

Village Voice



Your local magazine designed and delivered to you by your local Council

Looking forward.....

The last 18 months have been difficult for everyone and we've all done so much to adapt to the new "normal".

Although the pandemic forced your local Parish Council to move meetings online, we've kept busy and we're relishing the next year and wanted to update you on some things.

Over the last year we have upgraded gateway signage in the Parish, introduced a new noticeboard for Longdon up Tern, planted 300 daffodil bulbs around the parish, planted new trees, rolled out Smartwater, passed a successful audit by internal and government appointed auditors which has evidenced that the Parish Council now qualifies to apply to become one of the few Parish Councils in the country to be accredited by the Quality Council Awards Scheme. Our website has gone through a great deal of updates which complies with the Transparency Code and evidences that we publish above and beyond what is required to be considered a "transparent council" as part of the Transparency Code.

We are looking forward to forming new groups to focus on community safety and community cohesion. We are also looking at more tree planting, increasing Christmas festivities in the parish, creating a dedication to our Armed Forces and so much more. Please contact your local Councillors for more details.

Help us reduce the need for printing so many Parish magazines by signing up to receive yours by email. **Sign up here; <http://www.rodingtonpc.org.uk/community/rodington-parish-council-15363/newsletter/>**

In this issue

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- Join our newly formed groups
- Get your FREE SmartWater kit
- CPRE's Green Clean
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Updates on local matters we're working on

Here is a short update on some of the local issues that the Parish Council has been working on, either raised by residents or Councillors.

Longdon upon Tern bridge

We have held meetings with Telford & Wrekin Council to challenge the safety of the bridges structure and the safety of both vehicle and pedestrian users of the bridge. We feel that the bridge needs significant investment to bring it to a much safer solution for both vehicle and pedestrian users. For more details of our discussions with Telford & Wrekin Council please visit our website and refer to the May 2021 Full Council minutes.

Speed limits

We have been working with Telford & Wrekin Council to identify routes in the Parish where speed limitations should be reduced for the safety of vehicle and pedestrian road users. You may have seen monitoring strips along roads such as Sudgen Lane and Somerwood in May this year. More data collection is required before Telford & Wrekin Council will consider a proposal, we will keep residents updated.

Surveillance

In early 2021, Councillors met with Telford & Wrekin Council's Public Protection Team and representatives of an approved surveillance company to look at CCTV in the Parish, this however concluded that due to the lack of IT infrastructure in the Parish (mostly as we do not have street lights) we could not simply erect CCTV. We would need equipment known as "falcon's" which are camera's that can operate essentially by wifi but require a great deal of additional remote infrastructure and potentially permissions from local landowners to use their land, this operation is estimated at £6,000.00 per camera so further funding sources would be required.

Defibrillators

The Police have confirmed that Rodington shall have its AED installed once the Police & Crime Commissioner's Office releases the funds to purchase the equipment and the Parish Council is in the process of installing an AED to the Tayleur Arms after obtaining their kind support.

Community speed watch group

We are looking to set up a Community Speed Watch Group in partnership with West Mercia Police and to do this **we need volunteers** from the area to help.

If you are interested please contact the Parish Clerk, details on the back page.

Rodington Parish gets a Great British Spring Clean!

As part of the "Keep Britain Tidy" events throughout May and June, Rodington Parish Council held two litter picks on the 29th and 30th of May 2021 to play our part in a nationwide Spring clean.

Over the course of two days, we had a total of 15 volunteers clear up around 8/9 bags of general waste and recyclable material, which was all kept separate. Most of which was found in the verges along the B5063 and Sugden Lane.

Vice Chair of the Parish Council, Cllr Anne Fletcher said, "While we were out picking, we crossed many residents who say that they litter pick their respective streets, and its fantastic to see that not only does our community already do this on a regular basis, but we were all able to come together for these two days of litter picking after the long year we have all had".

