickson

Tree Warden: John Lee

Parish Projects: Jan Ashton-Jones, Brian Dukes, Cheryl Shearer, Lorna Radnor

Localism Group: Nick Brewin, Brian Dukes, Cheryl Shearer, Ray Dickson, Jan Ashton-Jones

HALC Representative: John Lichfield

Newsletter Editor: Brian Dukes

Parish Clerk: Melanie Preedy



**THE
DRAGON**

NOVEMBER 2012



Welcome to the last edition of The Dragon in 2012. It seems incredible that we are approaching the end of the this year – and still haven't had summer!

The Parish Council has had a busy year; we have achieved a great deal e.g. establishment of local bus services, but there still remains much to do and consider. We remain confident that the planning application for the affordable housing/allotments/play area scheme at Sufton Rise will be submitted before the end of December. When this happens, you will have your final opportunity to comment on the proposals and we will ensure that the application will be discussed at a Parish Council meeting as all our meetings are open to the public and there is always a section where residents may comment or ask questions on any matter. After years now of discussion and planning, it will be great to see dreams turn into reality during 2013. We also need to decide how to proceed regarding Neighbourhood Planning and whether we link with another nearby Parish Council to work on this initiative.

We hope that you will find the various articles in this edition of the Dragon relevant and interesting. If you have any suggestions as to what you would like to see us include in future editions, please let our Editor, Brian Dukes, know.

For now, on behalf of our Clerk and my fellow Parish Councillors, may I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy, successful and sunny(!) 2013.

Best wishes

Nick Brewin
D&MG Parish Council Chairman

What is a Parish Council?

Parish Councils are a tier of local government which represent the views and needs of their community. Councillors are elected to office every four years or are co-opted if a vacancy occurs during this period. Parish Councils raise money through the 'precept' which is collected by Herefordshire Council as part of the Council Tax. Dormington and Mordiford Group Parish Council can provide whatever facilities, services or events it sees fit. Currently the Council manages the burialground and closed churchyard, contracts a lengthsman to carry out minor highway work, maintains the parish Rights of Way, pays for a monthly bus service, reports highway problems to Amey Herefordshire for them to action and also provides comments in response to planning applications submitted in the parish.

The Parish Council meets monthly, all meetings are advertised on the noticeboards throughout the parish. There is always a slot for the public to raise any concerns, issues or make comments and we welcome more residents to attend. If you don't fancy attending a meeting, our new parish council website will have lots of up-to-date information or feel free to email the clerk about anything.

Notes from the Parish Clerk.

Flooding – if you need sandbags in an emergency please collect from Fred Davies at 5 Wallflower Row, Mordiford or phone one of the Emergency Co-ordinators: Peter Davies on 07968080554 or Jan Ashton-Jones on 07851067390.

New bench: earlier this year residents voted on what they would spend £500 on within the parish. The top choice was a new bench at Checkley Barn picnic site, this has now been installed and is ready for those enjoying crisp, winter walks.

New website: the parish council's new website will soon be live and will contain up-to-date information about local events, the community and the parish council. Please send any information, photos, or events you wish to be placed on the website to Brian Dukes, the web-master.

- Identify new funding to support victim services and prevent crime and disorder.
- ensure views of victims are listened to and that they receive a fairer deal within the criminal justice system.
- develop new opportunities for the rehabilitation of offenders to benefit communities.
- support West Mercia police to meet the challenge of austerity measures.

More information at www.bill4pcc.co.uk

This statement has been prepared by Barrie Sheldon, Election agent, 26, Broomhurst Way, Muxton, Telford TF2 8RG

Dr Simon Murphy

Election statement:

If elected I will keep politics out of the police by appointing an independent Deputy Commissioner. Private companies will not be allowed to patrol our streets or carry out core policing duties. I will put victims and witnesses at the heart of all I do. I will take swift and strong action to tackle anti-social behaviour. Domestic violence, sexual violence and hate crime will receive the attention they deserve. Communities will be given a direct say in how they are policed. **My top priority will be to keep Police visible and out on our streets.**

I will defend local policing in Herefordshire, Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin and Worcestershire. I will stand up for our excellent Police Officers who are being attacked by their own Government. David Cameron's 20% funding cuts have already cost the jobs of 200 local police officers since 2010. According to Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary a minimum of 820 police jobs will be lost from our Force by 2015. This will hit our local streets and communities. You don't cut crime by cutting the police. The threat of privatisation hangs over core policing duties. At the same time a Government Minister abuses police officers simply for doing their jobs.

