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# VILLAGE VOICE

Serving Isombridge, Longdon upon Tern, Marsh Green  
Rodington Heath, Rodington, Sugden and Somerwood

## Community fights local plan

**Thank you to everyone in the community who responded to the Local Plan Review.**

There was a positive attendance at the LPR drop-in session that the Parish Council hosted in December so that residents who did not have access to the internet could respond to these site proposals for up to 338 homes in Rodington.

The initial consultation ended on 31st January and Telford & Wrekin Council will now review the responses and prepare a "Publication Version" of their review, at this stage we will see if they have listened to our community and we will respond accordingly, ensuring we keep residents updated.

To view the Parish Council's response, please look at the home page of; [www.rodingtonpc.org.uk](http://www.rodingtonpc.org.uk)

Or for updates on the Local Plan Review visit;  
[www.telfordandwrekinlocalplan.co.uk](http://www.telfordandwrekinlocalplan.co.uk)

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# Contact your Councillors



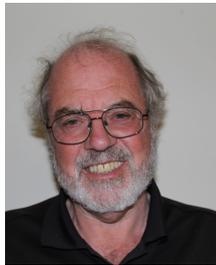
Could this be you?

Enquire with the Clerk, details below.



**Cllr Tom Currie**  
**Vice Chair**

cllr.currie.rpc@gmail.com  
01952 770258



**Cllr Brian Gaskin**

cllr.gaskin.rpc@gmail.com  
01952 770861



**Cllr Richard Lent**

cllr.lent.rpc@gmail.com



**Cllr Sue McGavin**

cllr.mcgavin.rpc@gmail.com



**Cllr Martin Holyoake**  
**Chairman**

cllr.holyoake.rpc@gmail.com  
01952 770449



**Cllr Tereza Hayek**

cllr.hayek.rpc@gmail.com



**Cllr Gareth Thomas**  
**Ward Member**

gareth.thomas@telford.gov.uk

**Rodington Parish Council**  
Clerk/RFO: Sarah Windridge  
07948 324 085  
rodingtonpc@gmail.com  
www.rodingtonpc.org.uk

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# Farewell to our Clerk



We wish to congratulate Connor Furnival, our Parish Council clerk, on being appointed to a larger council, but also express our regret that he is leaving us after more than 5 years of outstanding service.

With his growing commitments, including the birth of his 3rd child in August 2023, his commitments have meant that he feels it is time to leave this Council.

During his tenure, he has been an essential part of the award-winning team that is Rodington Parish Council, winning the Jan Snell Award in 2019 for the re-vamp project of Rodington Cemetery which Connor managed and this award was won again in 2024 for the project which has overseen the community orchard and in 2023 we were recognised by a national body as one of only two Local Councils in Telford & Wrekin to hold an accreditation as part of the Local Council Awards Scheme for good governance, service improvement and community engagement. We are also a Bronze Award recognised organisation as part of the Armed Forces Covenant due to our commitment to supporting those who serve and have served in the forces and Connor led the project to achieve this recognition.

With his energy and commitment, he has been a guiding light on the various initiatives we have undertaken which include improvements to the cemetery, the road safety program and installation of Speed Indicator Devices, the installation of defibrillators and new gateway signs into the Parish. He has been a font of knowledge when Councillors have needed advice and a thoroughly efficient manager of council business. Furthermore, you may well have seen him as a volunteer with Councillors planting daffodils, picking litter or delivering The Village Voice. He has made frequent trips to sort out issues arising and has put in many unpaid hours in his commitment to our community. I hope he will not object to my revealing that ours was his favourite Parish and it is only through increased demands from family and work that he has now decided to leave. He remains locum to Rodington Parish Council until we have appointed his replacement. We all wish him and his family every success and happiness for the future.

Cllr Brian Gaskin and the team at Rodington Parish Council

*Thank  
You*

# Introducing our new Clerk



Hello! I am thrilled to be able to introduce myself in the March edition of Village Voice. My name is Sarah, and I am lucky enough to have been appointed as the new Clerk for Rodington Parish Council. I know I have some big shoes to fill, and I hope to continue the high standard of professional and legal support already provided to the Parish Council by Mr Furnival.

Even though I am originally from Essex, Shropshire is my forever home and I live in Newport with my two teenage boys. I love exploring this beautiful county, and spend a lot of my time walking in the Shropshire Hills, climbing the Wrekin and visiting local towns. I love running and wild swimming and also enjoy baking cakes!

