



WOLVEY Parish Council Newsletter

Your Community Connection

Autumn 2012 Issue 19

Wolvey Parish Councillors

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Wolvey Diary Dates

Future meetings of Wolvey Parish Council

Meetings are held in the back room of the village hall at 7.45pm

Monday 15th October 2012

Monday 19th November 2012

Thursday 28th November 2012

Budget meeting

(Please note : there is no scheduled meeting arranged for December)

Monday 21st January 2013

Parish Council Surgeries

Wolvey Parish Council now provides a Councillor Surgery once a month. The purpose of the surgery is to enable local residents to raise issues or concerns with Councillor's informally outside of Parish Council meetings.

This will take place in the back room of the Village Hall at 7.30pm on the first Wednesday of every month.

Dates of Councillor Surgeries:

Wednesday 7th November 2012

Wednesday 5th December 2012

Wednesday 2nd January 2012

Mobile police station dates

1.45pm till 3.15pm

Van parked in The Square

Tuesday 9th October 2012

Tuesday 30th October 2012

Tuesday 20th November 2012

Tuesday 11th December 2012

Village @ Play Leaves Lasting Legacy

A celebration of the 'Sixty Years of a Village at Play Project' was held in the Village Hall on Saturday October 6th. The 'Play Party' was given as a massive thank you to all who had been closely involved with the project and who had made it a Wolvey summer to remember.

For the first half of the evening, the hall was a hive of activity with displays of achievements from village groups, a play area for the children and a fun wall of photographs.

Presentations of glossy souvenir books, packed with images from the project, were presented to the following village organisations and individuals: Baby and Toddler, Pre-School, Primary School, Brownies, Scouts, Environmental Group, Over 60's, Local History and young people from the 'Jammin and Stuff' activity, Peter Hopkins for his marvellous project work on the Wolvey web-site and also creating the huge map for the exhibit of Wolvey memories. Don't forget you can get your own hands on a copy of the Souvenir Book for £8 from Wolvey Stores.

Photographs and sound recordings of memories of Wolvey at play and audio recording equipment used during the project were also presented to Dr Jennifer

Burton and Geoff Lewis from the Wolvey History Group. This will add to their archive and facilitate further oral history research.

Barbara Jones, who led the project, was presented with a bouquet from the Parish Council and thanked for the generous amount of time and effort she put in to making the Play Project such a huge success.

Later on there was some great live music from a young local band called 'The Unseen Truth' - John, Ben and Niamh. These were followed onto the hall stage by Derek Warren's band 'Off the Cuff'. Almost everyone in the hall was on their feet at some point - including some pretty nifty dance floor moves from Parish Councillors!

Throughout the evening, the hall was filled with people chatting, children playing, laughter, singing and dancing.

Amidst the great satisfaction, there was also a faint relief that this huge undertaking was finally coming to a close; its legacy being a closer knit village and millions of happy memories.

**For photographs of this event
please visit
www.wolvey.org**

Switch In and help us Switch On for Christmas

Hard to believe, but Christmas is coming and once more the Parish Council plans to erect a Christmas tree as the centerpiece of the decorations in The Square. We will also be holding the usual big switch on celebration on Sunday 2nd December. This is always very popular with the whole community and is enjoyed by villagers of all ages.

This annual event is only possible due to the efforts of a group of dedicated volunteers - but we always need more. In particular, we would like (younger!) volunteers to help decorate the tree, but also people to help on the evening with a range of tasks such as setting up the room, serving refreshments, marshalling, etc to ensure it is another fantastic festive success.

We are also looking for a village resident to be our 'guest of honour' and flick the switch that will light up the tree. If you would like to nominate a village friend or neighbour, or you are willing to help in any way, please contact one of the Councillors or the Parish Clerk.

Superfast Broadband for Wolvey? - Let's make it happen

On-line banking, TV, skype, webinars, the internet is becoming increasingly important in modern home and business life. Unfortunately, many people in our area do not have the ability to connect to fast and reliable internet connections. Warwickshire County Council is leading on a project to improve the broadband service across the sub-region and we need your help to make sure Wolvey can benefit.

