Warndon Parish Council

News

August 2024



Chair's Message

Welcome to our Summer newsletter and a very warm welcome to all the residents who have recently moved into the Parish. This is our 1st Newsletter since the Elections in May; 8 people put themselves forward to serve on the parish council for 8 seats, 4 in Leopard Hill and 4 in St Nicholas, as a result there was no election and all 8 were nominated on the council for a 4-year term.

As you can see, we have one new Councillor, Vince Bayliss, I would like to introduce him in his own words.



"I moved to Worcester from Birmingham just over 2 years ago. One of the reasons I moved was to be closer to my son and his family and enjoy the peace and quiet. One thing I noticed is how clean the area around Warndon is. After a few months of living here I had the local Lib Dem Councillor Sarah Murray knock on my door and could see she was very engaged with the area, she mentioned about Warndon Wombles picking up the litter once a month. I thought that was a great idea and have been helping out ever since. My grandson uses the baby group on a Friday morning at the Lyppard Hub, how good that place is with all the other things they do. I do a lot of bike riding and like all the green spaces around Warndon Villages. I have been a trade union *rep for 24 years and I hope that I can learn from all the other Councillors how to keep the Warndon Villages area a great place to live".*

Councillor responsibilities

Chair	Lucy Hodgson	**Vice Chair**	Stuart Forrest
Environment & Communications	Dawn Merriman	**Planning & Rights of Way**	Stephen Hodgson
Neighbourhood Plan	Andy Taylor	**Leisure & Community**	Kate Collier
Allotments	John Rudge	**Defibrillators**	Vince Bayliss

I would like to pay tribute to Stephen Hodgson who lost his seat in St Nicholas after 20 years and welcome Councillor John Rudge who was elected in his place to the City Council. Also, congratulations to Tom Collins who was elected MP for Worcester at the recent General Election.

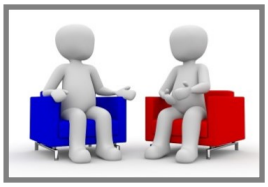
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Just after the parish council's AGM we had our Annual Public Meeting where we discussed the planning application for the MacDonalds and Starbucks 'Drive thru' at the top of Plantation Drive. We had a very productive meeting led by Councillor Andy Taylor and Councillor Stephen Hodgson. The consultation closed on the 1st July 2024 and well over 250 comments have been made on the planning portal. The planning officers now have to go through all the comments and write a report; if they are minded to grant 'approval' then it will go to a future Planning Committee of the City Council, or if the planners are mindful to 'reject' the application it will go no further. This may take quite a long time and I suspect it will be Autumn before it is decided, we will keep you informed as to when this will come to committee

The Parish Council usually meets on the 1st Monday of the month at the Lyppard Hub at 7pm. Everyone is welcome to attend. If you want to raise an issue you are invited to speak for up to 5 minutes at the start of the meeting. Please inform the Clerk at least 24 hours before the meeting to confirm your attendance.

Cllr Lucy Hodgson, Chair

Parish Council Meetings 2024			
Monday 2 September	**Monday 7 October**	**Monday 4 November**	**Monday 2 December**



The Parish Council has introduced a monthly informal surgery where residents can come and chat to councillors about any local concerns. They are held at 6pm at the Lyppard Hub, scheduled around the second Monday of each month.

No appointment necessary—just turn up!

Parish Council Surgeries 2024		
Monday 21 September	**Monday 21 October**	**Monday 18 November**



Caister Avenue Play area

For some months, a piece of play equipment has been missing from Caister Avenue play area. The Parish Council has agreed with Worcester City Council to part fund a replacement. The four-way springy 'rocker', is now on order, so hopefully it will not be long before the younger members of the community are bouncing about again.

We know that walking is a good form of exercise mentally and physically whatever age you are, but for some going for a walk on your own can be difficult, so why not try joining a Walking group, here are some options available on your doorstep.



