

Walford Parish Newsletter

Winter / Spring
2013

Issue
NO 7



Chase Hill in the Snow

Photo courtesy of Simon Cropper - the Dragonfly - [facebook.com/dragonflywye](https://www.facebook.com/dragonflywye)

Chairman's Introduction : Ward Councillor's Report : Neighbourhood Development Plan : Emergency Coordination Plan : Citizens Advice Bureaux : National Grid Cable Replacement Work : Age UK (Age Concern) Appeal : Borders Broadband Update : Parish Projects : Wye Valley AONB : Rights of Way : Lengthsman : Walford Village Hall : Bishopswood Village Hall : Bishopswood WI : St Michael and All Angels Church : All Saints Church : Parish Council Meetings schedule to December 2013

**Chairman: Frank Myers MBE
Vice Chairman: Philip Heath
Clerk: Catherine Murray**

Website: www.walford-pc.org.uk

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Chairman's opening remarks

At this time of the year we set our budgets for next year, 2013/14. We are all well aware of the financial problems facing the Country and our County in particular and your Councillors have been very keen to strike the right balance between our needs and the burden this places on you as Council Tax payers.



*Councillor Frank Myers
Chairman*

In this context I thought you would appreciate some idea of where we stand in the County when it comes to the setting of our precept, which is the term used to describe the charge which we ask Herefordshire Council to place on you and then hand over to us.

For the forthcoming year we have resolved not to increase our precept but to keep it at last year's level.

How does this compare with the rest of The County?

It is interesting to note that, for the forthcoming year:-

- 1) 48% (68) of parish/town councils have increased their precept for 2013/14 by an average of 16%
- 2) 46% (64) of parish/town councils have not changed their precept compared with 2012/13.
- 3) 6% (8) of parish /town councils have reduced their precept year on year by an average of 1.7%.

Outside the Market Towns and Hereford City, the rural parish councils have increased their precepts on average by 8.33%, the average increase for the Market Towns is 0.28%.

The average Band D council tax for 2013/14 is £38.89. The average for 2012/13 was £37.47. The figure for Walford is £24.10 and is ranked number 77 out of a list of 141 Parish Councils (ranked high to low).

Whilst continuing to live within our means we have made good progress in embracing the opportunities offered by localism and we have already engaged actively with the Neighbourhood Planning process (as described later in this newsletter), intending to take a much more proactive role in influencing future developments in the Parish.

As we see the first signs of Spring we should also express our thanks to Councillor Dave Berry and his team of volunteers. Dave, as Resilience Coordinator did much to assist us in overcoming the worst effects of the Winter. *(See Resilience report included later.)*

The last two months have been very intense as we try to match up our funding from Government and other sources of income and the cost of providing nearly 700 services.

In the end we have had to put council tax up by 1.9 per cent, which means 44p per week for a band D property. This money is going to Health and wellbeing, which includes adult and child social care. These services are over 50 per cent of our services and the number of people requiring these services rises every year. Basically we all get older and are surviving longer.

As a small unitary council our reserves do not allow us to use reserves to get through this budget.

We are already working on next year's budget with the objective of keeping it at a zero increase, but it will all depend on government plans for the reduction of the national debt.

Neighbourhood Development Plan

Councillor Simon Kinder
Committee Chairman

"The Neighbourhood Planning Committee has recently received changed advice from Herefordshire Council, which is likely to result in significant changes to the proposed Neighbourhood Plan. Whereas we had originally understood that the Neighbourhood Plan was expected to replace our Parish Plan, we have now been advised that the Neighbourhood Plan should be restricted to planning issues, and should run alongside the Parish Plan.

In addition, when Herefordshire Council publish their revised planning policies, in the form of the Local Development Framework (LDF), we have been advised that although they will identify rural housing needs and define planning policies for housing development, they expect neighbourhood development plans to identify how these needs can be met.

The Neighbourhood Planning Committee is now investigating the scope for further housing within the Parish whilst recognising the constraints placed by the AONB, the topography and settlement boundaries. We hope to bring you the results of this work within the next few months. In the meantime, by the time you read this the LDF will have been presented for public consultation. We urge you to read the draft LDF proposals and make your views known."

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING: 3rd April at 6.30pm at Walford Village Hall

Members of the public are invited to attend, your views are important in the creation of a Neighbourhood Development Plan for Walford Parish, so please come along.

Our communities may face many types of emergency or major incidents. Each could have a significant effect on the individuals and infrastructure within it.

