



NEWSLETTER

Your Community Connection

Spring 2014 Issue 25

Doorstep Democracy - Plans for Parish Council Elections

A Parish Council is the tier of local government closest to its community, as its members are elected from within that community.

Parish Councils are in effect democracy on your doorstep. The Council represents the interests of the community, delivers services to meet local needs, has the power to raise tax from the area - known as the precept - and carries out work that generally improves the quality of life for all in the Parish.

The current term of office for the Parish Council ends in May, after which the Council must resign and an election held to form a new Council. This election is timed to coincide with the election for Rugby Borough Council with the advantage that the cost of the election can be shared between the two Councils.

Anyone can stand as a candidate provided they meet the qualification requirements. This means people over 18 years of age who have lived in Wolvey for at least twelve months are eligible to be nominated for election to the Parish Council.

A notice will be displayed on parish notice boards with an invitation for prospective candidates to complete nomination papers and return them to the Returning Officer at the Town Hall, Rugby by the statutory deadline.

These nomination papers must be signed by two electors of this Parish.

Wolvey Parish Council is made up of seven members or Councillors. If seven people or less apply for nomination the election will proceed without an actual poll (election) taking place. Any places

which are not filled in this way can be filled by co-option at a later date. But, in order for the Parish Council to fulfil the requirements related to Quality Parish Council status and the new 'General Power of Competence', introduced with the Localism Bill 2011, it is vital that all seven members are elected in May.

If more than seven nominations are received, then there will be a poll (election) for the Parish Council on the same day as the local election of a Borough Councillor and the European elections on Thursday 22nd May 2014.

If you are interested in learning more about the Parish Council, or would like to be nominated as a member at the forthcoming election, then please contact the Clerk.

Grants and Donations 2014-15

Applications are invited from local organisations to be considered for a Parish Council grant.

Further information can be obtained at www.wolvey.org or application forms can be obtained from the Clerk.

If you wish to apply for a grant from the Parish Council, the application form should be submitted to the Clerk before **31st March 2014**.

Wolvey Parish Council Election

This year all Councillors of Wolvey Parish Council must resign and an election held on Thursday 22nd May 2014 to form a new Council. The Parish Council is the part of local government closest to the people. Its powers and duties cover many things that help to make the lives of the community more comfortable.

Would **you** like to help make an impact on your local community?
Would you like to join the Parish Council?

If so, nominations must reach the Returning Officer before **noon 24th April, 2014**.

For more information please contact: Margaret Cartwright, Clerk to the Council
Tel 01455 246494 Email: parishclerk@wolvey.org

Clerk to the Council

Margaret Cartwright MILCM
The Old Post Office
Wolds Lane
Wolvey LE10 3LL

Tel: 01455 246494
email: parishclerk@wolvey.org



The Councillors

Ruth Buswell	01455 221324
Andrew Dixon	01455 220771
John Hardman	01455 220252
Dee Kenrick	01455 221782
Bozena Kuncewicz	01455 220771
Clare Nixon	01455 220639
Keith Orchard	01455 220688

For more information please visit

www.wolvey.org

Housing Needs Survey - What Happened and What Happens Next?



In October 2013 we carried out a survey of Wolvey to establish whether local people had any housing needs. The key findings so far are:

* Over half of responses came from people who would support a small scheme of affordable homes for local people. Just less than a quarter of responses came from people who would not support this.

* During the past 3 years house prices in Wolvey have increased by an average of nearly £25,000 (8.92%).

* The lower quartile property price for homes sold in Wolvey over the past 2 years is over £225,000. A mortgage for this value would require a deposit of nearly £57,000 and an annual income of £48,500.

* Only 3 properties in Wolvey have sold for less than £200,000 in the past 2 years.

Despite the clear affordability issue in the village, the survey only found that 3 people were in housing need. A need was identified for 1 affordable rented home and 2 open market bungalows.

New Bridge Not Too Far Off

In previous newsletters, we have reported the temporary closure order on Public Footpath R12, between the junctions of Public Footpaths R228 and R312 imposed by Warwickshire County Council.

The closure was required because of damage to the bridge crossing the River Anker and the likelihood of danger to the public using this popular thoroughfare.

Warwickshire County Council Rights of Way team has now assessed the bridge and report that the existing culvert crossing is beyond repair or alteration. The intention now is to replace this with a timber kit bridge as soon as practical, weather permitting.

This means the existing crossing will be demolished and cleared away from the watercourse prior to the new one being installed. The Council anticipates the work will be carried out in the coming weeks of Spring.

Is this correct? If so then the vast majority of people are suitably housed and it is not realistic to begin looking at ways of meeting the low level of need that was found; the housing market itself will provide solutions over the coming years.

However, is it actually the case that there are more people in housing need who did not come forward through the survey?

Is there a hidden housing need that could be met through further investigation? Is there a level of housing need that requires a solution, such as a small scheme of new affordable homes in the village?

