



The Dragon

The Facebook logo, consisting of the word "facebook" in white lowercase letters on a blue rectangular background.

Find the Parish
Council on
Facebook!

Welcome to the latest edition of the Parish Council (PC) newsletter. The aim of this newsletter is to share the work of the PC and to invite you to give us feedback on our activities or suggest improvements to the local area. You can do this by approaching any individual Councillor, messaging us on Facebook, or emailing/phoning our Clerk.

Since the last newsletter, we have welcomed a new Councillor to the PC; Wendy Tolley has recently moved into Priors Frome with her family and is keen to get to know the local community and support the PC.

The PC also welcomed a new Parish Clerk; Clare Preece is responsible for carrying out the legal, administrative and financial aspects of the PC work.

When the Parish Council met earlier this month, we decided to keep the precept at the same level as previous years. This is the amount of money which is used to fund the PC and is collected by Herefordshire Council through the Council Tax.

We have built up large reserves and want your feedback on how we could spend it. Please see the back page and flyer for more details.

Finally, we hope that you will join us on the 2nd December for a meeting about a Neighbourhood Development Plan, more information is included inside this newsletter.

Full details of our meetings can be found here:

<https://dormingtonmordifordgroup-pc.gov.uk/> and up to date news or local events can be found on our Facebook page.

Meet the Parish Council

Parish Councillor Marcus Billig

I was born in Hereford and was schooled at HCS. I left to go to Edge Hill university in Lancashire where I studied Business Management. After graduating I went travelling and then joined Faccenda on their graduate programme following which, I moved to Heineken where I worked for 6 years before rejoining Faccenda who had merged with Cargil to form Avara.



I have worked across many of their sites in the UK and my current role is that of Site Manager for the Hereford factories.

I have lived at Sufton Cottage in Mordiford for 8 years with my wife Katie and our two sons. Katie is a Consultant Anaesthetist who works for both Hereford Hospital and Midlands Air Ambulance.

In my spare time I like to keep fit, I have done several endurance events and love running around the footpaths in the parish.

I also volunteer and coach my son's football team in Hampton Dene and enjoy watching rugby.

Would you like to be a Parish Councillor? We have one vacancy for Mordiford Parish.

To find out more email our Parish Clerk.

clerk@dormingtonmordifordgroup-pc.gov.uk

Checkley Church Development

Delayed due to the pandemic an open public meeting was finally held at St Nicholas Mission Church, Checkley on 22nd September 2021. The aim was to discuss the next steps of the development of the church following the successful granting of planning permission in January 2020, for a small extension to provide a kitchen and disabled toilet.

Stephen Challenger and Wendy Coombey from the Diocese of Hereford attended and provided us with expert guidance. They advised that a variety of grants are available and applications for this type of project, to enable wider community use of rural churches, would be looked on favourably. Substantial grants, up to 100%, were likely to be approved subject to demonstration of widespread community support and need.

How the hall will be used may determine funding options and a clear idea of the potential uses is needed, backed up by robust evidence of community need and future use. A small working group will be exploring how to encourage more, and a wider variety of, people from the local community to have their say and express their opinions on potential uses of a community facility.

Further information from: Philip Eeles (Secretary Checkley Social Amenities Committee: peeles@hotmail.com) or Mike Jones (Parish Councillor: checkleycouncillor@gmail.com)



News from Mordiford School

I feel very privileged to have joined the teaching team at Mordiford CofE Primary School in September. I love the community feel that comes with a village school and I enjoy the 'buzz' that is created in schools when children are excited by their learning and where teachers are encouraged and motivated by the progress they witness.

At Mordiford Primary school I see this and much more besides; here there is deep caring culture underpinned by our Christian values, where students know their views are valued and where a feeling of mutual respect is embedded in all that we do. We have an excellent and dedicated staff team who make sure our children get individualised attention. There is a lovely family feel to our school.

Originally from South Devon, now living in a village in Worcestershire, I love the outdoors and am passionate about the environment. I am keen for us as a school to help our children develop an environmental consciousness, so our children have knowledge about how the choices they make in life will impact the environment that we all treasure.

Although I started working life as a Chartered Accountant, becoming an educator over 26 years ago was definitely the right choice for me. My family and I have the spirit of adventure and I have worked in Saudi Arabia and, more recently, I was head of the British International School in Bratislava (Primary School). Whilst we enjoyed the vibrancy of an international community, it is very special to be home again! It has been a pleasure to meet some of our school neighbours and local councillors and I look forward to meeting more of the wider community as time goes on particularly as we hope to be able to host some shared events in the coming year.