Lyppard Hub Walking Group

Our walking group meet outside the centre every Tuesday morning at 9.45 am., ready to leave by 10 am. Please ensure you wear appropriate footwear and clothing for the weather conditions. After a local walk (between 60 - 90 mins) the group returns to the centre for a well earned cuppa. This group is **FREE** to join and open to all. No booking required, just turn up!

You will find details of the Walking programme on the **Lyppard Hub** website or drop in to the centre or call them for more details. {*Occasionally, walks will be arranged at different locations).*

Our walking group is supported by the Worcestershire Walking Network and you will be asked to complete a short form regarding your health & fitness before walking.

woodgreenchurch Health Walks

The Walking Group at Woodgreen Church has been meeting for over ten years as part of the **Walking for Health** scheme administered by the County Council. We now have more than ten fully trained Walk Leaders who can be called upon to lead our weekly walks from the church.

We meet every Friday (except Good Friday) and start our walks at 10.00 am. Initially we offered the standard brisk three mile walk around Warndon Villages which lasted about an hour but in recent years we have realised some needed walks which were a little slower and shorter. We are now able to offer those who join us a choice of three walks, including a slow walk of approximately one mile with an opportunity to have a rest on some of the seats which are now available on our walks.

All three groups return to the church to relax and enjoy chatting over drinks which are kindly provided by the church. There is no charge for joining the group but you will be asked to fill in a registration form. We currently have nearly fifty people on our register and we usually see 20-30 walkers each Friday. We are always pleased to welcome new friends to join us.

Further details **Woodgreen Church Office** T: **01905 451985** **https://www.woodgreenchurch.co.uk/**

Heard about Beryl!



Worcester has joined an increasing number of towns and cities that have introduced a bicycle rental scheme akin to the London scheme set up a decade earlier. Last October a contract was awarded to **Beryl Bikes** who operate a similar scheme in Hereford.

The bikes are dispersed across the city, in Warndon Parish the **Lyppard Hub** is one of the first locations, more will follow. Parking bays are "geofenced", locations of the bays correlated with GPS (Global Positioning Satellite) technology integrated within the bikes. The bikes are monitored by a central digital network that collects data including position, speed, acceleration and braking and orientation (if bikes have fallen over). This supports management of the fleet and safe usage. To ensure there is no inconvenience to the public and to aid distribution and management of the fleet, penalty charges for various poor behaviours will be applied.

The scheme has a fleet of **225 bikes** in total, **175 e-Bikes** and **50 pedal bikes** which can be hired by the minute. The bikes are primarily operated by an app on the user's mobile phone, which will lock and unlock bikes and manage payment. Current costs for pedal bikes are 8p per minute and for e-bikes 16p per minute with an unlock fee of £1.00 applicable to both. Non smart phone access is also available using SMS. The e-bikes have a battery range of 60-70km, and typically will be changed by the operator when they are at 15% charge. Users are advised of the range via the app when hiring the e-bike. A map of all bays and the number of available bikes can be found on the Beryl app or on the website.

More information about the scheme and how to sign up is available on the **Beryl** website **https://beryl.cc/scheme/worcester** or simply download the app from your app store and get started!

To report damaged or abandoned bikes, please contact Beryl using the chat icon on their app, email **support@beryl.cc** or call their Customer Service Team on **020 3003 5044** (7am - 9pm Monday-Sunday).

Beryl Bikes has proposed that 5% (22,500) of the forecasted rides will be provided free to targeted users to be agreed with the Council including those on benefits, job seekers or other groups. The scheme is also eligible for the "cycle to work" salary sacrifice scheme that is commonly used to purchase bikes and supported by many employers. The rental scheme is a key project within the Worcester Town Investment Plan and has been funded by the Council's Towns Fund Grant that includes spending on active travel.



Pedestrian Barriers

You may also have noticed the original pedestrian barriers installed at the Millwood Drive entrance to Tesco by the pedestrian crossing have recently been replaced. Worcestershire County Council will be reviewing all the barriers in due course. Sadly, we are still experiencing incidences where a pedestrian barrier is being removed by members of the public, they are there for safety reasons and kindly request this action ceases.