I have previously worked as a primary school teacher, but my background is mainly in administration. I have worked as a Parish Clerk before, and I am very much looking forward to getting to know the residents and the local area. I would like to support the Council in the new year with enthusiasm and determination, and I feel excited about how we will tackle the challenges ahead, including pushing forward with priorities suggested by local residents as part of the Parish Plan.

## Citizens Advice are moving

From Monday 19th February 2024, we will be located at the following venues:

**Monday,  
Tuesday & Thursday:**  
Wellington Library  
Larkin Way  
TF1 1LX  
10am - 4pm

Scan below for directions:



**Wednesday  
& Friday:**  
Syer House (Suite 4)  
Stafford Park 1  
TF3 3BD  
10am - 4pm

Scan below for directions:



Our website also has information & self-help guides  
[www.citizensadviceTelfordandtheWrekin.co.uk](http://www.citizensadviceTelfordandtheWrekin.co.uk)



Need to report an issue in your local area, access council services or log a missed bin collection – 'My Telford' can do all this and more!

For more information, and to find out how to sign up visit;

[www.telford.gov.uk/my\\_telford](http://www.telford.gov.uk/my_telford)

# You said, we did!



The Rodington Parish Plan was produced in 2020 and adopted as a 10 year plan, setting out the Parish Councils ambitions to support our community.

The plan was formalised using responses received through a whole-parish survey conducted in 2019/20. Every household received a survey form and we received a 28% return, this is higher than the Borough average of survey responses which is around 21%.

Following the responses received from the community, we set about setting a list of actions around a variety of issues where we feel we can help our community with the resources we have.

**Nearly 4 years on from the adoption of this plan we have reviewed where we are and this report is to provide you with some updates of what we found;**

<b>What you asked for;</b> 	<b>What we did;</b> 
Improved noticeboards	New and improved noticeboards have been installed in Longdon on Tern and Rodington and some existing boards will be identified for replacement.
Improve gateway signage for whole of Parish	Brand new gateways were installed in 2021/22
Improve fencing, cremated remains area and water tank area within Rodington Cemetery	All improvement targets have been achieved. The focus is on maintenance; this is done firstly via a contractor working on behalf of RPC, and a dedicated Cemetery Warden (volunteer) who oversees, and raises issues before they become problems.
Introduce a speed indication device scheme around the Parish, to include temporary SID's in hotspots	Adopted road safety as a top priority for the parish; this includes measures to reduce the speed of traffic, especially as it approaches speed regulated areas. In Longdon on Tern SIDs were installed and evidence suggests that most drivers observe the speed limits, where a minority haven't. SIDs are planned for Rodington, and a comprehensive traffic management plan is to be established within the Parish.
Actively promote rights of ways in the Parish and promote ways of getting involved with the work of the Pathways Group	Rodington Parish Pathways Partnership is a partnership supported by the Parish Council and Telford & Wrekin Council. All rights of way have been mapped and recorded on the 'Definitive Map' held by Telford & Wrekin Council. Improvements to access have been made, including kissing gates, stiles and footbridges installed and signposts. Some diversion and modification orders have been made amending rights of way.

**To read the full Parish Plan and its full review, please visit;**

**[www.rodingtonpc.org.uk/community/rodington-parish-council-15363/parish-plan](http://www.rodingtonpc.org.uk/community/rodington-parish-council-15363/parish-plan)**

# Rodington Parish Climate & Nature Group review of the year...



Having spent some time working with Rodington Parish Council to decide on next steps after their 2021 declaration of a climate and nature emergency, it has now been just over a year since the Climate & Nature Group has been working more formally to put the parish council's ambitions into practice. With such a busy first year, we thought we would let the community know some of what we have been up to.

A large part of our work has been taken up with planning and delivering improvements to the Rodington Community Orchard. Located in the north-west corner of Rodington playing field, this small area was planted with a variety of fruit trees in the early 2000s. Thanks to a generous grant obtained through the previous ward Councillor Jacqui Seymour, we have been able to deliver a variety of work to benefit wildlife including planting a wildflower meadow, installing a bog garden for wetland plants and building a bug hotel. We have also installed a new bench to allow our community to have somewhere to enjoy a moment's peace looking over to the magnificent Wrekin. We try to post onto the various Facebook groups in the parish when we are doing work in the orchard as everyone is welcome. **Why not come and join us next time (and make sure you come and sample the fruit next summer and autumn)?**