Please feel free to make contact with us about local events so we can play an active role in the Mordiford Community.

Sue Warmington
Headteacher

Focus on Road Safety

Road safety is always on the agenda at our Parish Council meetings. We know that parishioners are concerned about the speed, size and volume of road users in our parish, so here is an update on several initiatives that are currently being progressed:

1. A 50mph speed limit has been implemented on stretches of the road between Mordiford and Dormington; and the 30mph in Mordiford village extended further out. The next step will be to move the flashing speed sign, outside the School, further up the Mordiford road to alert drivers sooner that they are entering a 30mph zone.
2. We have been discussing installing 'Village Gates' on the main roads entering Dormington and Mordiford. There is some evidence to suggest that such gates make it more obvious to drivers they are entering a residential area and slow down. Discussions with Herefordshire Council and Balfour Beatty (BB) are taking some time but we hope this will be progressed in the New Year.
3. We have been approached on several occasions by residents with concerns over the safety of passengers using the bus stop on the A438 at Dormington. Cllr Jones has been liaising with Landowners and Balfour Beatty, and a solution to move the bus stop further back from the highway has been agreed. The PC have agreed to pay for a new bus stand, and once the final permissions have been given by BB this work will start.
4. Cllrs Cannings and Hughes have been representing the PC on a B4224 Strategy Group, comprised of other PCs along the B4224, Herefordshire Council and Local Policing Teams – all working together to improve the safety of the B4224. Several improvements are being considered including further SID devices (flashing signs warning users to slow down), better road markings, different coloured tarmac and increased Police speed monitoring.
5. The PC are also obtaining quotes from local contractors to cut back vegetation on the footpath between Mordiford to Sufton Rise footpath, exposing more of the footpath to effectively widen it.

Update – from the Parish Council’s Footpath Officer

The scheduled maintenance for this year is now complete and we have endeavoured to keep all the footpaths clear for all to enjoy during the spring and summer months.

We've focused attention on local viewpoints, with an extra bench at Swardon Quarry and another picnic bench at the Checkley Barn Picnic site. Both areas are regularly strimmed and mowed for your enjoyment.



Two new Footbridges have also been installed in Checkley on Footpath MF/15 and MF16.

We have also made a number of minor repairs including replacement of rotten waymarking posts and handrail along with the replacement of Waymarking discs.

Can we please remind all walkers to close any gates on the footpaths and adhere to the country code and keep dogs under control when livestock are in the fields as we wouldn't want to disturb them unnecessary.



Team Wilder: Creating a Wilder Herefordshire

Wildlife and natural spaces are vital for the planet and for humans; they can help fight climate change, provide sources of food and water and can help our well-being. But nature needs our help.



Increasing pressure from urbanisation, changing temperatures and weather patterns and intensive agriculture are putting wildlife at increasing risk.

Everyone can help nature to recover.

The smallest actions, like feeding the birds or making a bug hotel, can make a difference. Team Wilder is a Wildlife Trust initiative to create a Wilder Herefordshire; by working together and sharing knowledge and expertise we can create wilder spaces for nature to thrive. If you take action for nature, at home, school, church or in a community group you can sign up to one of our Team Wilder maps or sign up to receive our newsletter.



Signing up to Team Wilder makes you part of something bigger, a place to share ideas, to learn from others and to get the support you need to help create a Wilder Herefordshire.

Visit our website to find out more:

<https://www.herefordshirewt.org/wilderherefordshire>

Or contact me, Sarah King, s.king@herefordshirewt.co.uk

Dragon Project

The Dragon Trail is coming together really well and we are excited to be able to share with you a photo of one of the sculptures. Each sculpture will have a snippet of the story which surrounds the legend of Maude and the Mordiford Dragon.

We don't have an opening date just yet but hope you will join us in celebrating this local folklore when the route is open for walking.

The Dragoneers



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based in Priors Frome, Herefordshire



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Website tolleyhomeservices.co.uk

Broadband

Fibre Rollout. Fastershire continue to coordinate fibre rollout in Herefordshire. Residents and business who haven't yet been connected should register an

interest online. More community interest will support a speedier rollout. You can check broadband availability using some of the websites below.

Herefordshire continues to benefit from **The Gigabyte Broadband Voucher Scheme**.

 Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport

GIGABIT BROADBAND VOUCHER SCHEME

Perton Lane Community Fibre Partnership. The Openreach ground survey is complete, wayleaves are in place and some additional ducting (putting underground pipes in place for the fibre) has been done. The remaining work is expected to take around two months to complete once the final phase starts. This may be another few months, but we're hopeful it will

start soon. Once properties are connected, residents will be able to use the provider of their choice. Fibre to the premises will be significant faster than copper and future proof.



Network faults. In the first instance faulty broadband should be reported to your Internet Service Provider (ISP). The ISP conduct basic line/connection checks, they will escalate network faults with the provider. If faults are occurring regularly, then the PC could formally complain to the network provider on behalf of the community.

You can get more information on:

www.fastershire.com/

www.communityfibre.openreach.co.uk

www.gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk/

www.gigaclear.com/fastershire

www.airband.co.uk/broadband-coverage-checker/

Neighbourhood Development Plan

In 2014, the Parish Community came together and started a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP), and as result, the neighbourhood boundary was agreed by HC (*Ref 1*). For various reasons, the process halted, and was put on the back burner. However, we are now keen to recommence the NDP.

We have appointed a Planning Consultant to guide us through the first and hopefully following stages of the NDP, who will be attending our first meeting.

The consultant and process is grant funded, and we have already applied for grants.

What's the purpose of a neighbourhood development plan (NDP)?

It gives our community the ability to influence planning decisions (*Ref 2*).

- Plans must conform with planning policies, guidance and relevant legislation at a local and national level. This is tested by independent examination.
- Plans must demonstrate involvement of the local community in decision making and be subject to a community referendum.
- Once such a plan is made (adopted), it will become a statutory plan carrying equal weight to the Herefordshire Local Plan - Core Strategy and be part of the 'Local Plan'. This will mean that it will be used in making decisions on planning applications by Herefordshire Council (HC) in our parish.
- The net result of this, is that our Parish should be able to influence where housing, and other development, should be built, as well as house sizes and types, design and materials.
- The purpose is NOT to prevent houses being built but to influence **where** and how they are built.

Why is it important now?

Parishes without an NDP have less influence on decisions over development. If Herefordshire Council fails to meet its housing requirement, then parishes without NDPs may find it harder to resist inappropriate development including housing types and sizes not suitable for the parish, with materials and designs that are out of keeping, and far greater numbers than anticipated.

Because of the current moratorium on building in the catchment areas of our rivers due to the river Phosphate levels (*Ref 3*) Herefordshire Council's 6.9 year's of housing land supply (*Ref 4*), could be used up very quickly once the moratorium ends.

Evidence provided by HC's own research, indicates that the county is short of affordable and smaller housing, which enable young families and families on lower incomes to continue to live in the county and older people opportunities for downsizing, thus freeing up larger properties for households with children (*Ref 5*).

Herefordshire currently needs about 850 homes to be built each year. Over twenty years, this is equivalent to 17,000 dwellings. This figure will be revised in March 2022 after the Government publishes its data (*Ref 6*).

Why is it important to our community?

The NDP provides that opportunity for you to influence the following (*Ref 2*):

- Identifying sites for housing, including affordable housing;
- Provision for businesses to set up or expand in the parish;
- Improving accessibility through cycle ways and footpaths;
- Protecting sites for community use such as schools, village halls, health centre, recreation facilities;
- Design guidance for your parish;
- Protection and creation of open space, green amenity areas, nature reserves, allotments and play areas;
- Protection of important local buildings and other historical assets;
- Promoting of renewable energy schemes and projects;

Who is invited and how can I contribute?

Residents of the Parish, and resident stakeholders such as Churches, Schools, businesses, local landowners are all invited.

You can contribute by bringing your ideas on the above to the meeting; you can join the Steering Group – you don't need to attend every meeting.

The Planning Consultant will explain the process of creating the NDP, including the provision of a draft vision statement for which your input is needed.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Restarting the Neighbourhood Development Plan Parish Meeting on 2nd December

Mordiford School 7-8pm

Refreshments provided

Please contact the Parish Clerk on
clerk@dormingtonmordifordgroup-pc.gov.uk or
ring 07940391150 if you would like to attend.

For those with access to Zoom (via the internet), you may also attend online.