If so then please come along to speak to Midlands Rural Housing at the Parish **Drop-in-Day on 10th May** in the **Millennium Building** to discuss housing needs, ask questions and learn about possible solutions.

The Parish Council has been consulted and feels that the **Drop - in - Day** is the ideal opportunity to explore housing needs for a final time before looking at potential solutions or moving on safe in the knowledge that housing needs are, in the most part, being satisfied.



The Parish Council has compiled a warm Welcome Pack for new residents. It has a host of useful information to help new arrivals to settle in to village life.

So, if you know of residents moving in near you, please let the Clerk or a Councillor know and a pack will be winging its way to your new neighbour.

See Wolvey in a Different Light

Wolvey Parish Council owns and manages ninety-eight streetlamps. The cost of running and maintaining these lights is the single greatest expense for the Parish Council. The Council has recently conducted a review of all village streetlights to assess their safety and efficiency.

Streetlight columns (formerly known as lamp-posts!) have a limited life span. Part of the review has involved a survey of the oldest columns to assess when they will need replacing. This has resulted in a recommendation that, as the budget allows, a replacement programme should be implemented. Any new columns will be galvanized steel with a plastic coating. This eliminates the need for painting and such columns are expected to last for a minimum of fifty years.

In addition, the old style yellow sodium lights (below) are gradually being phased out of production. This means that parts will soon be difficult to source and these lanterns will eventually be obsolete. Energy efficient white LED light is now the trend across the County. Initially such lighting is relatively more expensive to install but would mean considerable savings in both running and maintenance costs in the future.



As a result, new galvanized steel columns and LED (white light) lanterns have been ordered for the following lamps: LP5 The Square; LP2 School Lane; LP2 Bulkington Road; LP3 Bulkington Road; LP2 Mill Lane; LP3 Coventry Road; LP5 Coventry Road; LP2 Leicester Road.

Warwickshire Community Oil/LPG Syndicate – latest news

January saw another great oil price for both our kerosene and red diesel members. A saving of £54.50 per 1000 litres against the average market price was made by members ordering kerosene, paying just 52.95pence per litre, whilst our members who use red diesel saved a massive 9pence per litre.

We are still able to provide bulk LPG at just 43pence per litre with an introductory £100 fuel discount and our LPG cylinders remain very competitively priced.

For more information email oil@wrccrural.org.uk call 01789 472611 or visit www.ruralwarwickshire.org.uk/oil

Bees, Bees and Seeds - Giving Nature a Helping Hand



Spring is, at last, upon us and for many this means getting stuck into the garden and with your help, it's not just the buzz of lawn mowers that that will be filling the air on warm afternoons.

As part of its initiative to improve habitat for bees and other insects, the Wolvey Environment Group is encouraging residents to plant nectar and pollen rich flowers and shrubs in their gardens. Pollenating insects need a helping hand. However, we can all play our part in safeguarding this vital link in the food chain and ultimately benefit ourselves. Gardeners already do a great deal to help, but this year we want everyone to do just a little bit more.

There are about 450 residences in Wolvey Parish. If we all plant just a few more 'bee friendly' plants we can really enrich the habitat for these vital creatures. If you're not sure what to plant, visit the Wolvey.org web site and enter the Environment Group pages. Here, you will find more information on bees and a list of easily obtainable plants that will bring beauty and interest to your garden.

You will also be able to show off the fruits of your labour by entering a photographic competition later in the year. Look out for more information in the summer newsletter.



Active YC Members Bowled Over by Donation

Youth club members would like to say a huge **thank you** to Marian and Alan Mitchell family, who organised a very successful skittles evening recently at the Bowling Club and raised a massive £575 for the Youth Club. The Club is very grateful for the generosity and support of all those involved. Parish Councillors displayed great team work to emerge as the outright winners!

The Club celebrated its first birthday in January with a party - yummy cakes made by Caitlin and Corral and DJ skills displayed by members. Young people of the village continue to enjoy a range of Club activities that they plan themselves: sports being a favourite - dodge ball, uni-hockey and the ever popular table tennis, kindly organised by Steve Hopley. Football is also being planned for the 28th April session at the School Playing Fields. Three young people are attending a first aid course in March and a trip to Drayton Manor Park is planned for half-term.

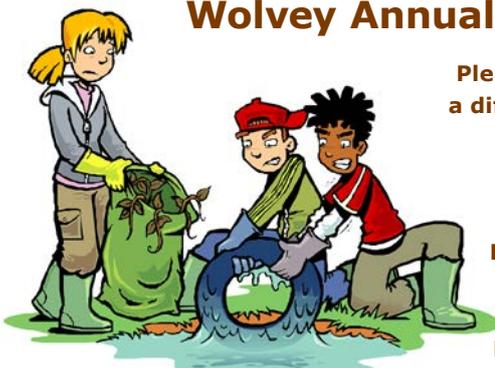
Youth Club welcomes new members who can just come along - usually every third Monday in the month, 7.15-9pm at the village hall, or contact Barbara Jones, 01455 220081 (bjones.design@virgin.net).