If you want to help pick up litter in your street you can sign up to become a Street Champion by visiting: https://www.telford.gov.uk/info/20474/streets_and_roads/383/street_champions



Parish Plan Working Group

As part of adopting our new Parish Plan in 2020, the Parish Council committed to ensuring that plan is delivered on in partnership with residents and is given fair opportunity to be reviewed and changed where necessary.

This plan is not a policy or governing document but it is a guide for the Parish Council to keep doing whatever we can without our means to do more for our community. And an important part of doing that is by delivering on the agreed actions in the plan in partnership with residents.

To do this we are forming a Parish Plan Working Group, to meet informally and discuss actions within this plan and how we can work together to achieving them.

The Working Group will be chaired by a local resident and not a Councillor, the Parish Clerk will facilitate meetings on behalf of the Parish Council and two Councillors will be part of the group to feed ideas through both the group and the Parish Council.

If you would like to know more about what the purpose of the group is or wish to be involved then please contact the Parish Clerk using the details on the back page of this magazine.

Village Hall volunteering

Our Parish is blessed to have two village halls that are run by two fantastic, community led charities. These charities rely on volunteers and donations to keep the buildings maintained to a high standard and they are always on the lookout for new volunteers to help in so many different ways!

If you think you can offer some time to support these community buildings then please get in touch with them today.

Longdon Upon Tern Village Hall - 01952 770677

Rodington Village Hall - 01952 770308

Update on local rights of way in Rodington and Longdon on Tern

During the period of Covid lockdown and restrictions, the group has continued to meet to discuss improvements to access all existing rights of way and to consider what, if any modifications need to be made. Both Rodington and Longdon on Tern have right of way networks that provide access to the countryside which must be maintained if this, and future generations are to benefit. We can only do this in partnership with the whole community. That is why we are currently formalising a partnership agreement between this group, and both Rodington Parish Council and Telford and Wrekin Council. That will set out the expectations of each partner and will be a publicly accessible document.

So what difference will this make? We hope that by stating clearly what each partner can do to improve and maintain the footpath network, this will provide rights of way which are accessible, signposted and used by all. These will be incorporated into the 'Definitive Map'. This is a digital map, currently under review by Telford and Wrekin (<https://telford-gis.mapsarcgis.com>) to ensure that all rights of way are clearly identified. This process is underway across the whole country and must be completed by 1st January 2026.

Some practical measures have already been installed such as signposts and galvanised gates to improve existing routes but there is still much more to do. Access through the Rodenhurst Business Park is currently under review, given the increased volume of industry and health and safety considerations. Other routes where there are reported access issues are also under review. If you would like to volunteer to help with practical clearance work, and/or contribute to Rodington Parish Pathways group, please contact Tom Currie on 01952 770258, or email access1c@btinternet.com



Want to be kept in the loop?

Keep up to date with the latest and most local information on planning issues, road safety concerns, projects being led by the Parish Council and so much more, by simply visiting our website!

The Parish Council keeps its website up to date and easy to access so that all residents and interested parties can find what they're looking for when they need it.

If you take a look around other Parish Councils websites in the UK you'll quickly find that this Parish Council publishes more than the average, and we do this because we believe in absolute transparency and want you to find what you're looking for without the need to ask. Although we cannot publish everything and anything we always strive to do as much as possible.

So, if you're looking for information on **planning issues**, you can go to the "Planning Tracker" page of our site where you can filter what applications to look at and find out details of their status. (*This is however the only page on the website that we do not have full control over as the data is linked directly from the Local Planning Authorities website and automatically populates our Planning Tracker*)

If you're looking for details of the latest **road closures** or local **policing team updates** just go straight to our "News" page.

For details of **Council decisions** you can go to our "Meetings" page, **financial** documents, including **grant applications** can be found on our "Finance & Grants" page and details and forms for the **cemetery** in Rodington can be found on our "Cemetery" page.

There is also plenty of information about your local Councillors and how the Council is governed, information on local history and amenities, copies of all of our policy documents and our Parish Plan.

So, for your local Parish related information please visit;
www.rodingtonpc.org.uk

You can also find us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) or have a look at one of our four [noticeboards](#) around the Parish.

