

# CRADLEY PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council met on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March at Storridge Village Hall, and here are some of the issues that were discussed:

## **County Councillor report**

Tony Johnson reported to us on two matters currently under consideration at Herefordshire Council. Firstly, there is a proposal to replace the current weekly black bag collection system with a fortnightly **black wheelie bin system**, where the green recycling wheelie bin would be collected one week and the black one the other week. If this is approved, the new system could operate from November. This change will save the council £500,000 annually it seems. Councillor Johnson also informed us that the formal consultation on the **future of bus transport** would happen in the near future (possibly by the time you read this report). Your parish council is aware of how important our bus services are to many people, and will do everything it can to lobby the county council to retain a service here. It is vital that as many individual parishioners as possible take part in this consultation, and if anyone needs help to complete any on-line submissions, then help is at hand through the ever-helpful Ken Nason at Cradley Village Hall.

## **Possible Development in the field above Pixiefields**

Many people present (including approximately 30 members of the public) had also attended a presentation by a planning consultant at Cradley Village Hall earlier in the day (with very little notice it should be said!) – there is clearly much concern about this idea from many people. However, these are very early stages in the process, and a planning application has not yet been submitted. So, at this stage, the parish council has nothing formal to consider. As ever, keep a close eye on the Herefordshire Planning website though of course!

## **Annual Parish Meeting – Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm in Cradley Village Hall**

We are legally bound to hold an annual public meeting of the Parish Council, but the formalities will be brief and followed by an interesting speaker and a chance to socialise. We look forward to seeing you there.

## **New Councillor**

We are very grateful to Brian Gordon for his contribution to the council until his recent resignation, and I am pleased to announce that Tracey Iwanczuk has been co-opted.

## **Neighbourhood Development Plan**

By the time you read this I hope you will have received the Parish Council Reporter – please return the questionnaire so that we can be sure any plan will reflect the true feelings of as many parishioners as possible.

## **Footpaths and Environment Group**

I now chair this informal group, which came out of the last Parish Plan process and meets 2 or 3 times a year. Although not a formal Parish Council group, I do update full council from time to time on its discussions and activities. Jeff White, one of our footpaths officers, is part of this group, and submitted a comprehensive report on the state of the paths around the parish to our last meeting in November. To be fair to Herefordshire Council, over the last few years they have delivered a reasonable amount of improvements to stiles, gates and bridges here and there, but Jeff is concerned that funds may be drying up somewhat, so we need to watch this situation very carefully. One thing I have in mind for this group to discuss at a future meeting is the whole matter of the ease or otherwise of walking around the built up areas of the parish, principally in Cradley and Storridge of course, but there may be issues in our smaller hamlets as well. I should be grateful for views, suggestions, moans etc. on this matter from anyone who would care to contact me on [wynneharries@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:wynneharries@hotmail.co.uk) or 01886 880 976.

**Parish Playing Fields**

It is hoped that by the summer, work on the Chapel Lane site concerning drainage, re-turfing, planting saplings, and flattening the football pitch will have been completed.

The next parish council meeting will be held on 8<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30 in Cradley Village Hall.

WYNNE HARRIES