



Newsletter – Summer 2025

MESSAGE FROM THE NEW CHAIRMAN

Welcome to Wellington Parish Council's Summer Newsletter.

At the May Parish Council meeting, I was nominated to – and accepted – the role of Chairman of the Parish Council.



I consider this to be an honour, and I look forward to the challenges ahead. I am delighted to retain the team of councillors looking after roads, drains and ditches, planning and footpaths so you can be assured that our core work will continue unchanged. What is clear is that my main focus will be on finding some sort of

solutions to our flooding issues and for this I will also rely on external help.

My family is long established in Wellington, and I was born here – more years ago than I will publicise! But that doesn't mean that I will not have the interests of every parishioner at heart – whether, like me, long standing, or new to Wellington – the Parish Council works hard for everyone.



I would also like to use this opportunity to introduce our new Parish Clerk, Emyr Saer, who has stepped into the shoes of Chris Bucknell following her retirement and who is already making his mark on proceedings. Emyr has the unenviable task of making sure that everything the PC does is conducted following the due legal process. Emyr has lived in

Wellington for 25 years and so again has a wealth of local knowledge to call on.

Cllr Colin Williams

Chairman, Wellington Parish Council

The Parish Council's "Mission" Musings from the Chairman

Since taking on the role of Chairman, I have been thinking of what can I do to make Wellington's Parish Council resonate with our parishioners. As you read on in this newsletter you will see how important engagement across the whole Parish is. And how important the Parish Council is to the village. Simple fact – we have to have one - it's the way local government works in this county.

There has always seemed to be some sort of stigma attached to Parish Councils and we can't lay all of the blame at "Vicar of Dibley" either! Even now, I know people are inclined to think - and say - 'bunch of doddering old folk rabbiting on about nothing much and retiring to the pub'! So, let's dispel that myth – we don't have a pub to retire to, and we are not all in the final years of our lives, nor do we rabbit on about nothing. And with the arrival of Andy Churcher as a councillor the average age has dropped somewhat!

It's true to say that there are some parts of our meetings which are not overly stimulating but we do have to go through due process of disclosing all our finances in public for example, so there are always statutory items on our agendas.

We currently have vacancies for two councillors – we can have a total of eight – and part of my mission, if you want to call it that, is to try and get younger people involved – we understand about time pressures for those with young families but surely amongst our parishioners, especially those who may have moved in more recently, there are folk with an interest in community matters and with some time to spare?

We have one common goal and that is to support the whole parish community to make Wellington a better place to live. For my part I want to be accessible and approachable – you will see me around the village, come and talk to me – tell me what you like – or don't like - about Wellington.

Let's communicate!



Herefordshire Wildlife Trust

UPDATE ON HEREFORDSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST WORK FOR WELLINGTON

Thanks to an Environment Agency grant, HWT has been able to do some work in the Wellington catchment (which as we explained at the Annual Parish meeting is huge!) all aimed at improvement to water-related issues. 16 farmers in the catchment were contacted and given advice about resilience to climate change and on 8 of these farms, solutions such as scrapes, leaky dams, woodland planting, hedgerow restoration and cross-track drains have been actioned. This is all to improve soil and water quality, including slowing the flow of water as well as intercepting, infiltration and storing more water in heavy rainfall events. There is now an HWT WhatsApp farmer group for the catchment which will be good for the exchange of ideas.

If you want to see some of that work in action, then the field belonging to Dick and David Makin at Wellington



Marsh has undergone new tree planting and creation of scrapes which are shallow depressions to hold water especially during the wetter seasons. This is all helping in our own efforts to mitigate flooding and we are

grateful to HWT for their support.

FLOODING UPDATE

This update was penned at the end of May ready for publication so by the time you read this, there may be progress on some fronts. Parish Council meetings and minutes are the best place to find more information. May has been a month of immense frustration as it continues to be very difficult to pin down the various organisations who hold the power to make things happen!