Everything the group is delivering was generated by ideas from our community, and one of the things people wanted to see more of was help to reduce the amount of 'stuff' we buy through support to reuse and recycle where possible. We therefore set up the **Rodington & Longdon Upon Tern: Borrow, Swap and Give** Facebook group. Everyone in Rodington parish is free to join this group, and once on there can ask to borrow things they need as one-offs (such as tools), can swap items (such as excess vegetable plants) or can give things away that they no longer need. There is even a list on there of items that members have made available to be borrowed by others in the group. The group currently has 65 members and is doing some great work to reduce all our environmental footprints – **why not come and join?!**

With the terrible state of Britain's rivers constantly in the headlines, it's not a surprise that one of the ideas that came forward in the 2022 community survey was to see what we could do to help the condition of the 2 rivers that flow through the parish; the Roden and the Tern. The group therefore contacted the rivers team at Shropshire Wildlife Trust to ask what support might be available and, following a few conversations with their wonderful Head of Land & Water, Pete Lambert, the **Rodington Parish River Monitoring Project** was born. A small group of local residents have now been kitted out and trained to undertake monthly monitoring of the 2 rivers, and we hope that we will therefore be able to track whether things are improving or deteriorating. We will also be able to quickly flag any issues to the Environment Agency. **Keep an eye out in future Village Voice editions for an update on what the monitoring group has found.**

We are already looking forward to the next year of working to lower the parish's environmental and ecological footprint. By the time you are reading this article, **a new hedge will have been planted** along the southern boundary of Rodington playing field and we hope to have started **a new series of environmental talks** at the two village halls.

We will also be celebrating the last year with **our first annual event, taking place on 11th March at Rodington Village Hall**. There will be an opportunity to add your own ideas to what we do next, and we are really delighted to have well-known local gardening and wildlife expert John Hughes coming to talk to us. **Please see below for more details.**

Tom Hayek  
Chair, Rodington Parish Climate & Nature Group



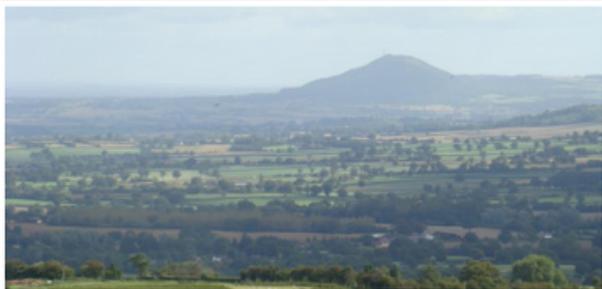
## Wildlife Gardening talk at Rodington Village Hall



The Rodington Parish Climate & Nature Group will be holding their annual meeting on Monday 11th March at Rodington Village Hall and are excited to be joined by former Shropshire Wildlife Trust Development Manager John Hughes. As well as many years working in the county's conservation sector, John is a familiar voice on Radio Shropshire's gardening programme and will talk about what you can do to make your garden more attractive to wildlife whilst still being a place for you to enjoy spending time in.

We will also hear what the Climate & Nature Group has been up to since it formed just over a year ago and how you can help the work they are doing to make the parish a more environmentally sensitive place to live.

The meeting will start at 7.00pm and everyone is welcome.



# Long Mynd Tai Chi

## Longdon-Upon-Tern Village Hall

Thursday mornings 10.00am-12.00pm

Tai Chi is a set of movements designed to enhance and maintain the overall health of anyone, of any age and level of fitness.



Phone Jo on 01743 369787 or 07741 417792

Email [jolendon@gmail.com](mailto:jolendon@gmail.com)

For further details

Affiliated to Shropshire Tai Chi Academy

# Armed Forces Covenant, a reminder of our commitment

In 2021, Rodington Parish Council signed the Armed Forces Covenant.

The covenant is a promise by the nation ensuring that those who serve or who have served in the armed forces, and their families, are treated fairly.