Typical examples of such emergencies include:

- **Flooding**
- **Extreme weather events such as wind, snow, extreme cold or heat**
- **Transport collisions**
- **Fire in neighbouring factories or domestic buildings**
- **Industrial accidents such as chemical spills**
- **Utilities failure**
- **Pandemic Influenza**



Major incidents will be dealt with by the Emergency Services (Professional Responders), these being the 'Blue Light' Services - Police, Fire & Rescue and Ambulance; depending on the nature and scale of the incident the response may include Herefordshire Public Services, utility companies and voluntary agencies in a combined 'multi-agency response'.

Walford Parish Council has created a local Community Plan whereby local resources can be coordinated and made available, if required, in the case of an emergency. Included, is a detailed plan for clearance of snow and ice that can be viewed on the Parish Council web-site: www.walford-pc.org.uk

For more information contact: emergency.coordinator@walford-pc.org.uk

Herefordshire Citizens Advice Bureaux

PLEASE HELP

At their last meeting, Walford Parish Council resolved to help Herefordshire Citizens Advice Bureaux by using this newsletter (*sent to every parish household*) to publicise their invaluable work in support of local communities and to appeal for donations.

The difficult economic climate in which we are living, in particular the squeeze on household budgets, high energy prices and the biggest shake up of the Welfare state since its beginnings, are touching the lives of most people, but particularly those already disadvantaged. For those most deprived and vulnerable, life is especially difficult. The CAB is often both the first port of call and the last hope for those struggling to resolve their problems.

As ever, the bureaux need to ensure that sufficient funding is secured to enable services to continue and therefore donations do help the bureaux to deliver good quality, legal advice and services to the people of Herefordshire.

IF YOU ARE ABLE TO HELP PLEASE CONTACT: Hereford CAB, 8 St Owen Street, Hereford, HR1 2PJ Tel: 01432 270536 E mail: advice@herefordshirecab.org.uk

“National Grid would like to thank local people for their continued patience while it works to improve the national electricity network running through the area. The work being carried out will ensure that this part of the network continues to function effectively for decades to come. Despite the poor weather, work has remained on schedule and we will have completed



installing the new cable by the end of this year. Although we will finish installing the cable this year, we will then start the careful work of returning the environment to the condition it was in before we started the project. We will be filling in the areas where we’ve been excavating and carrying out a comprehensive replanting programme in the area. We are also reviewing the possibility of removing parts of the existing cable at the same time.

If anyone would like to find out more about National Grid’s work, please call our community relations team on 0800 073 1047. The line is available 7am – 7pm seven days a week.”

Matthew Thompson MPRCA Consultant JBP PR & Parliamentary Affairs

Age Concern – Ross on Wye

PLEASE GIVE YOUR SUPPORT

At their last meeting, Walford Parish Council resolved to help Age Concern, by using this newsletter (*sent to every parish household*) to publicise their invaluable work in helping local elderly and vulnerable people. This is an appeal to the public to donate whatever they are able to, so that this vital work, supporting the local community, can continue.

PROJECTS RUN BY AGE CONCERN:

Information and Advice Service : Exercise classes for older people (*one in Walford*) : Mens Pub Lunch group-monthly meeting just for older men : Visiting scheme-to reduce rural isolation for older people : Carecall-phone friend for social contact to those who are vulnerable/housebound : Footcare-toenail cutting service : Job Club-for unemployed older people to look for work : Handyperson scheme -for small safety jobs around the home : Computer Tasters 1-1 session for older people to learn/develop computer skills : Wye Wise Up - A handy directory of useful telephone numbers of services in Herefordshire for those over 50 : Get Warm Stay Warm - A winter project every year of free items to keep vulnerable people warm and safe over the winter, eg: cold weather packs, sand and salt.

Opening Hours: 12:30-2:30pm Monday, and 10:00 to 12:00 Tuesday to Thursday.

Telephone: 01989 763887 (*for Information and Advice*) or 01989 567165 (*administration*)

E-mail: ross@ageukhw.org.uk **Address:** 46 Broad Street, Ross-on-Wye, HR9 7DY

Herefordshire Council has signed a partnership deal with Gloucestershire County Council and telecoms provider BT to deliver a new high speed fibre optic broadband network across both the counties, which should enable 90% of homes and businesses to have access to fibre broadband.

The new network will be delivered in stages and the outline delivery plan will be announced in 2013. Details of speeds available to individual homes and business premises will only be available around the start of the delivery in each area, due to the need for detailed surveys to be undertaken.

