

CRADLEY PARISH COUNCIL

The latest Parish Council meeting on 31st August was not the shortest ever, but this report will surely be the shortest I have ever produced! Thank goodness for that, I hear you say. This meeting was actually the “September” one really, brought forward in order to move on with the Neighbourhood Development Plan process.

Neighbourhood Development Plan

The latest draft Plan was approved by a significant majority to move on to the next stage of Regulation 16 when the Plan sits with Herefordshire Council for a 6-week formal public consultation when you all have an opportunity to comment further on it to Herefordshire Council. At that stage it does become a material consideration for planning matters within the Parish, even though it won't yet have been formally adopted by referendum.

Proposed New Dwelling on Coombe Lane

Yet another unusual and challenging planning application for Council to consider at this meeting. Building houses in the open countryside is not normally allowed, but this application is being put forward under the exceptions as part of the National Planning Policy Framework (paragraph 55). To save you looking it up, here are the 4 main points of paragraph 55: 1. be truly outstanding or innovative, helping to raise standards in architecture, 2. reflect the highest standards in architecture, 3. significantly enhance its immediate setting, 4. be sensitive to the defining characteristics of the local area. On the basis of its interesting architecture and landscaping arrangements, the Parish Council, by a narrow margin, decided to support this application, as long as Herefordshire Council checks the technical qualification under Paragraph 55 thoroughly.

Lumbridge Woods

Council recognised that the state of the footpaths through the woods had significantly improved since the forestry work, but that further work would be needed to ensure they were accessible and safe for pedestrians through the winter months. We will continue with constructive contact with the landowner.

Recent Road Closures

Concern was expressed at Council over the unhelpful and misleading signage placed for the diversions. This has been pointed out to Balfour Beatty, but they are not in total control of course and the various utilities and others have a role here. In the meantime, it could be good for us all to check the road closures part of the Herefordshire Council website for details of roadworks.

<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/transport-and-highways/maintenance/current-and-planned-roadworks>

Next Parish Council Meeting

Back to normal for our next meeting on the second Tuesday of the month on 11th October at 7.30 pm with the planning meeting beforehand at 7 pm – please note that we move to our “winter” quarters at Storridge Village Hall for that one. Strange to write ‘winter’ on a day when temperatures are forecast to reach 30 degrees!! Apologies, this wasn't as short as I thought it might be, so thanks for seeing me through to the end!

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