Meet the Councillor

Cllr Martin Holyoake, Chairman of RPC



It is a real honour and privilege to have been asked to take on the role of Chairman of the Parish Council, and I'm keen to make sure my time in the role helps us deliver real benefits to the whole Parish.

It's been 21 years in October since we moved into Rodington, and we love it here. I've been married to my wonderful wife Ann for nearly thirty years and have an amazing son James, who is at University.

I was asked to write a bit about myself, so here goes! I was born in Shrewsbury and went to University in London where I graduated in Geology and was made a Fellow of the Geological Society of London. I enjoyed my University years and lived in a tough area of the East End, which was a real eye-opener for a Shrewsbury boy like me, I learnt a lot and built lasting friendships.

I had always had an interest in business and switched to accounting and finance, qualifying as an accountant. I had a number of roles in industry before moving to join PriceWaterhouseCoopers as a management consultant, then on to be a Director in IBM's Consulting business, before moving to Ernst & Young where I was a Partner growing and developing that consulting practice. I've had a great career which has enabled me to work across the USA, Switzerland and Europe helping develop and grow some of the world's leading organisations, as well as being sent to Harvard to learn business strategy. Today I'm part of the Partner team in Deloitte and continue to help businesses navigate their issues and grow.

Other things about me include, being a governor of Prestfeld School in Shrewsbury, I'm part way through my training for my pilots' licence, though covid restrictions have slowed things down, and I enjoy gardening though I'm never as good at it as I'd like to be!

It has been great to see the results of the bulb planting earlier in the year, which gave us all a lift in these difficult Covid times. We continue to be noisy with Telford & Wrekin on the state of the bridge in Longdon and the heavy traffic, and we actively seek out improvements across the Parish from better village signs, supporting the pathways group, improving the cemetery through to other tangible improvements.

The Parish councillors, together with the Connor the Parish Clerk, are an amazing group of individuals who bring real energy and commitment to the parish – it's a privilege to work with them (and I know I've used privilege twice... but it's the best word to describe it).

I wish everyone a great rest of the summer and we have some exciting things planned for the Parish in the coming months. I will continue to do my best to bring the best to the Parish.

Contact your Council

Your Parish Councillors

Cllr Crump	01952 770757
Cllr Currie	01952 770258
Cllr Fletcher (Vice Chair)	01952 771365
Cllr Gaskin	01952 770861
Cllr Holyoake (Chair)	01952 770449
Cllr Johnson	01952 770577
Cllr Smith	01952 770629

Your Telford & Wrekin Councillor

Cllr Seymour	01952 505938
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Parish Clerk

Mr C Furnival	07948 324085
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(Mon, Wed, Fri 09:30-14:30)

Write to the Clerk;

rodingtonpc@gmail.com
c/o Rodington Parish Council, 73
Coronation Crescent, Madeley, Telford,
TF7 5EN

Volunteers wanted

The Parish Council is supporting a project with the Shrewsbury & Newport Canal Trust to reopen the old Rodington section of canal. The project is led by the S&NCT and the aim is to have the old section of canal viable and, together with the local Footpath Group have access for walkers. If you'd like to be involved please contact the Parish Clerk or Cllr Keith Smith.

Get your nominations in for People's Parish Awards

If you'd like to nominate someone to receive an award in recognition of their efforts in the Parish of Rodington over the years, please contact the Parish Council.

Every year, we consider one individual and one organisation (can be a charity, group or business) which has done good things for the community over the years.

Nominations will close on the **30th September** and must be sent into the Parish Clerk before this date to be considered for the award, further details about the awards scheme can be found on our website;

www.rodingtonpc.org.uk



Council meetings

Council meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month (except August) at alternative village halls in Rodington and Longdon upon Tern, starting at 7:30pm. If you wish to take part in the next Council meeting then please contact the Clerk via email at:

rodingtonpc@gmail.com or call/text 07948 324 085 or visit our website for an agenda, minutes and the venue of our next meeting.