The £56.6m deal is funded by Government and local authority money. Broadband Delivery UK's original allocation to Herefordshire was £6.35m. This has now been increased to £10.1m in recognition of the challenges faced by the county, which is being matched by Herefordshire Council. **BT will also invest £20.9m across both counties.**

The priority is to make sure everyone has access to the "Universal Service Commitment" of 2Mbps broadband speed to wipe out the "not spots" in the county (where there is no broadband), along with widespread availability of Next Generation Access (NGA) of 30Mbps or above, allowing households and businesses to use the internet effectively now and in the future.

Along with commercial improvements to the network, we should see 88% of homes and businesses within Herefordshire having access to speeds of 30Mbps and above by the end of 2016. The intention is to build a network for the future and invest in technology that will future proof the county, which covers the design, build and operation of a wholesale broadband network across both counties. The network will be used by any number of independent internet service providers (ISPs) who would then offer a range of retail broadband packages to the consumer.

Contact: Councillor Dave Berry, Broadband Champion. T: 01989 564005. E: dave.berry666@tiscali.co.uk

Other Parish projects

WALFORD LINKS PROJECT: Last year Walford Parish Council submitted responses they received, to letters sent out to a wider set of Stakeholders, which the Committee at Hereford Council hope to consider along with Walford Links proposals at their March meeting, or soon after.

We hope to be able to report on the outcome of this Committee meeting in the next edition of the Newsletter and on the Parish Council website.

There is now a Projects Page live on the website, with all the up to date information on Walford Links: www.walford-pc.org.uk (Look under Projects)

KERNE BRIDGE CANOE LAUNCH SITE:

As advised in previous editions of the Newsletter, Walford Parish Council have been in discussions with Hereford Council to take over and manage the Kerne Bridge Canoe Launch / Picnic site, with a view to introducing controlled access to the Wye for launching canoes and to control parking at the site.

It is hoped that sensible management of the site will help to reduce congestion and make the experience of using the Kerne Bridge Canoe Launch site, adjacent car parking and picnic facilities a more efficient and enjoyable experience for all – including the users of Bishopswood Village Hall.

After a long delay, Hereford Council have recently provided draft Heads of Terms for the proposed management of the site, which Walford Parish Council considered at their March meeting.

We hope to update you on progress in the next newsletter and also to provide information in near the future, on the Projects page of the Parish Council website.

LAND AT FOREST GREEN:

The Working party for the land at Forest Green have met and decided that the initial clearing of brambles, twigs etc and ensuring that the bridleway is clear, are the first things to do. This work will be carried out by volunteers from the village, and it is thought that it could continue on a regular monthly basis.

The first phase of work will be carried out in April around 13/14th, weather permitting. People wishing to become Volunteers are asked to contact Cheryl Carpenter 01989 218079 to confirm that the dates will go ahead and to discuss what work is needed and how they wish to help.

All help will be gratefully received. We need to keep this green in good order and to prove its use, therefore it needs to be accessible to all.

VILLAGE WARDEN SCHEME:

The proposed Village Warden Scheme will be a valuable service for Walford Parishioners. *(It has been outlined in detail in previous newsletters – all issues of which can be found on the Parish Council website: www.walford-pc.org.uk)*

The Parish Council has recently been advised by Ward Councillor Jarvis, that he has agreement from the CCG (Clinical Commissioning Group) that they will support the Village Warden Scheme pilot in Walford, once their new management team are in place and they are registered to take over funding - with a view to providing 50% of the pilot cost.

There may be a few things which need adjusting, with a view to satisfactory service delivery, but apart from these and anticipated confirmation of the budget by the CCG, the back office set up is ready to go. ***We will keep you up to date with developments.***

WYE VALLEY AONB

The River Festival 2014

Information supplied by Bridget Vine

The Wye Valley River Festival in 2014

This festival, planned for Spring 2014, is intended to celebrate the River Wye and its history, heritage, environment and biodiversity through the arts, education, sport and recreation interest.



The WVAONB unit and the Wye Preservation Trust are lead partners in establishing the event which it is hoped will develop into a regular, sustainable event which will be self-perpetuating.

During the 9 days from April 26th to May 11th events will be arranged in the towns and villages along the Wye Valley with key events on different days in each of 5 towns along the Wye Valley – Hay on Wye, Hereford, Ross on Wye, Monmouth and Chepstow. Hopefully parishes, communities and organisations will feel minded to join in and support this initiative which is intended to significantly raise the profile of the Wye Valley area and promote tourism to the region.

