

Dormington & Mordiford Group Parish Council Christmas Newsletter

December 2024



A look back at 2024

2024 has been a big year for the Parish. The Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) has been part of Parish Council work for over a year now. With a change in Clerk, it was decided that Cllr Cotton would coordinate the project within the Steering Group. Blood, sweat and tears have been shed to get us to the position now where the final plan is ready to be submitted to Herefordshire Council for review. See page 4 for a full update.

Earlier in the year we welcomed Cllr Parvin and Cllr Rider by co-option to the Parish Council. Cllr Parvin has been part of the NDP Steering group so joining the PC seemed a natural next step. He has a keen interest in planning and finance which is a great fit for the PC. Cllr Rider has already become a regular at the Bartestree Village hall meetings as the PC Trustee, to keep us updated with developments.

In August we said goodbye to Ms Green after many years in the Parish Council as Clerk and Councillor. The Parish Council thank Ms Green for all her hard work over the years. Ms Green will still be the PC's eyes and ears at the allotment.

Highlights from 2024

- The Parish Footpath regeneration (page 2)
- The Neighbourhood Development Plan (page 4)
- 2024/25 Herefordshire Council Grants (page 2)
- The arrival of two new Councillors (page 1)
- Dormington's new Noticeboard
- A lot of work behind the scenes updating policies, and procedures



Public Rights of Way Improvements:

Our trusty Footpaths Officer has done an amazing job this year, ensuring not only that access to our Public Rights of Way have stayed clear of vegetation but also that assets such as finger posts (sign posts), ditch crossings and handrails have been maintained and replaced if necessary.

The Parish employs contractors to keep paths clear, but it's the Footpaths Officer who walks the paths and keeps on top of the maintenance.

The Parish Council received notification during the summer that it had been awarded £5780 for the Public Rights of Way improvement projects it had applied for. This is amazing and our Footpaths Officer has already started replacing more footpath assets. This money makes a big difference to what the Parish Council can do within the Parish.

The Parish Council would like to thank the Footpaths Officer for his continued dedication to ensuring we all have access to the lovely countryside around us.

Finger Post replacement



New accessible gates instead of stiles!

Drainage funding

Another one of Herefordshire Councils new funding initiatives connected to the Lengthsman Scheme, is the Drainage fund. With increase in rainfall and subsequent flooding in the county, having extra money to tackle drainage issues in the Parish is also gladly received. In late October we were notified that we had been awarded £3550 for drainage projects. This work can involve ditch clearing along roads to ensure water runoff from fields, flows away correctly instead of onto roads. Our lengthsman will be starting the drainage work soon within the Parish.



Plans for 2025/26...



- Traffic Control projects in the Parish including the installation of a Speed Indicator Device and a TRO to change the speed limit in Dormington.
- Research into finding a solution to the give way issues on Mordiford Bridge if funding can be found
- VE-Day 80th Anniversary celebration
- A new Noticeboard for Mordiford Green
- A facelift for the Green Hut on Mordiford Green
- Ongoing improvements to the Parish Public Rights of Way

The 2025/26 Budget:

In October/November, the Parish Council have the task of putting together the budget for the following financial year. Here is the budget for 25/26 compared to 24/25.

BUDGET				
		Financial Year:	2024/25	2025/26
INCOME	Precept (Annual)		£22,445.00	£23,568.00
	Interest received		£749.25	£250.00
	VAT Refund		£12,977.20	£0.00
	Allotment fees		£650.00	£650.00
	Burial Ground Fees		£140.00	£0.00
	National Grid (Wayleave)		£29.79	£29.79
	Participatory Budget from Reserves		£0.00	£22,000.00
	TOTAL INCOME		£36,991.24	£46,497.79
			2024/25	2025/26
EXPENSES	Admin Expenses		£800.00	£500.00
	Allotments - mowing & maintenance		£500.00	£500.00
	Audit Fees		£500.00	£600.00
	Bank Charges (new)			£250.00
	Churchyard & Burial ground - mowing & maintenance		£2,500.00	£2,500.00
	Clerks Salary		£6,300.00	£9,000.00
	Community events (inc D-Day Celebration)		£1,000.00	£1,400.00
	Defibs - maintenance/part replacement (new)			£300.00
	Donations & Grants		£2,000.00	£1,000.00
	Elections		£0.00	£0.00
	Green spaces - mowing & maintenance		£1,700.00	£2,000.00
	Highways & PROW (removed)		£8,000.00	
	Insurance		£650.00	£900.00
	Lengthsman - Highways (new)			£2,000.00
	Lengthsman - Drainage (new)			£2,000.00
	Maintenance of Assets		£400.00	£2,500.00
	Meeting room hire		£300.00	£300.00
	NDP - covered by grants		£3,000.00	£0.00
	Parish Projects (removed)		£2,000.00	
	Payroll Services (new)			£300.00
	Projects - Traffic control (SIDS/TRO) (new)			£10,000.00
	Projects - Checkley Management Plan and Pond restoration survey (new)			£500.00
	Projects - Other (new)			£500.00
	PROW - Parish Footpaths (new)			£6,000.00
	Ross on Wye Bus Subsidy		£300.00	£300.00
	Subscriptions		£600.00	£700.00
Training (Clerk, Cltrs)		£1,500.00	£1,500.00	
Website and IT Support inc software subscriptions		£800.00	£800.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES			£32,850.00	£46,350.00
TOTAL INCOME			£36,991.24	£46,497.79
Difference			£4,141.24	£147.79
Key				
	New or removed budget headings			
	Money from PC reserves			