But readers can be assured that Wellington's issues with flooding remain very much at the forefront of the work the PC is doing and now has a chairman (and two councillors) actively involved, along with Jenni Gowan who is doing her best to nag, cajole and generally keep the various plates spinning.

Hopefully the ability to officially close the roads at the Mill and ford is now in place; the final report from the consultants on the feasibility study on the catchment has been read and digested by the Parish Council and we are pushing to find out the next steps in that project.

Meanwhile flood defence doors have been provided by the PC for the shop and work with the landowner of the ditches which exacerbate issues at the Mill is underway.

Can we remind everyone that when you are installing your own flood defences: walls, gates etc., to be mindful of where that water will go when stopped at your property – if it can be proved that your defences have resulted in flooding to a neighbour you can be held liable.

It is always best to seek advice from Herefordshire Council's Flood Risk team.

Where are all our parishioners?

We have a loyal – but small – group of parishioners who regularly attend PC meetings. And then there are those who come along, quite understandably, when there is an issue that affects them directly but then disappear again.

These newsletters are intended to engage with every household across the Parish; we are grateful to the volunteers who faithfully push them through all the letterboxes - almost 500 in total.

It's important that Wellington remains true to its ethos as an active, accessible and inclusive community and the Parish Council is a 'second'-tier of local government representing parishioners' interests. Many of you who have moved from other areas, especially urban ones, may not be familiar with this concept - there are 21 counties in England which are 'fully parished'. For newcomers a couple of things you might not know – the village shop would not exist without the Parish Council's work in funding its build (and we know how lucky we are to have Julia as our tenant); although now starting to lose its weight thanks to the new Government, the Neighbourhood Development Plan which laid down tight controls on where new properties could be built by enforcing the 'building envelope' and allocating specific sites, would not have existed without the Parish Council's work over 3 years; the work of the Community Led Group is fully supported by the PC. And that's just a few of the things!

Come to our meetings – every agenda includes 'open time' where you can raise your own issues directly – and if you want to have a moan about something, don't just use Facebook, come and tell us to our faces!!! We're willing to take criticism as well as praise!

ALL ABOUT THE COMMUNITY LED PLAN IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

Let's start with a little bit of history - in 2014 a group of over 20 volunteers got together with the Parish Council to update the 2004 Community Led Plan. Questionnaires went to every household and we had a response rate of over 80%. An open weekend followed to seek more views. The result was a document detailing a number of wide-ranging actions. Rather than just put the completed plan in a drawer and forget it, we formed an implementation team (WellIMP) of 10 volunteers. This is a task and finish group of the Parish Council and a parish councillor is part of the team; we are an agenda item at PC meetings.

Early actions: BENCHES were placed in several view points; we established LITTER PICKING now run by Gill Bullock; we ran SPEEDWATCH, supported by the Neighbourhood Police; we planted BULBS along the road sides and installed PLANT TUBS; we adopted FORD MEADOW near the ford and planted wild flowers; and more recently we worked with Mr and Mrs Rees to replace the stiles with easier ACCESS GATES from the Ford along the brook and up to the Blackcurrant Field.

To better communicate, the COMMUNITY WEBSITE (www.wellingtoncommunity.co.uk) was built which is supported by the WCA and run by Peter Woodward. It provides information about what's happening in the village and circulates regular information to 250+ email subscribers. We have put a broadband connection into the Parish Room for those who meet there (connection details are on the box in the room). We have three new NOTICE BOARDS with the latest in The Row and we have also run IT courses. Jan Lyke maintains a PARISH INFORMATION PACK (WellPip) which is delivered to all newcomers to the Parish.

From the original WellImp team, new groups have emerged. Shirley Edgar leads a GREEN TEAM. This is a number of volunteers that can be called upon when Shirley has trees to plant or hedges to be tended or Ford Meadow to be cleared.