Telecoms providers looking for a share of the £8m pounds that is available from public funds to invest in providing better broadband will be focussing on areas

where demand is high. To help ensure that the village can benefit, you can complete the residents and/or business survey at <http://www.cswbroadband.org.uk> and encourage your neighbours to do the same. You could also become a Broadband Champion. What's that? Well, it involves supporting the campaign by putting posters up on local notice boards, delivering flyers to households, providing hard copies of the surveys to those who are unable to access them on-line and you can even deliver presentations to local groups if you want to. All the material you need will be provided through the project website and in hard copy.

To express an interest in becoming a Champion, please email your name, address (with postcode), telephone number and the local area you wish to cover to: broadband@warwickshire.gov.uk or contact the Parish Clerk for more information.

You can make a difference and help Wolvey to get superfast broadband!



Warwickshire charity fires up new oil syndicate

Warwickshire Rural Community Council has launched a new venture that will be good for individuals, the environment and rural communities like ours.

The Warwickshire Community Oil Syndicate uses the model of a local buying syndicate for domestic heating oil but in this case it covers the whole county. Warwickshire RCC believes there is great strength in harnessing the collective purchasing power of rural communities and make significant savings for those residents without mains gas. By bringing together orders from across the county and combining them with those from other counties, an average

saving per order of more than £50 can be achieved. What's more, fewer deliveries means less tankers on our small country roads and less environmental impact.

As a registered charity that is rooted in local community action, Warwickshire RCC wants the new venture to reflect this philosophy. Chief Executive Kim Slater says, "The key to making this work will be having local people who will collate the local oil orders once a month and pass the information to us, and then let the local members know the cost per litre and the delivery date. That's pretty much it. For undertaking this voluntary role they will

get free membership of the oil syndicate – an annual saving of £20. Members of the Warwickshire Community Oil Syndicate will be able to order as many times as they like during the year and the price will be negotiated centrally".

If you think this could be of interest to you, get in touch with Warwickshire RCC on 01789 472611 or email oil@wrccrural.org.uk. More information can be found on the Warwickshire Rural Community Council website at

www.ruralwarwickshire.org.uk.

I'm leaning on a . . . modern, brighter, energy efficient, streetlight column

Did you know that Wolvey Parish Council owns and maintains most of the streetlights in and around Wolvey – 98 in all (far more than most Parish Councils of similar size).

The maintenance and electricity supply inevitably accounts for a large proportion of the Parish Council's annual budget. This number of lamps grew over many years, at a time when energy costs were relatively low. However, with ever increasing energy charges the Parish Council has recently been conducting a review of the management of streetlights in the Parish.

Many of the streetlight columns are more than 25 years old and rapidly reaching the end of their expected life span. Also, new technology and expectations of

energy efficiency has meant that many of the current sodium (yellow) lights will soon become obsolete.

For this reason, as lanterns need to be replaced, residents will begin to see a different type of light. This is a white light with a brighter output that uses less energy than the lanterns it will replace.

Some older steel columns have also been replaced and some have been repainted. The Council will continue to review and replace columns as necessary. The maintenance contract has also been changed and the Council has investigated other electricity suppliers in a further attempt to reduce costs.

Any streetlight faults should be reported to the Parish Clerk at parishclerk@wolvey.org

Paths well trodden - let's keep them

Paths that are not walked because they are blocked by fences, crops or other barriers could be lost forever.

Make sure you notify the Parish Clerk as soon as possible of any such problems.

Action will be taken, paths can then be walked and will be protected for future generations.

Occasionally we have space in this newsletter. If your group or organisation would like to submit an item for consideration, please contact the Clerk.

Bloomin' marvellous Wolvey a winner once more

Wonderful Wolvey lived up to its reputation by winning two prestigious awards this year from the Rugby in Bloom Competition: a Silver Gilt for The Village Square, and Gold and Overall Winner for the Wetland Reserve.