An initial set up grant from the AONB SDF has been allocated to kick start the funding process. Matched funding is being sought from parish, town and community councils in the AONB area so that major bids can then be submitted to cover the significant costs of staging such a festival. Opportunities for sponsorship and advertising will exist

For further information as to how you or your organisation can become involved in these events and other activities in the WVAONB area, please contact the WVAONB Information Officer on Tel = 01600 710486 or look at the Wye Valley AONB website www.wyevalleyaonb.org.uk for news and information updates

Boots and Beds Conference took place at Chepstow Racecourse on 20th March :

The Wye Valley area has some of the finest quality walking trails and accommodation in the UK. Walkers can find a wide range of walks from easy access and short themed walks to the more demanding routes

The purpose of this conference was to look at ways of improving the quality of the walking experience in the area to make sure it meets the needs of current and future visitors and residents.

This past year of seasonally and repetitively bad weather has not helped our Rights Of Way one bit, but people still want to be out & about to enjoy the area.

Perhaps this would be a good time to remind landowners of their obligations to trim hedges and clear fallen trees that obstruct Rights of Way, as well as keeping paths through crops clear and useable at all times PLEASE.



Jogging in the snow – Chase Hill Photo by Simon Cropper

It is also a good idea to ensure that Rights of Way signs on and adjacent to one's land are in good order, otherwise people are confused and may well trespass and possibly do damage, by accident.

The public as well as landowners should please report any problems via the Parish Clerk, with either a WA number or a clear description of location.

The Lengthsman report

Please send any local reports to:
lengthsman.coordinator@walford-pc.org.uk

Winter Snow and Ice Clearance:

During the severe winter weather, the Lengthsman helped with snow and ice clearance and spreading of grit and salt from parish supplies, which are provided by Hereford Council as part of the Winter Maintenance Self Help Scheme. This is a county council initiative, which Walford Parish Council joined last year – participation in the scheme means that the parish council is supplied with 10 tons of grit and salt, by Hereford Council, in order to distribute it to the areas of the parish where it is needed most.

Parish grit and salt supplies are stored at different locations within the parish:

Walford and Bishopswood Village Halls, Home Farm on Bishopswood Hill, EC Drummond at Hom Green, Cobrey Farm Coughton and at Orchard House Coughton.

Recent work completed by the Lengthsman:

Cleaned bus shelters : Cleaned path by Bishopswood Village Hall : Clean grips on road from Bishopswood Stores up to Bishopswood House : Cleaned grips on Bulls Hill

Walford Parish Council would like to say a big thank you to all those who, in addition to the Lengthsman, helped to clear the roads and spread grit and salt throughout the Parish, particularly to Drummonds at Hom Green, who provided their own equipment and driver to spread grit and salt so widely, at no cost to the Parish. The Parish Resilience co-ordinator, Dave Berry and local contractor, Simeon Cole, employed by Amey also played a big part in keeping the Parish moving, thanks also to them and to all members of the public and councillors who did their bit. **IT ALL HELPS!**

Walford Village Hall

Information supplied by Councillor Terry Snow

After a quiet winter, when the weather gave our regulars a disturbing time, things are moving again.

We have a new Hall Committee comprising Dave Berry, Bonnie Hitchins, Julie Church, Mike Eastwood, Sara Jones, Wendy Horton, Sarah Carne and, joining us this month (March), we welcome Virginia Morgan. And then there's me! What we aim to do now is in the melting pot.

The children's Play Area is in for approval with Planning in Hereford. Once approval comes through, we will get going. In the meantime we intend to revive our Quiz evening with refreshing bits and bobs and with the proceeds going to help fund the Play Area. In addition we have a new set of computer equipment available for use by our villagers and we aim to schedule an entertaining evening event to demonstrate the use of the range.

To cap all this, these happenings will all take place in the Hall, which should by then have a repainted and glistening exterior (that is if the weather warms up a bit). Soon we all hope.

Bishopswood Village Hall

Information supplied by Chris Puzey

Over one hundred and twenty people from Bishopswood and the surrounding area enjoyed a Community Christmas Lunch at Bishopswood Village Hall in December. With Christmas crackers on the table, volunteers served up a delicious, home cooked Turkey lunch with all the trimmings – followed by a sumptuous selection of delicious homemade desserts. These lunches were started at the Village Hall some years ago – in an attempt to bring the community together in friendly and enjoyable surroundings and it has been an amazing success. The next one is scheduled for Sunday 17th March – booking is essential for this very popular event.

The committee continues to work hard at exploring ways to help the environment, we have investigated and tried a variety of ways to recycle, and are currently looking at phase two of our energy saving project for the hall.

Plans are currently underway for the next Bishopswood's Got Talent, which will take place on Saturday 20th April. Entry forms are available at the Village Hall or from Wyeside Stores – everyone is welcome, whatever your talent – we want you to entertain us!!

