

## **CRADLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

Here are the main points from the latest Parish Council meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> October at Storridge Village Hall:

### **Trees in Conservation Area**

Clearly, Western Power has been conducting (sorry!) a survey of the proximity of trees to power lines in the area, as we had to consider several applications to trim and even fell trees in the Cradley Conservation Area this time. Now I am sure we all want to reduce the frequency of power cuts here, but it does seem unfortunate that significant ancient trees have to be decimated or even removed because of current (must stop this!) regulations. Council felt that Herefordshire Council should check all the possibilities for funding the burying of cables, particularly in conservation areas and AONBs (Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty), before agreeing to some of these applications.

### **Red Lion Open!**

At long last the Red Lion reopened in October, and by now you may well have visited yourself and given Dave and Michele Carter your custom. Councillors were very pleased to meet them both at our meeting, and to give them a very warm welcome and good wishes for a prosperous time running our pub. As with our bus service: USE IT OR LOSE IT.

### **Broadband / Fastershire**

Councillor Geoff Thomas raised the issue of very patchy (to say the least) coverage in Cradley for Superfast Broadband. Why don't you share your experiences (good or bad) on the Parish Council Facebook page – this will help to build up a true picture of where we are with this. You do need to be sceptical about claimed broadband speeds unless you know otherwise categorically.

### **Parliamentary Boundaries Changing**

The proposals from the Boundary Commission for England (BCE) are out for consultation until 5 December 2016 – do contact them to have your say. It is proposed that Cradley would fit into a new constituency including Malvern and Ledbury. There will be a reduction overall in the number of constituencies in England from the current 533 to 501, and generally (with 2 exceptions) each one must have a population of no smaller than 71,031 and no larger than 78,507. The BCE website is [www.bce2018.org.uk](http://www.bce2018.org.uk)

### **Road Safety on the A4103**

Recent road accidents have concentrated the minds of many people on this matter, and Councillor Sam Roffe has been surveying residents in the area for their views. As ever, a reduction in the speed limits is very unlikely to be allowed, because, not to put too fine a point on it, there need to be more deaths! However, it could be useful to campaign for improved signage and encourage landowners to cut back vegetation to improve visibility. Again, why not use our Facebook page or the PC website to make suggestions?

### **Public Telephones**

In the age of the mobile phone, public telephone boxes are becoming redundant. One of ours on Fincher's Corner has not been used for 12 months so the Parish Council has accepted that this could be removed. However, given the very poor mobile signals available on the stretch of the A4103 through Storridge, we are requesting that BT retain that one from a public safety point of view. Avid readers of these articles (if there are such people?) will know that the Parish Council is adopting the telephone box outside the Old Post Office to house a defibrillator.

### **Neighbourhood Development Plan**

Councillor Tanya Lloyd Jones confirmed that Cradley's NDP has been put out for public consultation from 28 September to **9 November** by Herefordshire Council and is therefore at

Regulation 16 stage. This is your last chance to comment on the detail of the Plan which is available on the Neighbourhood Planning section of Herefordshire Council website and also on the Parish Council website (see below). You can email [neighbourhoodplanning@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:neighbourhoodplanning@herefordshire.gov.uk) or write to Neighbourhood Planning Team, Planning Services, PO Box 230, Hereford HR1 2ZB.

### **Small Donations System**

This is now up and running and local not-for-profit organisations and individuals can apply *'for the enhancement and benefit of the area and residents'* (Cradley Parish Council area - this of course includes Storrige). Please apply for a grant via the Parish Council's website or contact the Parish Clerk at 01531 635103.

### **Emergency Planning**

Councillor Sam Roffe informed us that the aim is to have our plan in place by the end of this year if possible. Many thanks to those of you who have offered help so far.

### **Free Bags of Sand**

If your property is liable to flooding, please see the separate advert elsewhere in this Newsletter.

### **External Audit**

Grateful thanks were expressed by Council to Mary Barnett, our Clerk, for keeping our financial books in good order. The external auditors raised no "issues" – if they had, each "issue" would have cost the Council money, so, again, thank you Mary.

### **Next Parish Council Meeting**

Our next meeting is at Storrige Village Hall on November 8<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 p.m. with the planning meeting beforehand at 7 p.m. One of my longer articles this, so you deserve a medal for staying with me to the end.....you didn't skip anything, did you?

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