Likewise, contact Barbara if you have a particular skill or expertise that young people might enjoy, the Club would be very pleased to learn more and welcome you as a volunteer.



Touch Rugby with Jimmy, the coach from Rugby BC 'On track' programme

Wolvey Annual Litter Pick



Please come and join us to help make a difference to the look of your village

Saturday March 29th 2014

**Meet at the Wolvey Baptist Chapel
from 9.30am**

**Equipment provided except gloves
so please bring your own**

Refreshments All Welcome

Have Your Say Drop-in-Day 10th May

In planning for the future the Council can make both long and short term plans. Long term plans can concentrate on the quality of life and shape of the village over the next 20 years. This will involve detailed consultation with residents and Rugby Borough Council before such a plan can be published. This is something being considered but is at its early stages.

What can be done immediately is a short term Action Plan where actions are over one or two years. The progress of an Action Plan can be monitored and the results published. We know some things that the Parish Council wishes to do are not possible within the short term. The Parish Council is determined that the actions and targets included in an Action Plan will be achievable and not just a wish list. A wide range of subject areas have been considered which includes transport, technology, traffic and much more.

Before finalising the Action Plan the PC is keen to hear the views of Wolvey residents. **A Drop-in-Day** is to be held on **10th May, 10am-4pm** in the **Millennium Building**. The proposals which the Parish Council have considered for inclusion in the Action Plan will be on display. You may also have ideas that you wish to be considered.

The display in the Millennium Building will give the opportunity to find out more about each of the proposals and let the Councillors know what is important to you.

Some of the proposals will involve community participation and you may see an opportunity how can you help. Please come along to give your views so that the Action Plan belongs to all the village.



Clerk's Corner

The usual term of office for Parish Councils is four years. However, Rugby boundary changes in 2012 meant the election cycle for the Borough Council and Wolvey Parish Council would no longer coincide. So, to remedy this, the term of office for current Councillors will be two years only and an election must be held for a new Council in May.

Warwickshire County Council will also be subject to a Boundary review this year, so we must wait to find out if that will have any impact for Wolvey.

Due to increasing costs and the likelihood of additional expenditure, the Parish Council has agreed a 1.85% increase in the precept that it receives from the Council Tax for 2014-15. In real terms this amounts to only £1.26 extra for the year for each Band D household. The Council hopes this will provide the necessary funds that will enable it to deliver the range and standard of services Wolvey residents have come to expect. Warwickshire County Council and Warwickshire Police have also announced a 1.99% increase in their Council tax for 2014-15. Fortunately, Rugby Borough Council will not be increasing its portion of the Council tax.

Councillors have recently been very busy attending external meetings at Rugby and Warwick. All Councillors have also attended training to keep up to date with the many changes in legislation affecting Parish Councils.

For any information about the Parish Council, please contact me by email on parishclerk@wolvey.org or by telephone on 01455 246494.

However, please remember that I only work part-time. The best time to call is Monday, Tuesday or Thursday mornings between 10am - 1pm. If I am not available, please leave a message and I will get back to you as soon as I can.

Margaret Cartwright MILCM

Clerk to the Council

Volunteers are needed to deliver this Newsletter.

If you can help, please contact the Clerk.

Diary Dates

Council Meetings

To facilitate our Youth Club, Council meetings will be held in various venues:

Monday 14th April 2014
Wolvey Baptist Chapel 7.45pm

Annual Parish Meeting

Wednesday 16th April at 7.30pm
in Wolvey Village Hall

Monday 12th May 2014 7.45pm
Wolvey Baptist Chapel

Annual Meeting of the Council

Monday 9th June 2014 7.45pm
Wolvey Baptist Chapel

Council Surgeries

The purpose of the surgery is to enable local residents to raise issues or concerns with Councillors informally outside of Parish Council meetings.

All in Wolvey Village Hall at 7.30pm

Wednesday 2nd April 2014
Wednesday 7th May 2014
Wednesday 4th June 2014



Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting is an opportunity for the people of Wolvey to speak, raise any concerns or express ideas for the future of their local community

Local Groups are invited to provide information about what they do, also the Parish Council makes a report on its activities and achievements during the past year, including a financial report

Local Borough and County Councillors will be invited to speak and answer questions

This year's meeting is to be held on Wednesday 16th April at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

All electors of the Parish are invited to attend and take part in this meeting



HELP for HEROES
Support for our Wounded

Village Switches On to Help Heroes

Thanks to everyone who made donations at the Christmas lights 'Big Switch On' event in December, the sum of £200 has been sent to the Help for Heroes charity.

Mobile Police Visits

**From 1.15pm till 2.45pm
in The Square**

Sunday 23rd March 2014

Wednesday 9th and 30th April 2014

Sunday 1st June 2014

Wednesday 18th June 2014

Wednesday 9th July 2014

