

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

NEW MEMBER:

Mr. Adrian Brown has been co-opted on to the Council to replace Mrs. Clarke who resigned a few months ago. Adrian was previously a member for several years and feels that now he is retired he can devote more time to Council activities. The Parish Clerk stated that his experience and skills will be a great asset to the current team of Councillors.

VANDALISM

There has been a recent outbreak of acts of vandalism including instances of arson. Although these are not major incidents, repairs and cleaning up are both time consuming and expensive. The police and Councillors ask that you are vigilant and watch out for this type of activity. Please report any incidents to the police on 101 or send the details to the Parish Clerk who will ensure that they are passed on to the appropriate people. We know that some incidents had been recorded on Facebook but unfortunately this does not mean that they reach the right people and are properly reported and recorded.

BUDGET

Most of you will be aware of the serious financial difficulties facing Shropshire Council, which has seen substantial reductions and changes to many services and the proposed transfer of responsibility for some services to Town and Parish Councils.

The Council has taken note of these changes and has decided that if services and projects are to continue to be provided, there is a need to have a reasonable finance base to help do this. As a result of this and some additional costs they have increased this year's precept (the money we get from Council Tax) by £3,000. This will result in an increase in the monthly cost on your Council Tax by about 35p.

The full Council budget can be seen on the Council's web site under 'What we spend and how we spend it' Site can be found at www.shawbury-pc.gov.uk

ELECTION - Advance Notice:

This year in May there will be elections for a new Council, which will serve the Parish for the next four years. If you are over eighteen, live in the Parish and are

keen to develop and see through policies which will benefit the community, then this is your opportunity to become involved.

You do not need any formal qualifications, just dedication and endeavour and preferably email contact.

If you would like further details of what being a Councillor involves and how to put your name forward, please contact Jack Wilson, the Parish Clerk.

ROAD SAFETY

Members continue to receive complains about issues surrounding pedestrians using the crossing by the shops, where there has been several frightening incidents.

We continue to pressurise Shropshire Council to erect a warning sign between the traffic lights and the crossing; are arranging to have a mirror erected on the Co-op wall, which should help drivers leaving the Elephant and Castle Public House and are asking the police to take action against drivers who flagrantly ignore the needs of pedestrians. If you see drivers behaving badly, take their number and report them to the police.

DEFIBRILLATOR

Following a request, followed by a detailed presentation, from Mr. Russ Currie, a support from a number of parishioners and the W.I., the Council has decided to provide finance for the installation of a defibrillator in the Village. The actual site has yet to be determined but will get the go ahead at next month's Council meeting. Members are grateful to Mr. Currie and Councillor Paul Sharp for the effort they have put into this. It will be a valuable asset and a safeguard and like an insurance policy we hope it never has to be used.

PLANNING

A quick up-date on the planning situation which many of you may have already read about. The application to build an estate alongside the Wem Road was refused by Shropshire Council and that decision was supported by the planning inspector when an appeal was made. However the application to build fifty houses alongside the A53 on the Shrewsbury side of the Village is up for approval. This has been supported by the Parish Council and at past open meetings.

If approval is given it is anticipated that work on the site and the planned roundabout will start in late spring.

Finally we welcome comments - praise or criticism – just send them to the Clerk who will be pleased to hear from you