

Belmont Rural Newsletter



PARISH OF BELMONT RURAL

February 2015



Welcome to the February 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, suggest you consider becoming a parish councillor yourself!

Meeting dates:

5th March 2015 at
Northolme
Community Centre

9th April 2015
Belmont Community
Centre

14th May 2015
Northolme Community
Centre

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

Election Fever!

Did you know that on May 7th not only will we be electing new representatives at Parliament but local council elections will also be held and we'll be electing new Councillors for the Unitary Authority and Parish Councillors too.

Parish Councils are a vital element of local life so if you'd like to make a real difference to your local community why not consider standing for election as a Parish Councillor? If you'd like to know more about what being a Parish Councillor entails or simply want to know more about your Parish Council and the work it does, why not come along to our

Information Evening

on

Thursday 12th March

Starting at **7pm**

At **Northolme Community Centre**



Tell us what you think—Results

Thank you to everyone who returned their completed questionnaire enclosed with the last newsletter. The Parish Council has been delighted with the response which has helped with planning for the future and has already provided some vital evidence of what's really important to Belmont Rural residents. As promised one lucky resident won a £50.00 M&S voucher for being pulled out of the box by a Member of the Public at the Parish Council meeting in January.

At the final count, projects were ranked in order of preference as follows:

- 1 Support for Library
- 2 Improved grass cutting
- 3 Maintenance of footpaths
- 4 Wildflowers on Jubilee Field
- 5 Pedestrian crossing
- 6 Traffic Calming
- 7 IT Equipment for public use
- 8 All weather games area
- 9 Additional Play facilities
- 10 Outdoor exercise equipment

We're on the Web!

www.belmontrural-pc.gov.uk

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Neighbourhood Development Plan



Neighbourhood Development Plans look at policies for development within the parish

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 an informal consultation event has taken place at Northolme Community Centre and there has been a display explaining the plan's priorities and policies at Belmont Community Centre.

The formal 6 week consultation on the draft plan started in February when a range of "stakeholders" are consulted on the draft, which is then followed by a formal submission of the plan to Herefordshire Council prior to a referendum when 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 draft plan which is available at Belmont Library, on the Parish Council website (www.belmontrural-pc.gov.uk) or ask for a copy from the Parish Clerk.

Your feedback is vital. The last date for submission of comments is 16th March.

Belmont Library

**LIBRARY SERVICE
AT BELMONT
SECURE FOR
ANOTHER 12
MONTHS
DESPITE
FUNDING CUTS**

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 run by volunteers 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 £2,000 has helped retain the library service and the results of our community survey clearly show 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. At a meeting held on 5th February, the Parish Council agreed grants totaling £5,000 to retain the library for another year.



Cycle routes



The public right of way known as CH7 links Clehonger with Hereford, running through the Parish from Golden Post in Hunderton through to the Parish Boundary in Ruckhall Lane, crossing Abbey View Park East and West before crossing Home Farm.

Many people already use

this footpath as a cycle route into Hereford if only to avoid the traffic queues along the Belmont Road during the rush hour as a leisurely 15 minute cycle takes you right into the heart of the City along the river path to the King George V playing fields.

Within the next few months

the route up to the boundary with Home Farm is being upgraded by Herefordshire Council which will result in a wider path and new signage to provide a safer route for both cyclists and pedestrians alike.

Financial Matters

Your Parish Council receives funding through the Council Tax system. Each year the parish council decides upon its spending priorities and sets a budget which is funded through its "Precept" (collected as part of your Council Tax payment) and any reserves that have been built up.

At its meeting in January, and guided by the questionnaire results from the last newsletter on projects and priorities, your Parish Council approved spending

plans for 2015-2016 totaling £70,650.00. Full details of how this figure was made up can be found on the website but this includes grants and donations to organisations working within the Parish of some £15,000 and capital projects of £25,000 as well as the everyday running costs of a Parish Council such as staffing, audit costs, election costs, training and room hire for meetings.

This expenditure will be financed by a precept of

£50,000 and partly from reserves. This means that the Parish element of your Council Tax for 2015-2016 is unchanged from last year and works out at approximately 63p per week per band D household.

For more information on Parish Council finances, check out the website or come along to our monthly meetings. Details of forthcoming meetings can be found on the website or on page 1 of this newsletter.



Jubilee Field was named during HM The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Year. For those of you not aware of its location, it is a small area of public open space adjacent to Abbey View Park, behind Dorchester Way.

The area currently consists of a small wooded area to the Western edge, a bowl shaped area of grass with brambles around the sloped edges and trees on the higher section near the gate

with Dorchester Way. If you've not been there, take a look as it's a lovely area of land, bordered by a stream and a lovely place for a walk or picnic in the summer.

A few weeks ago your Parish Council started to consider the maintenance of this area as lack of maintenance last year left it overgrown and unusable. Subject to the landowners permission (Herefordshire

Council) it is proposed that our Pride in Parish Volunteers take a greater role in returning the area to its former glory by grass cutting in selected areas and a wider range of wild flower species in some areas. This will be a long term project but one which will see the area become more accessible to all and encourage wildlife.

If you'd like to help with the project, please contact the Parish Clerk at the address on page 4.

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.



Northolme Community Centre are hosting a **Summer Fun Day** on **Saturday 20th June** from **2pm—5pm**

Something for all the family with stalls, beer tent, BBQ, Strawberries & Cream, Bouncy Castle, Assault Course and much much more.

Don't forget to put it in your diary!

BELMONT RURAL PARISH COUNCIL

Belmont Rural Parish Council
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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.

See page 1 for details of an Information Evening to be held on 12th March when the role of a Parish Councillor will be explained in more detail.

Your Parish Councillors

Vacancy

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