The Wetland Reserve really has looked fabulous this summer. There has been huge foliage growth and an abundance of wild flowers, butterflies and dragonflies. Not forgetting the presence of those elusive water voles, often heard, but not so often seen, plopping into the water.

A new venture for the Wolvey Environment Group was a series of Mothwatch Sessions. The first of these was held as part of the Sixty Years of Play Project, but this was so fruitful that two more were held, with fantastic results. Over 300 moth species were trapped, identified, logged and released. The information gathered will be entered into the National Moth Data base and attributed to Wolvey. Similar sessions are now being planned for next year.

Another step forward is that the Reserve is now registered as a Field in Trust. This project was initiated by Prince William to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee with the

aim of preserving 2012 Green Spaces in perpetuity. This means that no change of use can be made – good news for this precious and unique site we are so lucky to have so close to the heart of the village.

Later this year, there are plans to bury a Time Capsule in the Reserve. This will hold information on the history of the area and the people who help to look after it.

The WEG meet monthly, usually on the second Wednesday at 7.30 pm at the Baptist Chapel Meeting Room, please come along and join us, you will be very welcome.



Derek, Bob, Bomber and Ted constructing an eco table, which is filled underneath with logs to provide a habitat for insects. It also provides somewhere to pour the tea after working hard in the wetland.

Young residents lead the way to new group

The 60 years at Play Project successfully included a number of our younger residents, some of whom expressed an interest in continuing to meet on a regular basis.

The Parish Plan also highlighted that their needs were not being adequately met. Therefore, with the help and support of Barbara Jones, the 60 Years at Play Project's Lead Artist, the Parish Council organised a workshop for this core of keen young people.

The consensus was that they would like to meet once a month either in the Millennium Building, Pavilion or some other suitable venue, pay a subscription fee and be able to offer a wide range of activities. These could include trips to theme parks, surfing beaches, paint ball parks, Laser Quest, classes in art, drama, dance, IT, kick-boxing, as well as, movie and games clubs and other fund raising events.

To enable such a group to operate successfully, it was recognised that

a suitably qualified leader would be essential. So, the Parish Council decided that the best way forward was to 'buy in' a Leader from Rugby Borough Council and this process is now in place. Their Youth Leaders have the qualifications, (often to degree level) experience and skills in consulting with and involving young people in developing groups of this kind. This approach means the group will be directed and owned by the young people themselves.

In addition to the qualified leader, volunteers will be needed to help run the group. If this appeals to you, please contact the Clerk for more information. Rugby Borough Council offers free training for youth leaders and, for a fee, access to NVQ L1, 2, and 3 qualifications.

The Parish Council has applied for grants to initiate this venture and is willing to subsidise any financial shortfall. However, it is hoped that within a year the group will be up and running led by a trained local volunteer, self-financing and independent.

Slow down dear calming traffic priority for PC

The Parish Council continues to tackle speeding through the village. The Council is aware of the level of concern there is on this issue and the anxiety it can cause for the most vulnerable people in our community.

A Speed Aware scheme in May 2011 identified that there is a particular problem on Church Hill and Coventry Road. Warwickshire County Council has agreed to install two permanent vehicle activated signs in these locations, as long as the Parish Council will agree to the ongoing maintenance of the signs. We are hoping that these signs will be installed before the end of the year.

Even these extra measures are unlikely to deter the most persistent offenders and irresponsible drivers. Church Hill was made a police priority to check traffic speeds for 3 months from June 2012. 5 speed checks were conducted with 47 vehicles recorded as travelling between 33 and 44 mph. The police have now suggested that this site could be suitable for a mobile speed camera in the future as a further deterrent.

We have also made a number of requests for people to get trained by the police to operate community speed checks. Unfortunately only 2 people have signed up for this to date. So, if you would like to do something to help tackle this problem, then please contact the Parish Clerk for an application form.

SpeedAware

Rights of way partnership up and running

Following the restructuring of the Warwickshire County Council Rights of Way Team in 2011, there is now a County Council Volunteer Agreement that opens the way for Volunteer Groups to participate in a new scheme that will help maintain the rights of way in and around Wolvey.

