

CRADLEY PARISH COUNCIL

We were pleased to welcome both our county councillors to the meeting of the Parish Council on 13th August. Councillor Tony Johnson assured us that there had been no applications to pursue fracking for shale gas in Herefordshire, and that this part of the country was not the most likely for this activity anyway, according to surveys. He informed us that August is a relatively quiet period at the County Council; however, both he and Councillor Carl Attwood are fully aware that this is clearly not the case in this parish! They stand ready to support our community, given the considerable concern that exists regarding the closure of the Post Office Stores and the application of the current owners for change of use to residential. Both county councillors are already in contact with the planning officers over this issue and will clearly be taking a continuing and close interest in it.

The Parish Council noted the strong feelings against the Post Office Stores application for change of use, expressed at a packed public meeting on 7th August in the Village Hall, and will do everything it can to support the wishes of our community. It really is important for everyone to continue to say what they think to councillors at all levels, and also to be positive in coming up with ideas and suggestions for how we can take things forward. It will be vital for the planners to know that we are being positive by looking into options for the future, as well as raising valid objections. This issue will remain high on your parish council priorities.

Our packed agenda continued with the input from Tina Wood of the housing section of Herefordshire Council and Kat La Tzar of WM Housing Group re the perceived need or otherwise for affordable housing in the parish. Now that we have the details of surveys conducted in recent times, this will return to the parish council agenda for consideration. It will in any case be an important part of setting up our Local Development Plan – please remember that we would welcome involvement from you with this very important process for the future of our parish. The underuse (and the reasons for it) of our current affordable housing stock also needs to be addressed as part of this whole picture, and Tina Wood promised to raise this with the relevant housing associations.

How nice to be able to end on a note of celebration – there has been considerable activity at the Chapel Lane playing fields to add to and enhance the facilities for our young people, with more action to come. Grateful thanks are due to Councillors Simon Davies, Ed Moseley and others for their sterling work here.

WYNNE HARRIES