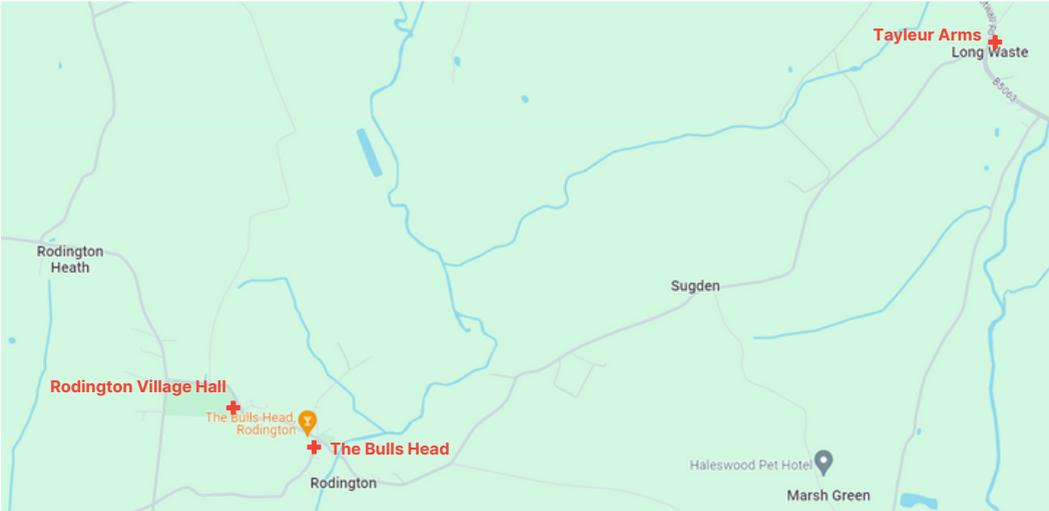
To those who proudly protect our nation, who do so with honour, courage, and commitment, the Armed Forces Covenant is the nation's commitment to you.

It is a pledge that together we acknowledge and understand that those who serve or who have served in the armed forces, and their families, should be treated with fairness and respect in the communities, economy and society they serve with their lives.

In the coming months Rodington Parish Council will apply for silver status recognition as part of our ongoing commitment to the AFC – **watch this space**



## Locations of local defibrillators



# Local contacts and service information

## Rubbish and recycling team - bins

Email: [waste@telford.gov.uk](mailto:waste@telford.gov.uk)

Telephone: 01952 384384

## Planning and Development

Email: [planning.control@telford.gov.uk](mailto:planning.control@telford.gov.uk)

Telephone: 01952 380380

## Housing Solutions team

Telephone: 01952 381925

## Births, deaths and marriages

Email: [register@telford.gov.uk](mailto:register@telford.gov.uk)

Telephone: 01952 382444

## Abandoned rubbish, Neighbourhood services

Email: [waste@telford.gov.uk](mailto:waste@telford.gov.uk)

Telephone: 01952 383384 (office hrs)

or 03451 559995 (out of hours)

## Child sexual exploitation

Telephone: 01952 385385

## Village Halls Bookings

Longdon upon Tern Village Hall

Telephone: 01952 770677

Rodington Village Hall

Telephone: 01952 771147

## Neighbourhood Enforcement

Email: [envmaintcs@telford.gov.uk](mailto:envmaintcs@telford.gov.uk)

Telephone: 01952 383384 (office hrs)

or 03451 559995 (out of hours)

## Roads and Highways

Email: [highways@telford.gov.uk](mailto:highways@telford.gov.uk)

Telephone: 01952 384000

## Noise - Public Protection team

Email: [environmental.health@telford.gov.uk](mailto:environmental.health@telford.gov.uk)

Telephone: 01952 381818

## Pest Control

Email: [envmaintcs@telford.gov.uk](mailto:envmaintcs@telford.gov.uk)

Telephone: 01952 383384

## Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline

Telephone: 0808 2231133

## Wellington Library

Email: [wellingtonleisure@telford.gov.uk](mailto:wellingtonleisure@telford.gov.uk)

Telephone: 01952 382720

## Safer Neighbourhood Team - Police

Email:

[wellingtonwest.snt@westmercia.police.uk](mailto:wellingtonwest.snt@westmercia.police.uk)

Telephone: 01952 214869 (non-emergency)



We are continuing to remind residents to sign up to Neighbourhood Matters. This is your way of receiving direct updates on police matters in your area.

Please visit [www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk](http://www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk) to sign up today or speak to one of your parish Councillors for a sign up slip.

# Parish Council Budget 24/25

Under the Local Government Act 2000, every year Parish Councils have to set its budget and precept.

During November/December 2023, Rodington Parish Council published an article in the previous edition of village voice to ask for residents views on the budget setting process. Many thanks to everyone who spoke to their local Councillors and the Clerk with their thoughts. Lots of importance was placed on the environment and activities which help bring people together.

For the 2024/25 financial year the Parish Council set a **precept of £24,609.50**. Together with grants, VAT relief and reserves funding the Parish Councils budget is broken down as follows;



**£13,265** for administrative, legal, service management support, including staffing and the Parish magazine costs.

**£300** for staff and Councillor training, keeping us all up to date with the latest laws, practices and finding new skills to support out communities.