I grew up in Droitwich and now live in Worcester with my wife and two children. I am a company Chairman, and have worked as a University Tutor, Member of the European Parliament, Project Director and Chief Executive. In my spare time I coach youth rugby.

Prepared by Agent Douglas Bridger on behalf of Simon Murphy both at 115 Lansdowne Road Worcester
WV3 8JJ

I also give time and energy to improving our local community. I live and farm with my wife Julia in Herefordshire.

- I have an excellent track record of forging and sustaining effective partnerships. I have successfully chaired two public/private sector partnerships.
- As a former Army Officer, with three tours of Northern Ireland, I have experience of working with the Police in an intelligence role.

Prepared by Agent Martyn Punyer on behalf of Adrian Blackshaw, both of 8, Corn Square, Leominster, HR6 8LR.

Bill Longmore

Election statement:

Bill Longmore is an Independent candidate with no political allegiance. He is not a politician but a man of the people who has considerable experience of policing (ex police officer); business (ex director of a successful timber business); and has worked tirelessly for the community throughout his life (providing sporting opportunities for young people and driving forward community projects).

He strongly believes that politicians should not be allowed to interfere with policing and that the people of West Mercia have a choice to vote for a person who is not connected with a political party.

Bill was the winner of the BBC Midlands (Unsung Hero) Sports Award 2011 in recognition of his community work, and he has a passion for helping people.

The current austerity measures have had a huge impact on policing and in the short term there is no funding for more police officers so the challenge is to ensure that the resources available are maximised to effectively meet the needs of the people.

Bills aims are to:

- listen to the people and provide a strong voice to champion their needs.
- ensure policing partnerships are dynamic, effective and provide real benefits for the community.
- identify new partners, funding and opportunities for young people using sport and other social activities to divert them away from crime and disorder.

Grit bins: the parish council has purchased three new grit bins to be placed near Hillside, Checkley; Pentaloe Close and near the Church entrance in Dormington. They will be in situ shortly; if you spot a grit bin which needs re-filling please get in touch with the Clerk.

Bus services: as reported in the previous edition of the Dragon, the parish council has been fortunate enough to gain funding to subsidise two new bus services.

Ledbury Service:

A monthly service will operate on the fourth Friday of each month to Ledbury. The service will travel from Fownhope, through Mordiford and up to the A438 via Dormington. The bus will stop at Mordiford at 9.42am, Sufton Rise at 9.44am and Dormington at 9.46am and will depart from Ledbury at 12.35pm – the cost will be £3.70 return unless you have a bus pass in which case you will travel for free. The service is due to start on 23rd November, just in time for Christmas shopping!

Late night services:

A late bus is also due to start on Friday 16th November. The service will leave Hereford just before 11.00pm at the Courtyard and will stop at St Peters Square, the county bus station, travel through Hampton Dene, Hampton Bishop, Mordiford (Sufton Rise will be a request stop) then terminate at Fownhope. The service will operate every Friday and Saturday for a trial of three months – so as with all other services use it or lose it! The last bus into Hereford leaves the Moon Inn, Mordiford at 6.50pm, which gives people enough time to visit the cinema, Courtyard, restaurants, pubs or visit friends without having to worry about driving or paying expensive taxi fares.

Ross on Wye Service.

You are reminded that a bus service operates between Sufton Rise and Ross on Wye via Mordiford and Fownhope on the second Thursday of each month. It leaves Mordiford at 9.32am and returns by 12.35pm. This service is proving very popular.

Parish Paths Report

For those of you who find stiles difficult for yourselves or your dogs, then this year has brought good news. To date there are 15 fewer stiles on "our patch" replaced by 15 pedestrian gates. As a result of a successful bid to the Wye Valley AONB we have been granted most of these at no cost to our P3 budget. That means we can continue this work by replacing a further 4 stiles with gates before the end of the financial year.

For those of you who like to get out into this beautiful countryside, hopefully you will have discovered that there are also 3 new ditch/stream crossings in place, 2 well maintained picnic sites and that the path network is clearly signed and well maintained. We have also opened up 2 "lost" paths and put them back into use. I am grateful to those of you who report problems as you discover them as most problems are then sorted out within a few days of discovery, and to my small team of Parish Councillor helpers. What can you do? Go out and enjoy the network of walks, but don't forget to carry your secateurs to cut back overgrowth of brambles and hawthorn on gates and stiles. That will give me more time to tackle the bigger problems.