Environment



With the wet and mild conditions this spring the shrubs and hedgerows have put on a lot of growth causing them to encroach onto the many footpaths and cycleways. So, Jake and his team have been busy lightly trimming the miles of hedgerows and shrubs. It is much like 'painting the Forth bridge!

They have also been tidying up the play areas including removing the build up of moss from the play surface, again attributed to the wet mild winter and spring. The roundabouts have also received some attention. We understand following the formal planting of Marsh Avenue roundabout some residents commented that they missed the 'flower' display. So Jake has created a number of new flower beds next to the roundabouts. They have been flowering now for a few weeks and we think you will agree how bright and cheerful they look and the insects will appreciate them too!



As from the end of July, James our Parish Warden will be working full time in the Parish. He has been busy with some little projects alongside his main duties, which include maintaining the Speed Indicator signage, litter picking and the smaller hedge maintenance work. He also ensures the street signage is kept visible, this is part of his Lengthman's duties, which the parish council are able to claim for from Worcestershire County Council. The Warden has also replaced two sections of 'kick fencing', one by the pond in Bearcroft Avenue and the other, on the green space next to Chepstow Avenue, with further replacement fencing to be completed at Newark Green later on in the year. This replacement work is being funded by the Parish Council.



The Warndon Wood Noticeboard, off Woodgreen Drive has received some much needed attention, with the ivy removed and wood frame treated and the lone goal post at Bodiam Close greenspace has also been painted. Refurbishment work has also taken place on the bench at Aconbury play area which now looks so much better having now been sanded and treated.

Worcester City Council have recently replaced the wooden bridge which connects the Lyppard ponds with the footpath to the rear of the nature reserve. Here is James finishing it off with a layer of wire to provide grip during wet conditions.





If you see anything which you think needs attention, then please do report it to **Worcester City Council** either online

https://www.worcester.gov.uk/report-it or by using their **Contact Form** or calling

01905 722233 Mon – Fri 9am -5pm.

Warndon Villages Summer Fete



The sun shone and as 12 noon struck everyone was ready for the annual summer fete to commence! There were lots of activities for the younger members of the community, a range of stalls selling food and drinks, some were raising valuable funds for their chosen charities and others offering safety advice such as Hereford and Worcester Fire & Rescue Service, West Mercia Police and for the first time, Midlands Air Ambulance charity brought along their Helipod!

The ever popular 'Punch & Judy' performed throughout the afternoon, entertaining both young and old and 20th Worcester Scouts joined in the fun, raising funds for their group. The City Council were on hand to advise about the imminent changes to bin collections and Emma Stuart of Worcestershire County Council was promoting the need to recycle more! The **Lyppard Hub** held their Bottle Tombola and Raffle which provides funds for their charitable projects.

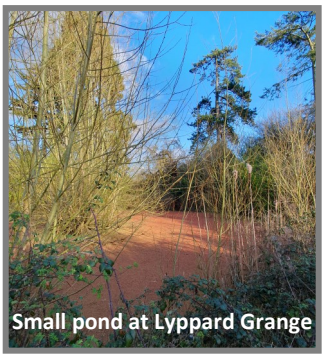
Sparky the Robot, thoroughly enjoyed his first visit to the fete, interacting with the visitors and occasionally squirting any unsuspecting bystanders with water. He was also seen dancing to music performed by one of Worcester's most loved covers band 'Come Together'.

A BIG Thank you from the Parish Council …… firstly to Lauren and her team for organising this event, to the volunteers who helped out on the day and to the many businesses who supported the event and those businesses who donated some amazing raffle prizes.

Finally a big thank you to the Community we hope you enjoyed it and we hope to see you again next year!



Lyppard Grange Nature Reserve


Small pond at Lyppard Grange

If you have walked around the Lyppard Nature Reserve you may have noticed the unusual growth which has appeared this year on the surface of the smaller of the two ponds.