If you would like to register for our monthly newsletter – with news of all the upcoming events at Bishopswood Village Hall – email info@BVHonline.co.uk

- On Friday March 22nd. at 2-30pm. Bishopswood will be celebrating 94years as a Women's Institute with an Afternoon tea & will be entertained by the folk group "Life of Riley". We are very proud to have been formed before the Herefordshire County Federation came into being.
- Our meeting on Friday April 12th. at Bishopswood Village Hall will be an OPEN MEETING for anyone Male or Female to come along & enjoy. At 7pm the speaker will be Andy Taylor telling us about "The Herefordshire Regiment". For the competition bring along a Military Badge or Medal. Light refreshments will be served.
- The May meeting takes place at 6-30pm. in Bishopswood Village Hall on Friday May 10th, this meeting will be a Quiz Night
- The June 14th meeting at 6-30pm in Bishopswood Village Hall will be the usual Summer Social with a light supper & Pimms followed by a discussion in the round when members bring an object and say how it influenced their life!
- On July 12th at 6-30pm in Bishopswood Village Hall the speaker will be Averil Kear talking about "Early Dean - The Industrial History of the Forest".
- **Visitors are always welcome to all our meetings.**

St Michael and All Angels Church

Information supplied by Gay Chinn

- St Michael & All Angels' Church, Walford enjoyed a fantastic run up to Christmas supporting and organising events to help raise funds to keep our beautiful church in top notch order.
- Baroness Pitkeathley gave fascinating insight to life in the House of Lords at a speaker evening kindly hosted by Mrs Erika White at Hom Church. The event raised nearly £600 for the church.
- We raised around £500 by providing the patron of the Crows Hill Sale with delicious refreshments and also raised £240 through our Movie Night event showing "We Bought a Zoo" at St Mary's church hall.
- The annual Carol Service was well attended and everyone enjoyed the delicious mulled wine and mince pies served afterwards.
- The year culminated in customary impressive style with the Christingle service drawing over 200 people on Christmas eve; it was wonderful to see so many families.

There are plenty of events planned for this coming year:

- Sunday 14th April – Movie Night St Mary's church hall, 7pm
- Sunday 9th June – Open Farm Sunday, Cobrey Farms
- Produce stall and speaker events – TBC

Please consult the church notice boards for news of future events and services.

We welcome you all to our services on 1st and 2nd Sundays at 9:30, 3rd Sunday at 3.30pm and the Family Service on the 4th Sunday of the month at 11:15am with refreshments served at 10:45am.

- Sunday 24 March:** Holy Communion 11.00.
Sunday 31 March: Easter Sunday Communion 11.00.
Sunday 7 April: Church Breakfast and Service at BVH.
Tuesday 9 April: Quarterly PCC Meeting at "Rivercrest" 7.30pm.
Sunday 14 April: Holy Communion 11.00.
Sunday 21 April: Evensong 6pm {Note change of time}.
Monday 22 April: Annual Parish Church Meetings at Old Court Hotel Whitchurch 7pm.
Sunday 28 April: Holy Communion 11.00.
Sunday 5 May: Church Breakfast and Service at BVH.
Sunday 12 May: Holy Communion 11.00.
Sunday 19 May: Evensong 6pm.
Friday 24 - Monday 27 May: Flower Festival in the church.
Friday 24 May: Festival Concert in the church 7pm.
Sunday 27 May: No Communion. Festival Songs of Praise 6.30pm.

Walford Parish Council meetings schedule

6.30pm Neighbourhood Planning	03/04/13	Walford Village Hall
6.30pm Annual Parish Meeting 7.30pm Full Council	10/04/13	Bishopswood Village Hall
7.30pm Annual Council Meeting	08/05/13	Walford Village Hall
6.30pm Finance Committee 7.30pm Full Council	12/06/13	Bishopswood Village Hall
7.30pm Full Council	10/07/13	Walford Village Hall
NO MEETING IN AUGUST	N/A	N/A
6.30pm Finance Committee 7.30pm Full Council	11/09/13	Bishopswood Village Hall
7.30pm Full Council	09/10/13	Walford Village Hall
6.30pm Finance Committee 7.30pm Full Council	13/11/13	Bishopswood Village Hall
7.30pm Full Council	11/12/13	Walford Village Hall

Clerk: Rose Cottage, Coughton Ross on Wye, Herefordshire, HR9 5SF.

Tel: 01989 562476 **E mail:** clerk@walford-pc.org.uk 9am-1pm & 2pm-5pm