

Belmont Rural Newsletter



PARISH OF BELMONT RURAL

September 2015



Welcome to the September 2015 newsletter from **Belmont Rural Parish Council**.

Parish Councils represent the grass roots level of local government and provide a means by which local people can influence their local environment and the provision of services.

This newsletter aims to summarise some of the work of the parish council over the last few weeks, highlight some of the upcoming events and opportunities and in this newsletter, seek your views on what you think your Parish Council should be doing for you.

Meeting dates:

8th October 2015
Belmont Community Centre

12th November 2015
Northholme Community Centre

10th December 2015
Belmont Community Centre

7pm start for all meetings.
See noticeboards or website for further details

Your Parish, Your Views

Last year we asked you to complete a questionnaire to help form your Parish Council's work for the forthcoming year. The result was fantastic and many of your favourite projects were supported by the Parish Council as a result.

This year we're asking you to do this again to help identify key projects and priorities for the forthcoming year in an era of ever tightening budgets at local government level and an increasing need for locally delivered facilities and services.

We've identified ten projects this year but there's plenty of space for you to add your own. Remember to rank each project in your order of preference. It's that simple!

Make sure your voice is heard. Please complete the enclosed questionnaire and return it no later than 30th November or complete the online version following the instructions on the questionnaire.



We're on the Web!

www.belmontrural-pc.gov.uk

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Neighbourhood Development Plans look at policies for development within the parish

Neighbourhood Development Plan

In the last newsletter we outlined what a Neighbourhood Development Plan is and why it is important to the parish you live in. Since then a formal 6 week consultation on the draft plan took place in February when a range of "stakeholders" are consulted on the draft and a number of amendments were made as a result. We are now at the stage when, subject to a final proof reading session, the draft will be sent to Herefordshire Council in accordance with the Regulations, with the aim of holding a referendum later in the year when all residents will be asked to vote on the plan and its contents.

If you have not already done so, please take the time to look at the current draft plan which is available on the Parish Council website (www.belmontrural-pc.gov.uk) or ask for a copy from the Parish Clerk.

There is still time for you to submit your feedback and your support is vital to ensure this Parish develops in a way which is appropriate and welcomed by all residents.

Belmont Library

Most people will be aware that funding constraints have led to some community based libraries having their opening hours reduced, some being transferred to community ownership and some closing all together. Belmont Library is one of the best used community based libraries in the county but here too funding constraints might have resulted in a much reduced service or even closure. This year a

contribution of £5,000 from the Parish Council has helped retain the library service and the results of our community survey last year clearly showed that this is an important facility for everybody.

Your Parish Council is working closely with Herefordshire Council and the South Wye Community Association which owns the Belmont Community Centre to secure the future of the

library at Belmont.

Tell us what you think of the library service at Belmont. Use the questionnaire form to give us your views, or email the Clerk at the address on page 4.

**LIBRARY SERVICE
AT BELMONT
UNDER THREAT
AGAIN? TELL US
WHAT YOU
THINK.**

Your Local Community Centres

In Belmont, we're fortunate to have two community centres but neither could continue without your support. Both welcome volunteers but more importantly, why not attend some of the local events held there?

Over the years your Parish Council has supported Children's Holiday activities,

an Annual Summer Fun Day and a Christmas Party for local school children at Northolme. At the Belmont Centre, your Parish Council has supported an extension to the main room, IT equipment and classes, and the Annual Christmas Carol Concert to name just a few projects.

What would you like to see your local Community Centres used for? What activities would you like to see based there or supported by your Parish Council? Let us have your views on the questionnaire or email or write to your Parish Council at the address on page 4



May 2015 Elections—Results

Parish Council elections were held this year in May and for our Parish, six candidates put their names forward to fill nine vacancies so were elected in an uncontested election. The three remaining vacancies were filled by co-option at the first Parish Council meeting in May. So going forward this year are five Parish Councillors who have held office in the previous year, three new Councillors and one, Councillor Newman, who returns to the Parish Council after a gap

of a few years.

Parish Councillors are all volunteers and receive no payment of any sort for the work they do. Most combine this vital task with work, further volunteering or studying. Names and contact details of your Parish Councillors can be found on page 4.

