

Belmont Rural Newsletter



PARISH OF BELMONT RURAL

November 2014

Welcome to the new look Parish Newsletter



Welcome to the new style quarterly 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 issues and for this newsletter, ask you to give us your opinions on what is important to you as a resident of the parish of Belmont Rural

Forthcoming meetings:

4th Dec. 2014 at Belmont Community Centre

8th January 2015
Northholme Community Centre

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

Belmont Library

During this year your Parish Council has supported Belmont Library by a donation of £2,000 to Belmont Community Centre to offset a reduction in rent paid by Herefordshire Council for the library room.

Budget cuts imposed on Herefordshire Council mean they're looking for a much larger reduction in running costs for 2015-2016 which may impact on the sustainability of the library in its current location.

Did you make one or more of the 25,000 visits to the library last year? How do you feel about your local library? Do you want to see it continue, change or close? Should your Parish Council continue to support the library? Don't forget to let us know by completing the questionnaire and letting us have your thoughts in the "comments" box.



Tell us what you think

Inside this newsletter you will find a questionnaire. It is designed to help your Parish Council set priorities for the future and decide on how to spend your hard earned cash which is given to the Parish Council through the council tax system., on things that matter to you. This is your opportunity to make sure your elected Parish Councillors know what you want.

You can complete the questionnaire and return it to the Parish Clerk at the address on page 4, hand it

to your local Parish Councillor or hand it in to either the Belmont Community Centre or the Northholme Community Centre.

You can complete your questionnaire anonymously (we ask for your postcode to confirm that the form has been completed by a Parish resident) or you can leave us your details in which case you will be entered into a draw to win a £50 voucher.

Thank you!

We're on the Web!

www.belmontrural-pc.gov.uk

Belmont Rural Newsletter



Neighbourhood Development Plans look at policies for development within the parish

Neighbourhood Development Plan

One of the major projects for 2014 is our Neighbourhood Development Plan which looks at land use within the Parish. Helped by consultants, Kirkwells, and supported by some Government grant funding, the plan gives you the opportunity to have your say about what development you might like to see within the Parish, here that should be and which areas should be protected.

The process will seek your views on the draft plan before putting a final version to everyone during a formal referendum which we anticipate will take place next Spring.

In the meantime, look out for your invitation to the consultation event in the near future and if you would like to know more about Neighbourhood Development Plans or would like to join the steering group, please contact Councillor

Adrian Bridges who is Chairman of the Steering Group and whose contact details appear on page 4

NEW BUS
SHELTER TO BE
INSTALLED IN
NOVEMBER
2014

Buses and Shelters

By the time this newsletter arrives, you should start to see work on a replacement bus shelter outside Brook Farm Court. Ordered over a year ago, the Parish Council commissioned a replacement shelter for the outbound side of the road and new side panels for the shelter immediately outside Tesco. However, work on the project was

delayed by the introduction of new contractors for Herefordshire Council.

The new shelter should be in place during the second half of November.

Did you know that the 39A bus from Hereford to Hay on Wye on a Sunday has been supported by your Parish Council? A grant of £50 was given to the Hay

Tourism Group to support this service. Why not try it?

Times to Hay from Tesco Belmont:

1023 1323 1623

Times to Hereford Railway Station from Tesco Belmont:

1243 1543 1813



Footpaths on Abbey View Park

Abbey View Park

Not all will be aware that Abbey View Park was a former landfill area and before that a gravel works. Over the years your Parish Council has turned an area which was boggy and unusable for much of the year into a useable open space by the installation of footpaths around the outside. In the near future

another section of footpath will link Abbey View Park footpaths to the gate into Jubilee Field off Dorchester Way. These footpaths need the grass that is encroaching over the paths cutting back. Do you have time to spare one weekend to help with this mammoth task? If you're willing to help out for a few hours one

weekend (date to be agreed), please let the Clerk know at the address on page 4.

You'll also find some questions about Abbey View Park on the questionnaire. Don't forget to tell us what you think the area should be used for in future.