For more information on the narrative to the decision making regarding the budget, please visit our website:
<https://dormingtonmordifordgroup-pc.gov.uk/>

Update on the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP)



As of November 2024, our Group Parish NDP has been through Regulation 14 - the first statutory public and stakeholder consultation - and amendments have been made to the plan as a result of your inputs. We are extremely grateful to those who commented and who turned up to the various meetings.

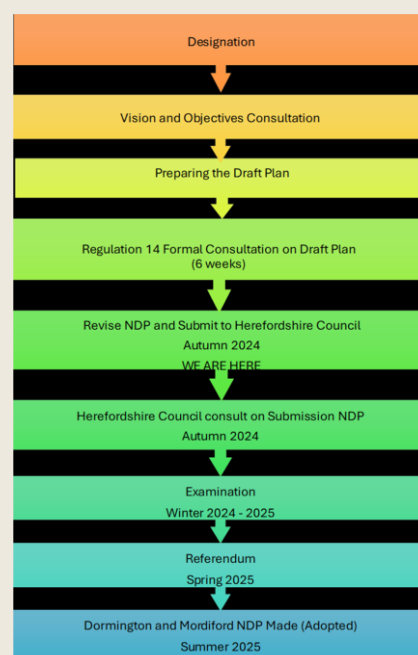
At present we are awaiting input from Herefordshire Council before the plan progresses to Regulation 16 consultation and then independent examination by a specialist consultant planner, followed by further changes if necessary and then the public referendum. If all goes to plan, it will be used to determine planning applications in the Group Parish.

In the future, the NDP will need to be reviewed as required so that it continues to conform with National and Herefordshire planning policies.

Here's a brief reminder of the purpose of an NDP - our focus was on trying to get some much needed, affordable housing.

The purpose of an NDP is to allow a parish and its residents to determine settlement locations, design of housing, and sufficient housing to meet local needs (e.g. for key workers in a rural environment), but also to resist development of houses unsuited to local needs, unsympathetic to local landscapes or to local vernacular and built in order to meet the Herefordshire Local Plan housing targets for the whole county.

If a parish has an NDP, it does NOT prohibit the development of other houses or buildings. However should developers wish to build in the parish, the NDP stipulates where those development sites should be located, and that developments should contribute to meeting local needs. NDPs can also support other types of development (such as a parish / school hall) which are needed in the area.





Important contact numbers:

Power Cuts - Dial 105 regardless of who you buy electricity from

Gas Leaks - National Gas Emergency - 0800 111 999

Flooding - Environment Agency - 0800 807 060

Water Leaks - Welsh Water Leak Line - 0800 281 432

Sewerage - Welsh Water Sewerage Services - 0800 0853 968

Police - Emergency - 999 (only if crime in progress or lives in danger); Non-Emergency - 101

Police Safer Neighbourhood Team

PC Stefan Hawes 07773054234

PCSO Adam Westlake 07773052580

Animal Health and Welfare (e.g. dead animals on road) - 01432 261761 (office hrs. only)

Excessive mud on the road presenting a hazard to road users - 01432 261800

County Hospital

01432 355 444

Fownhope Surgery

01432 860235

Highway Issues

FIXMYSTREET.com (for any reports of potholes, flytipping, drainage issues etc. Herefordshire Council and Balfour Beatty will pick these up)

Dormington & Mordiford Group Parish Council NEED YOU!

Have you ever thought about being a volunteer?

Can you spare some time to help your community?

In 2024 we managed to fill two Councillor vacancies and we welcomed Cllr Parvin and Cllr Rider into the fold. But we also said goodbye to Ms. Green after many years in the Parish Council as a Clerk and a Councillor.

This means we have a vacancy for another Councillor.

A seat at the table that could be yours.

If you think you have what it takes to be a Parish Councillor, please get in touch with the clerk for more details.

clerk@dormingtonmordifordgroup-pc.gov.uk

Also see:

[Becoming a councillor](#)

Dormington & Mordiford Group Parish Council

would like to wish you and your family

Merry Christmas

and a

Happy New Year