It is a non-native floating water fern, known as *Azolla filiculoides*, which was introduced into the UK in the late 1800s as an ornamental garden aquatic and now causes considerable problems and is one of the most invasive plants in the UK today.

It has a remarkable ability to multiply, forming mats up to 30cm (12 in) thick and cover 100% of the water surface, blocking out light and preventing local insects and amphibians from reaching the surface. The plant can be green, pink an even red in colour as can be seen on this picture. **Dog walkers and parents beware as your dog /child may not realise it is not a solid surface!**


Close up of Azolla on the surface of the water

There are no organisms native to the UK that can control Azolla and as this is a SSSI site it is not possible to use any chemical treatments, so the City Council will be managing it with a bio control, a tiny North American weevil called *Stenopelmus rufinasus* which has shown to be one of the main natural enemies. The weevil is present in the UK (first recorded in 1921) and is now considered by DEFRA to be a resident, with no licensing restrictions. They are known to feed exclusively on species of Azolla, so will not harm other plants.

Ash Dieback



Worcester City Council Tree officer, Warren Davies confirmed there will be no wholesale clearance of Ash trees in the parish, as indicated previously. There are trees of concern , but they are being monitored regularly and removed if they are considered a danger to the public/road users. There is strong evidence of a number of resistant Ash trees, which will be used to regenerate a new generation of ash trees.

We are fortunate to have some very old trees in the parish as well as those which were planted when Warndon Villages was built. Many of these trees are subject to a Tree Preservation Order (TPO). It is against the law to wilfully cut down, lop, top, destroy or damage a tree with a TPO and can carry a fine for up to £20,000 by a magistrates court if convicted. This does not mean that you cannot carry out work to a tree with a TPO but you must obtain consent from Worcester City Council first.

If you have any concerns about a tree, please report to Worcester City Council through there online 'Report it' system, you will need to indicate the location of the tree and if you can upload a photograph that would be very helpful, but not necessary. Alternatively, you can call their Customer Service team on 01905 722233.

For more information on Tree Management please go to **https://www.worcester.gov.uk/**

Recycling in Worcester

Emma Stuart (Worcestershire County Council Waste Prevention Project Manager) gave a lively talk to the Parish Council in July - some of you may have spoken to her at the **Lyppard Fete** on 16 July - outlining that over 50% of our black bin contents can actually be recycled. **So lets see if we can improve our recycling!**



"Avoidable" food waste is food that could have been eaten in some form or another i.e. bread, pasta, rice, vegetables. The food that is still in its packaging includes bread, potatoes, salad or meat.

Items are still being put into the black bins that could be recycled. This may be due to lack of knowledge or laziness. The impact is the loss of valuable materials that could be recycled many times over.

Again, items are being put into the black bin that could be recycled at a Household Recycling Centre through lack of knowledge of the facilities available or through laziness. Examples include textiles, electrical items, wood, metal and batteries

Garden waste should be disposed of via a brown bin, at an Household Recycling Centre or home compost bin

This leaves items which can't be recycled such as nappies, other incontinence products, cat litter, dog poo bags and packaging that can't be recycled either in the green bin or at the supermarkets (film/plastic bags etc)

A few things to remember…..Please

- **MAKE SURE YOUR RECYCLING IS CLEAN –** a rinse under the tap to remove any residue will do!
- **DON'T PUT PLASTIC BAGS FULL OF RECYCLABLES INTO YOUR GREEN BIN -** Make sure your recycling is loose!
- **DON'T DISPOSE OF ANY TYPE OF BATTERY IN YOUR RECYCLING BIN -** Take to the Household Recycling Centre or many shops have their own recycling collection bins in store.
- **YOU CANNOT RECYCLE TEXTILES IN YOUR RECYCLING COLLECTION -** but there are re-use organisations, charity shops and recycling sites where you can donate textiles for re-use/ recycling.