You can support the work of your Parish Council by coming along to the meetings that are held on the second Thursday of each month where you will

receive a very warm welcome and, at the discretion of the Chairman, contribute to the debate on some agenda items as well as bring forward issues of concern.

Finally, the Parish Council extends a welcome to Councillor Tracy Bowes, who was elected to Herefordshire Council to represent the new Ward of Belmont Rural at the May elections. We look forward to working with Councillor Bowes over the coming four years.



Environmental matters



A huge thank you to our Pride in Parish volunteers and all others who have helped to maintain the local environment this year. As the growing season comes to an end the work of volunteers and an increased grass cutting schedule by Herefordshire Council/Balfour Beatty, our Parish has continued to look well cared for and a pleasant place to live.

There is still work to be done, of course. The grass on Abbey View Park and Jubilee Field should receive its annual cut shortly and there are a number of tasks needed to remove brambles in particular on Jubilee Field so if you would like to help,

please contact the Clerk, whose contact details can be found on page 4.

If you are the owner of shrubs or trees which overhang the footpaths, please think of those who sometimes struggle to use the paths, have young children in pushchairs or are wheelchair users and try to trim these back to keep a clear walkway.

Finally a word about litter. Your Parish Council has invested a considerable amount of your Council Tax money over the past few years in installing litter bins so it is disappointing to see fast food containers, empty drinks bottles and wrappers

of all sorts thrown on the ground just a few feet from a litter bin. Please use the bins provided or take your litter home. Encourage your children to care for the environment and wildlife by using the bins properly and report overflowing bins or litter problems to Herefordshire Council or the Parish Clerk.

Thank you.



BELMONT RURAL PARISH COUNCIL

Belmont Rural Parish Council
c/o 5 Deerhurst Drive
Belmont
Hereford
HR2 7XX
Phone: 07722 872 180
E-mail:
clerk@belmontrural-pc.gov.uk

Parish Councillors are volunteers elected to serve a term of office of up to four years and must reside within the Parish or within three miles of the boundary, or work within the Parish. They must be at least 18 years of age, must not have served a custodial sentence or be an undischarged bankrupt. Parish Councillors must comply with a Code of Conduct which includes declaring interests, financial and otherwise, at meetings and on a public register.

The Parish Councillors listed below were elected or co-opted following an uncontested election held in May 2015.

Parish Council meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month and alternate between the Belmont Community Centre and Northolme Community Centre. Details of meetings can be found on notice boards and the parish council website and meetings are open to the public. Dates for forthcoming meetings also appear on page 1.

Your Parish Councillors

Adrian Bridges	4 Broadholme Road, Belmont	Tel: 07982 425 895	adrianbridges500@gmail.com
Aimee Bridges	4 Broadholme Road, Belmont	Tel: 01432 2760905	aimeebridges13@gmail.com
Lyndsey Evans	37 Wheatridge Road, Belmont	Tel: 07859 218 939	looby-lou-49@live.co.uk
Ron Loft	1 Sydwall Road, Belmont	Tel: 01432 273650	
Andy Myatt	50 Dorchester Way, Belmont	Tel: 01432 263415(Chairman)	andmor.home@btinternet.com
John Newman	26 Marcle Walk, Newton Farm	Tel: 01432 271624	
Des Parish	28 Wyedean Rise, Belmont	Tel: 07790 594 115	desireeparish001@aol.co.uk
Derek Preedy	18 Whitefriars Road, Belmont	Tel: 07714 176 624	dpartex.preedy@tesco.net
Mark Schoffer	7 Silver Fir Close, Belmont	Tel: 07875 014 860	markschoffer@gmail.com
Parish Clerk			
Liz Kelso	5 Deerhurst Drive, Belmont	Tel: 07722 872 180	clerk@belmontrural-pc.gov.uk
District Councillors			
Tracy Bowes	17 Bodmin Close , Belmont	Tel: 07710 557 560	tracy.bowes@herefordshire.gov.uk

All Correspondence for the Parish Council should be addressed to the Clerk