If you are interested in joining the scheme, you can get more information along with an agreement and risk assessment at

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/rowpracticalguidance.

You can also get general information about public rights of way and country parks in Warwickshire at

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/countryside.

Clerk's Corner

Audit report 2012

I am pleased to report that Wolvey Parish Council has received an unqualified opinion from the External Auditor, Clement Keys, for the year 2011-2012. The Parish Council will soon be considering its budget for the next financial year. If anyone has any suggestions for projects in the coming year, then please contact one of the Parish Councillors or the Clerk.

Training for the Council and Representing Wolvey

The new Localism Act 2011 has introduced a great many changes to the way Parish Councils function. The future role for all Parish Councils is likely to be very different from that of the past, with a great deal more power to act.

It is the Clerk's job to inform and advise the Council on the latest legislation and ensure the Council acts lawfully. However, if they are serious about their role, all Councillors have an individual responsibility to spend time understanding what these changes will mean for the people of our Parish.

As a Quality Parish Council, Wolvey Parish Council is committed to on-going training for its members. As a result, most Wolvey Councillors and the Clerk have been very busy lately attending various training and briefing days in order to make sense of all the changes.

Events attended in recent weeks by the Parish Clerk and Councillors:

13th Sept – Parish Clerk,
Fosse Community Forum,
September 13th – Cllr Buswell,
Localism Briefing Day,
22nd September – Cllrs Orchard, Buswell,
Kuncewicz and Parish Clerk,
Warwickshire Association of Local Councils Rugby Area Meeting
(in Wolvey), September 26th –
Cllrs Orchard, Buswell and Parish Clerk,
Training session for Wolvey Councillors,
October 1st – Cllrs Orchard, Buswell,
Kuncewicz, Nixon, Slee and Parish Clerk.

Fosse Community Forum

To connect with local communities Warwickshire County Council hold Community Forums every three months. These meetings are open for all residents to attend and they are a way that local people can find out about services offered by the local authorities and to ask any questions. There is also a drop-in session before the meeting starts where the Police are available to answer questions. We are fortunate that the next meeting of the WCC Community Forum is on 22nd November in Wolvey Baptist Chapel at 7.30pm. If you are interested in finding out what is happening in the local area, please come along. We look forward to seeing you.

For more information
about
your Parish Council visit
www.wolvey.org

New Code of Conduct for Wolvey Parish Council

Under the Localism Act 2011 all Parish Councils were required to adopt a code of conduct that is consistent with the seven Nolan principles.

These are: *selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty, and leadership.*

The Code of Conduct must also make appropriate provision for the registration and disclosure of 'pecuniary interests' and 'interests other than pecuniary interests'.

Wolvey Parish Council adopted a new Code of Conduct at its meeting on 3rd September 2012. This Code is available to view on the Parish Council website

www.wolvey.org.

Council gains 'General Power of Competence'

The Localism Act 2011 introduced a great many changes for Parish Councils. The first section of the Act refers to a 'General Power of Competence'. This gives eligible Parish Councils the freedom to do anything that an individual can lawfully do. Without this, the Council is only able to act where there is a specific power (or law) which permits such action.

To be in a position to use this new power, a Parish Council must have two-thirds of its members elected and it must have a suitably qualified Clerk. At its September meeting, Wolvey Parish Council agreed that it fully complies with these criteria. This means that the general power can now be the first resort for anything that the Council wishes to do.

One advantage is that the Council can now consider supporting individual residents. To this end, there is an application form available for Wolvey residents and organizations who are looking for support for a specific need. These will then be considered by the Parish Council at its budget meeting in November.

Wolvey Parish Council Grants and Donations 2013

Local organisations and individuals are invited to
be considered for a Parish Grant

Find out more at www.wolvey.org or get in touch
with the Parish Clerk for an application form

Vacant seat on Wolvey Parish Council

Are you interested in your local community?

Do you have enthusiasm and lots of ideas on how to
improve the area in which you live?

Why not consider joining the Wolvey Parish Council?

There is a
Vacancy for a Councillor
right now

Speak to any of the Councillors or the Clerk for more information