Supporting your local community

Some of you may be aware of the **Pride in Parish** scheme but for those who haven't heard of it, this is a group of dedicated volunteers who help around the public open space areas providing basic maintenance such as grass cutting, pruning, litter picking and general tidying up.

You don't have to be particularly green fingered to help out. Nor is it necessary to be able to commit hours and hours of your time, but the occasional

offer of help is very much appreciated.

For further information please contact Councillor Brian Hubbard, whose contact details can be found on page 4.

Finally, whether you want to join the Pride in Parish team or not, if you own any shrubs or bushes that overhang the public footway, please trim them back if they appear to need it. Elderly people, the disabled and those with impaired vision have

reported some significant difficulties walking around the parish from overhanging vegetation.

Thank you for helping keep everyone safe.



Grass Cutting

One subject that everyone seemed to be talking about in the summer was grass cutting or rather lack of it on the amenity land throughout the parish.

Public Open spaces are maintained throughout the Parish by Herefordshire Council through their contractors, Balfour Beatty Living Places. Budget constraints last year meant that the number of cuts fell. Many people felt, and your

Parish Council agreed, that this resulted in the area looking untidy and uncared for. As a result, your Parish Council did attempt to purchase an additional service from Balfour Beatty but were unable to do so. Negotiations have already started on the level of service for next year and at the very least, a better understanding of what we can expect should help ensure that we can plan for the future.

If you were one of the public spirited residents who helped maintain nearby public open space thank you. Why not join our Pride in Parish volunteers (see above) and take advantage of free insurance cover and help from other volunteers?

There's a question about whether your Parish Council should support additional grass cutting next year in the questionnaire. What do 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.



Belmont Community Centre are hosting their annual Christmas Carol Concert on 20th December, at 7pm. Entrance is by ticket only but tickets are free of charge to local residents (but a maximum of 2 per applicant please), and are available from the Community Centre from December.

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 next full elections, when all parish councilors must retire and may, if they wish, stand for re-election will be held in May 2015. If you would like to know more about becoming a Parish Councillor, come along to a parish council meeting and/or ask your local councilor or the Clerk.

Look out for details of an Information Evening to be held early next year when the role of a Parish Councillor will be explained in more detail.

Your Parish Councillors

Ken Baynham	12 Wenlock Close, Belmont	Tel: 01432 274 363	ken.baynham@yahoo.co.uk
Adrian Bridges	4 Broadholme Road, Belmont	Tel: 07982 425 895	Abridges@herefordshire.gov.uk
David Cook	9 Yarlinton Mill, Belmont	Tel: 01432 355 109	davidcook984@uwclub.net
Phil Edwards	11 Cedar Avenue, Belmont	Tel: 01432 350 688	pjedwards@herefordshire.gov.uk
Brian Hubbard	52 Dorchester Way, Belmont	Tel: 01432 274 801	bcwhubbard@tiscali.co.uk
Ron Loft	1 Sydwall Road, Belmont	Tel: 01432 273 650	
Andy Myatt	50 Dorchester Way, Belmont	Tel: 01432 263.415(Chairman)	andmor.home@btinternet.com
Des Parish	28 Wyedean Rise, Belmont	Tel: 01432 263 687	desireeparish001@aol.co.uk
Mark Schoffer	7 Silver Fir Close, Belmont	Tel: 01432 344 441	marann58@btinternet.com
Parish Clerk			
Liz Kelso	5 Deerhurst Drive, Belmont	Tel: 07722 872 180	clerk@belmontrural-pc.gov.uk

District Councillors

Adrian Bridges	4 Broadholme Road, Belmont	Tel: 07982 425 895	abridges@herefordshire.gov.uk
Phil Edwards	11 Cedar Avenue, Belmont	Tel: 01432 350 688	pjedwards@herefordshire.gov.uk
Glenda Vaughan-Powell	6 Charlton Avenue, Newton Farm	Tel: 01432 360 456	gvaughan-powell@herefordshire.gov.uk