John Litchfield

Walking 4 Health is a national initiative to encourage people to get out and get some fresh air and exercise: since John Litchfield and I trained as volunteer leaders we have led three walks in the Mordiford area.

We have been able to show people short but pleasant circular routes that they haven't walked before and a small group of us are getting to know each other in the process. We lead a monthly walk on the first Tuesday of each month: the next one will be on November 6th and the following one on December 4th. Usually we meet at Kiddleys Copse at 10 am although we may vary the meeting place depending upon our planned route: look out for notices around the village.

We would love to see more people joining us on these walks, especially from Dormington and Checkley, so please do come along!

Jan Ashton-Jones

The Ramblers and MacMillan Cancer Support are working together

Have your say in the Police & Crime Commissioners Election on 15 November 2012.

There are three candidates for our area: -

Adrian Blackshaw

Election statement:

IF ELECTED I will represent **all** residents with integrity, impartiality and independence. My task is to ensure that West Mercia Police, working with the Partner Agencies, deliver an efficient, effective and coherent service. **A service that makes a real difference to all of us.**

I have three pledges

1 TO LISTEN

- I will respond to your concerns, and crack down on anti-social behaviour and local crime, with resolute action.
- You tell me: "Too many crimes go un-investigated. Every crime has an impact. Every crime matters." I agree. I shall expect more crimes to be investigated and taken seriously.

2 TO LEAD

- I shall set one objective: to cut crime. Letting police officers be police officers, not stuck behind a desk.
- I will demand joined-up thinking and true, action-orientated, partnership from all the agencies involved.

3 TO PROTECT

- Local Policing is my top priority and I will do my utmost to support current levels of Community Support Officers.
- I will ensure that Police and Partner Agencies safeguard, support and protect vulnerable people in our communities and treat victims of crime as people, not just a number.

ABOUT ADRIAN BLACKSHAW

I am **not a career politician**. I have a record of achievement, building and managing a wide range of successful businesses.

Latest Broadband information.

Councils in Gloucestershire and Herefordshire have agreed to enter into final negotiations with a single supplier to deliver superfast broadband to rural areas.

The Borders Broadband project covers Herefordshire and Gloucestershire and is one of four national pilot projects to address the challenge of poor broadband coverage in rural areas.

Delivery of broadband to the rural areas will open up opportunities for business, creating jobs and providing a lifeline to many residents.

Councillor Graham Powell, Cabinet Member for Education & Infrastructure, Herefordshire Council, said: "The 'need for speed' is increasing, and as services such as video or TV on demand and video conferencing become more popular then access to superfast broadband becomes vital.

"This project, along with commercial improvements to the network, should see 88% of homes and business within our county having access to speeds of 30Mbps and above. We are building a network for the future and investing in technology that will future proof our county.

"Without this investment we would be in danger of falling into the digital divide, which would have a negative impact on our ability to generate economic growth."

The councils will now continue negotiations with the single bidder in the final stage of the procurement process. The proposed contract covers the design, build and operation of a wholesale broadband network across both counties

The network will be used by any number of independent internet service providers (ISPs) who would then offer a range of retail broadband packages to the consumer.

The total public sector investment covering both counties is £35.4m, funded by the local authorities, Government funding and BDUK.

A single contract for Herefordshire and Gloucestershire is proposed with the partnership between the two counties remaining in place until the end of project.

A Christmas Celebration HEREFORD POLICE MALE VOICE CHOIR

IN CONCERT with

MORDIFORD SCHOOL CHOIR

at the CHURCH of the HOLY ROOD

MORDIFORD

Hereford

Saturday December 15th 2012

7.00 pm – 9.00 pm

Followed by mince pies ad mulled wine in the school

Tickets - £8.00 adult, £2.00 child

Get your tickets from:

Mordiford School, The Yew tree, Jan Ashton-Jones

For more information contact

Jan Ashton-Jones (01432 870827) janaj1009@gmail.com

Local Transport Plan (2012 to 2015) Consultation

Herefordshire Council is inviting views on its plans for transport delivery throughout the county and we want as many people to be involved as possible. These plans will impact everybody living, working or visiting Herefordshire.

They want your views on car parking within Hereford, the roll out of 20mph residential zones, the countywide bus service, a new approach to reduce the numbers of potholes, overall plans for Hereford and Rural Herefordshire and future spend priorities.