**£4,350** for maintenance of Rodington cemetery, community defibrillators and the Ball Court.

**£5,500** for community events, including the annual Christmas Event and funding for grants to community groups including village halls.



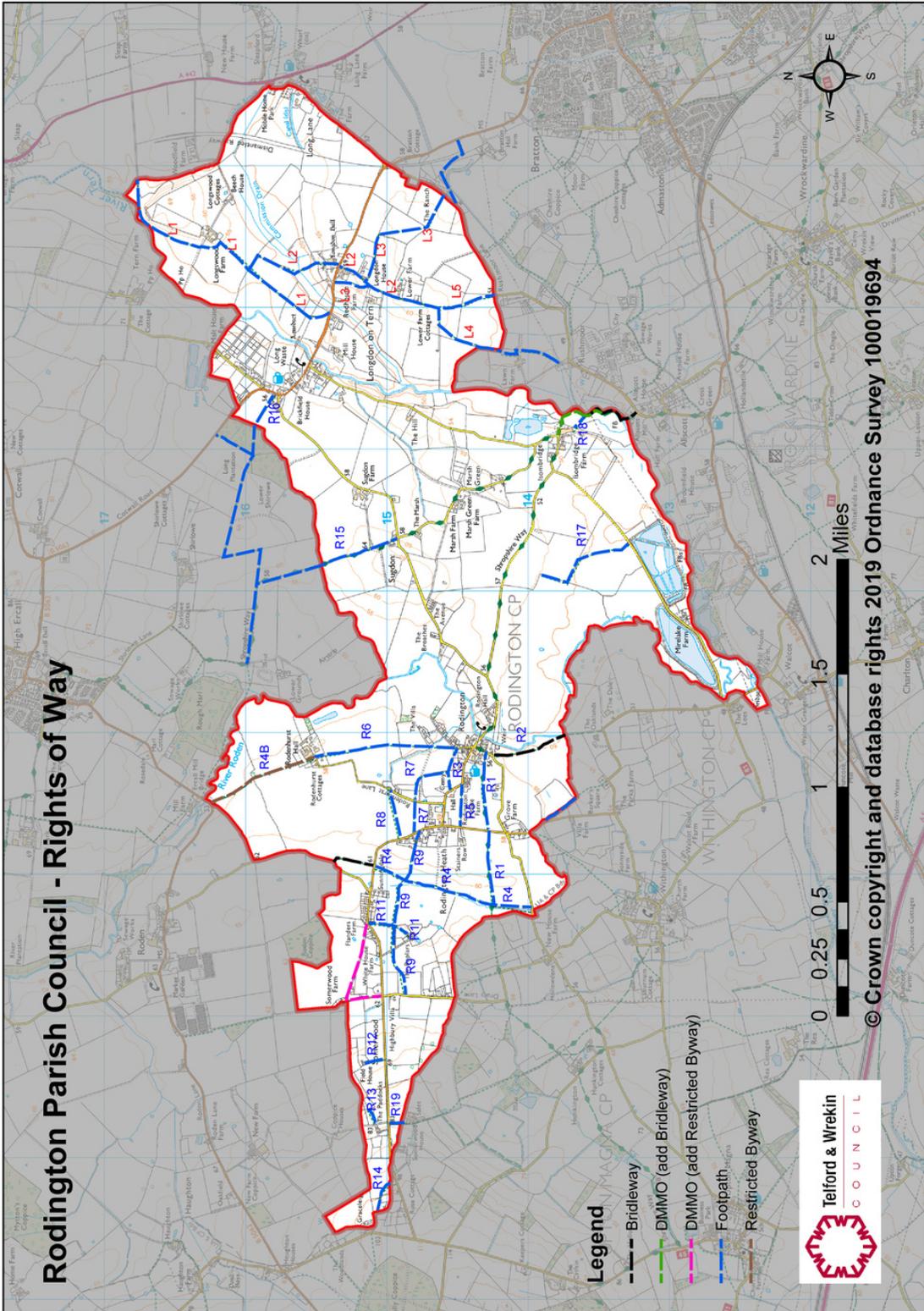
**£5,000** to support the funding already secured for a Parish wide Road Safety Scheme

**£3,000** for environmental projects, the climate and nature working group and supporting the improvements to rights of ways.



To view the full budget please visit: [www.rodingtonpc.org.uk](http://www.rodingtonpc.org.uk)

# Rodington Parish Council - Rights of Way



## Legend

- - - Bridleway
- - - DMMO (add Bridleway)
- - - DMMO (add Restricted Byway)
- - - Footpath
- - - Restricted Byway



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