Meeting ID: 974 7253 8303

Password: 586122

References

1. Current status of our Neighbourhood Plan (2014) including Settlement Boundary: <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/directory-record/3052/dormington-and-mordiford-group-neighbourhood-development-plan>
2. What is a neighbourhood plan? <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/3693/guidance-note-2-what-is-a-neighbourhood-development-plan-#:~:text=Developing%20a%20Neighbourhood%20Development%20Plan,done%20within%20the%20local%20community.>
3. https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/download/490/neighbourhood_planning_guidance_documents
4. Guidance for developers relating to the phosphate levels in the Wye and other rivers <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/planning-services/planning-services-1/12>
5. HC - Housing land supply briefing note to PCs: <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/22627/briefing-note-to-parish-councils-regarding-ndps-and-five-year-housing-land-supply>
6. HC - Affordable Housing report: <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/20884/affordable-housing-spd-june-2021>
7. Five Year Housing Land Supply (2021 - 2026) Annual Position Statement at 1 April 2021 <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/22647/amr-2021-appendix-b-five-year-land-supply-document>
8. Appendices to 5 year-housing land supply <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/22648/amr-2021-appendices-to-five-year-land-supply-document>
9. HC - Draft Local Housing Strategy: [https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/22216/draft-local-housing-strategy-for-herefordshire-consultation-draft-may-2021#:~:text=Housing%20Tenure%20Profile,the%20England%20average%20\(82.6%25\).](https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/22216/draft-local-housing-strategy-for-herefordshire-consultation-draft-may-2021#:~:text=Housing%20Tenure%20Profile,the%20England%20average%20(82.6%25).)
10. HC – Housing Market Area Needs assessment <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/22548/herefordshire-housing-market-area-needs-assessment-july-2021>

REPORTING PROBLEMS TO HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

We occasionally receive reports of fly tipping, potholes, fallen trees, dog poo, abandoned vehicles or other problems.

To report a problem, if you have a smart phone, open the camera app, and hold the camera in front of the square images below.

Smart Phones recognise QR Codes, so you should get a screen message with a web page on it; tap it and the relevant web page should open where you can complete the on-line reporting form.



This QR code is for reporting road-related problems - try it and see what happens!

If not, here are the web links, and phone numbers to report it directly.

ethelpline@herefordshire-gov.uk

Report an urgent Road Problem: 01432 261800 24/7

Queens Jubilee – 2-5th June 2022

What events or activities would you like to see in the parish over the Jubilee weekend? The PC has some funding to support activities and would like to coordinate with other clubs/organisations in the area.



Please get in touch to let us know how we can help your event or if you are able to work with us.

Get in touch via Facebook, email clerk@dormingtonmordiford-pc.gov.uk or phone 07940 391150.

“The moment of truth for our planet, our children and our grandchildren” Alok Sharma, President of COP26

Since the last edition of the Dragon, the historic COP26 has been held and has reached agreement of sorts. It may not go as far as people wanted, but the “Glasgow Climate Pact” contains the first explicit mentions of phasing “down” coal and fossil fuels in a UN climate agreement. But can we manage more as individuals?

In 1992 when the Rio Declaration was signed, I was involved with helping to establish a local GLoBE group (Go Local on a Better Environment), which set up the first farmers’ markets in the south-east reducing peoples’ dependence on supermarket produce, and allowing farmers to sell at a fair price for their produce.

We are lucky in the County to have a wealth of home-grown and locally-produced bread, veg, meat, cheese and beverages. These are all available in Hereford’s Butter Market or the High Street.

Supporting local farmers, producers and distributors is one of the best ways to keep supply chains short and reduce the amount of carbon produced.

What’s your preferred way to reduce carbon emissions? Here’s some ideas for starters:

- Grow own veg
- Purchase energy from a renewable energy supplier
- Install solar panels
- Insulate house
- Plan car journeys to reduce the number
- Buy second-hand clothes, CDs, DVDs, books, crockery etc
- Repair clothes and other items
- Drive electric
- Close house doors, and turn off unwanted lights and electrical equipment to reduce energy use
- Boil only the water you need for a cuppa
- Cover saucepans when bringing up to boiling

Do let us know which you are doing or plan to do – use our Facebook page or messenger to get in touch.

Julia Cotton. Chair of Parish Council

Your Parish Council

What are your priorities?



Let us know what you think:

- email the PC Clerk or contact one of your councillors
- come along to a PC meeting
- or join a PC working group

Email: clerk@dormingtonmordifordgroup-pc.gov.uk