The consultation started on Monday 10th September and will end on Friday 16th November.

You can get involved by completing a questionnaire either online using the Council's website www.herefordshire.gov.uk/ltc-consultation, or by picking up a consultation leaflet at your local library or customer service centre.

Report from Neighbourhood Watch. October 2012

1. There have been four collisions on the Fownhope Road over the last month or so. Two have been near Lucksall Caravan site where a vehicle hit a wall and another vehicle ran into the boundary hedge. A third vehicle hit the parapet of the bridge over the Pentaloe River in Mordiford and a fourth ran into a low wall at The Warf.
2. One of the large stones at the entrance to Westwood which had been rolled towards the road has now been replaced.
3. The source of the water which spills across the road from the mill race has been investigated by Amey and corrective work has been undertaken.
4. The reflective road markers placed around the bend where the mill race passes under the road have improved road safety.
5. The County Council have distributed a note to all residents of Pentaloe Close warning them not to deposit garden refuse along the banks of the Pentaloe River. The Parish Council considered this problem a couple of years ago but the ownership of the land could not be determined and no action was taken.
6. Residents are unhappy about the mess remaining in Kidleys Copse following tree felling. The Forestry Commission have been approached asking for the land to be returned to its previous state.
7. Residents of Pentaloe Close remain anxious over the danger of pulling out on to the Woolhope Road. On two successive days, drivers coming down the hill from the Woolhope direction have used horns to warn drivers pulling out from the Close.
8. Parishioners may be interested to know that Mr and Mrs Watts are wishing to sell Hope Springs.
9. The new owners of Mangerdine are in consultation with architects to determine how best to proceed with the renovation of the homestead. They have been advised that bats reside in the old cottage and no plans can be considered until next spring by which time a bat survey will have been undertaken.
10. Broadband speeds in the area have been reduced by a half over the last month. This might be something to do with the work being done in the City by BT.
11. Residents of Pentaloe Close continue to be anxious about the large fir trees surrounding the sewage works. BT might be interested in the size of these trees since a telephone pole lies hidden amongst the branches.
12. Residents were horrified to learn that, after paying 60p for a green bag to put garden refuse in, the bag goes into landfill. They feel that as the bags are clearly marked, they should be sent for composting. The Council have responded by pointing out the cost of collecting green bags separately

makes this practice, although desirable, uneconomic. Green material delivered to the Rotherwas recycling centre directly, is being composted.

13. One resident succumbed to the efforts of a telephone salesman and was persuaded to purchase software to protect the computer from virus and malware attacks. Further publicity to the risk of falling victim to such scams must be given.

14. Over the last couple of months numerous e-mails have been received asking recipients to follow links and confirm bank details as there has been a problem with a particular account. Emails have been sent supposedly from Santander, Halifax, Natwest, and Lloyds. The Beat Officer has been alerted about these emails and he confirmed that this is a real problem but it is difficult to resolve.

15. Mud on the road between Hampton Bishop and Mordiford Bridge has created a real hazard for traffic. The wet conditions have made it very difficult to harvest potatoes and vast quantities of mud are carried on to the road with each trailer load. Some attempt has been made to clean up, but the equipment used simply spreads the mud over the road surface.

Brian Dukes

SAMARITANS

40 YEARS OF LISTENING IN HEREFORDSHIRE !

This November Herefordshire Samaritans celebrated 40 years of listening in the county. Samaritans are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year for all those with emotional problems which may lead to suicide.

Last year Herefordshire Samaritans dealt with over 13,000 calls from people in distress. To maintain the service, the branch needs to recruit more volunteers and, volunteering for Samaritans could change your life, but more importantly may save others. If you feel you might not be suitable but would be interested in having a go, we offer both training and support as you are probably just the person we are looking for.

As it costs over £40,000 a year to maintain and operate the branch, numerous fund-raising activities are organised by the groups of Friends of Samaritans. If you feel able to help in any way, either by becoming a Samaritan volunteer or by joining a Friends of Samaritans group, or by sending a donation, please write to :

The Secretary
Herefordshire Samaritans
44a, Berrington Street
Hereford. HR4 OBJ

Registered Charity: 507570

Samaritans can be contacted any time by telephone :

01432 269000 or 08457 909090
by email :jo@samaritans.org

You can write to us or even come and see us at the address above.