

For Newsletter

Cradley Parish Council meeting 9th July 2001

The Chair opened the meeting at 19:35 hrs due to an over run by the planning committee

He welcomed three members of the public Tony Johnson (Herefordshire Councillor) and Paul Edrich from AONB.

The Chair thanked Paul Edrich for attending to enlighten the Council as to the structure and work of the AONB(Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty)

Paul commenced by stating that the AONB was a nationwide group with local offices set up to oversee and advise on 46 areas of the Country that had been designated as areas of outstanding natural beauty. The Malvern Hills and some of the surrounding areas have been included as one such area. Parts of Cradley fall within this designation which covers most of the old part of the village around the Church and Bury End Street(from the post office to Vines End)

He pointed out that AONB are an advisory body and are deeply involved and consulted in planning matters which affect these areas. Their remit is the protection of these areas and to ensure that growth and development do not alter the character of the areas. Whilst they do not have any statutory powers Local Authorities do have a statutory obligation to ensure that the areas are maintained.

They, like most bodies in the Nation, are being subjected to reductions in funding which increasingly will impact upon their ability to deliver effective policies. As the AONB is funded through DEFRA (Department for Environment, food and Rural Affairs) reductions in DEFRA funding is passed on to them.

AONB are there for Parish Councils or individuals to seek guidance or support for any matters which fall within the jurisdiction of the AONB

Councillor Tony Johnson was congratulated on behalf of the Council in being elected as Leader of Herefordshire Council. Tont reported that Herefordshire would vote to adopt their Core Strategy on 19th July. He confirmed that Balfour Beattie would take over the contract for infrastructure works from the Outgoing Amey in the Autumn and that they had an obligation to continue matters already started by their predecessors (hooray for Rectory Lane!)

He reported that there was a good deal of interest from the higher education establishment to found a University in Hereford and that this would be enthusiastically supported as an asset for the City and County.

The new Market in Hereford progresses at a pace and an opening date in 2014 is envisaged.

Government cuts continue to take place and funding to LA's is being severely restricted with a corresponding reduction in services to the County. It is fast becoming a way of life that all but the most vulnerable will have to bear for the foreseeable future. As before stated the protection and care of vulnerable people in the community is a priority and will be sustained as long as is possible.

As is now widely known Cradley Post office and Stores was closed without notice by their owners leaving only a restricted post office service for some three weeks. Whilst we still have the Butchers on Bosbury Road (Pete the Meat) giving a somewhat restricted service of provisions the Council after much debate felt that a village meeting should be convened where the community can voice their fears, ideas, wants and needs in open forum and to receive the facts involved rather than by the normal village communication methods. A meeting is planned at Cradley Village Hall on Wednesday 7th August at 19:30 hrs. Notices will be posted.

Councillor Brian Gordon reported on the Parish Council Cluster Group meeting he attended on 12th July at Wellington Heath. Matters of Road safety were compiled and will be presented to Herefordshire Council for consideration and action. Out of the 14 Parish councils represented in the group only Cradley and Colwall will be forming and adopting Neighbourhood Plans. This is due to some of the represented Councils being small or predominantly rural that such a plan would be impractical.

The remedial work to the pumping station at Kings Bridge is now complete and hopefully the next heavy rain will prove it effective.

Councillor Wynne Harries has taken over the Chair of the Footpaths & Environment group.

The formation and construction of Cradley's Neighbourhood Plan advances.

The Chair closed the meeting at 21:50

Next meeting will be on Tuesday 13th August 19:30hrs at Cradley Village Hall

Ken Nason