The LOCAL WILDLIFE WHATS APP group established by Viv Quinn started as a notebook in the shop foyer and is now some 60 strong noting what they spot, asking questions and sharing knowledge. It now runs events for the various members to meet up, such as Dawn Chorus Walks, Wildlife Flower Walks, Tree Appreciation, Moth counts, Pond Walks.

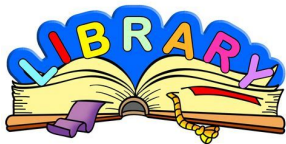


A team led by Linda Willimont is taking part in the RIVERFLY PARTNERSHIP. It monitors the quality of water in the brook by catching and counting species of invertebrates. The data is fed into a National Map partnering with Hereford Wildlife Trust and the Environment Agency.

Just before Covid, we were approached by Hereford Council to take part in the TALK COMMUNITY Initiative and a small group was formed led by John Hayward. During Covid we delivered as much information as possible via website and notice boards and joined together with the many friends and neighbours already helping people to get prescriptions and shopping. This group also then reintroduced the monthly COFFEE MORNINGS on the 2nd Friday in the month. The profit made is donated to local charities



chosen by attendees. We also reopened the LIBRARY. This had been run by Val Riches and her team ever since the mobile library was withdrawn. We have 12 helpers and it is open every Wednesday and the 1st Saturday of the month with books provided by Leominster library.



Outside of what we do, there are many in Wellington who work hard for all the wonderful clubs and activities. We like to think that in the implementation team (WellIMP) we have a group of volunteers that can be called upon and (if we can) who are willing to aid and abet the Parish in many of its endeavours. THANK YOU each and every one. We couldn't do anything without you.

Jennifer Jarrett
Chair WellIMP
0793 210 2886



SUMMERTIME.....



.....and time to enjoy the outdoors as much as possible. But along with wasps there are two other things that can be really annoying just as you settle down for a quiet time in the garden. And they are both something everyone can work towards stopping:

Bonfires – there is no law against the odd bonfire in the garden but think about your neighbours who might just be in the line of smoke drift. Try and have a fire early in the morning or late in the evening when you are sure there is no one who will be affected.

Dogs – no doubt you love your dog but do your neighbours love them too? Constant barking and (worse still) yapping can ruin a perfectly pleasant day outdoors. Be mindful that sound carries a long way and if your pet is prone to barking, try to keep it indoors for the sake of your neighbour's sanity!



**PLEASE PICK UP AFTER YOUR DOG
-BAG IT AND BIN IT -**



COME TO OUR MEETINGS !TELL US WHAT YOU THINK! ?ASK QUESTIONS?

The Parish Council **usually** meets on the first Thursday of every month, with the exception of January and August. Forthcoming dates for this year are:

September 4th October 2nd
November 6th December 4th

All at 7.30pm in the Community Hall.

Agenda will be published on the website at least 3 days before meeting: wellingtonparishcouncil.org.uk

How to contact your councillors (Tel at reasonable times):

Cllr C Williams (Chair) (Colin) Mob: 07796131814. colin1901504@gmail.com	Cllr B Prince (Vice) (Barrie) Mob: 07920 025655 barrie662@aol.com
Cllr S Crane (Stephen) Mob: 07775 610228 stephencranepc@btinternet.com	Cllr A Churcher (Andy) Mob: 07402653723 andychurcher.councillor@outlook.com
Cllr S Marron (Sean) Mob: 07760 557339 cll.sean.marron@gmail.com	Cllr K Parker (Kim) Mob: 07782 278137 kimwpc@yahoo.com
Cllr Pauline Crockett (Ward Cllr) Mob: 07803037264 Pauline.Crockett3@herefordshire.gov.uk	Emyr Saer (Parish Clerk) Mob: 07896746321 clerk@wellingtonparishcouncil.org.uk

Next Year's Annual Parish Meeting



The next Annual Parish Meeting is to be held on

**Monday 16th March 2026 @ 19:00
In the Parish Hall**

Building on the success of this year's which was so well attended you are invited to suggest topics of interest to the whole community.

Contact Councillor Kim Parker