



# VILLAGE VOICE

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

## CAN YOU HELP US PLANT A HEDGE NEAR RODINGTON?

Over 15 volunteers, many of them locals, turned up to help get 400 metres of new species-rich hedgerow into the ground in Drury Lane, Rodington on Sunday 12th February, as part of the CPRE Shropshire Hedgerow Heroes project. There were several members of staff from local eco tree guard manufacturer, Sirane, too who generously donated 250 of their biodegradable guards!

However we were a little ambitious about getting the whole site planted in one morning, so we are organising a return to site to plant up the rest of the hedge on Saturday 4th March from 10am.

If you would like to come and help, let Sarah Jameson (CPRE Shropshire) know on 01547 528546 / [admin@cpreshropshire.org.uk](mailto:admin@cpreshropshire.org.uk) or book your place on the CPRE website here: [www.cpre.org.uk/hedge-planting-dates](http://www.cpre.org.uk/hedge-planting-dates)

Anyone can come and don't worry if you have not planted a tree or a hedge before, since George will be on hand to help and guide you on the day. Spades are provided but feel free to bring your own. There will also be some fantastic home-made cake on offer for hungry planters.

This will be the last site we will plant this season and will reach the 5.5km mark of new hedgerow planted in Shropshire by CPRE and its wonderful volunteers in 2022/23.

## IN THIS ISSUE

- Updates from the local policing team.
- Have your say on the future of our roads.
- What events are coming up.
- Join our Eco group and help protect nature.
- Information on local elections and new voting rules.
- Rodington canal project updates.
- Results of the 23-24 budget.

Get future  
mags via  
email



# CONTACT YOUR COUNCIL



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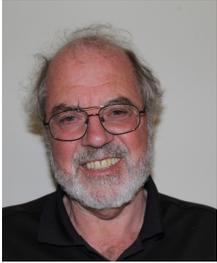
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## Rodington Parish Council

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www.rodingtonpc.org.uk

Find us on

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**Our budget for the 2023-24 financial year was adopted on the 4th January 2023. Here is a brief overview of how the budget is made up...**

# PARISH BUDGET 2023-24



As one of the smallest parish councils in Telford & Wrekin we have to work smart with our funds and rely on grants. Although this is a barrier we've never let it stop us from trying to support the community. Our budget represents an average of £54.30 per household per year, the borough average is £67.80

To find the full details of our budget head over to our website.

## AT A GLANCE

**£14,000.00**

Supporting grounds maintenance, rights of way and initiatives to improve our ecological blueprint locally

### ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS



### ADMINISTRATION AND COMMUNICATIONS



**£12,685.00**

Ensuring that we are efficient, transparent, well trained and that we communicate this for residents proactively

**£5,035.00**

Management of defibrillators, training for First Aiders and installing more SID's on the roads

### SAFETY SCHEMES



### COMMUNITY GRANTS, EVENTS AND SUPPORT



**£3,000.00**

Community grants for groups, charities and local village halls to support local facilities



# A BIG THANK YOU

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Thank you to everyone who supported the Christmas Fair for 2022.

This was the second year of the fair and we are all so very grateful to the volunteers and service providers who helped make the night a blast! The event was supported by a number of small businesses who had stalls, Timmy T Events, St Lucia's Primary School and residents who ran the cafe.

We've already received cards, emails and some calls from residents to thank us for putting on the event but we must reiterate that the event is only possible with the support of the community.

Next year we'd love to try involve more young people and families in any way possible, so if you have any idea's then please do share them with us.

Cllr Martin Holyoake, Chairman of Rodington Parish Council



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## HELP FUND A DEFIB FOR RODENHURST SCHOOL



Placing defibrillators in **YOUR** community



Rodenhurst School are fundraising for a defibrillator to be installed at their site on Rodenhurst Business Park and they are seeking your support.

To make a donation please scan the QR code provided or get in touch via 01772 647500

# POLICING MATTERS

PC R McNally, PC B Pratt and civilian staff S Thomas from West Mercia Police attended the parish council meeting on 4th January 2023.

The purpose of the visit was to talk to Councillors and the community about the real threat of rural crime and the important work that the police are doing to tackle these threats.

PC B Pratt, who is from the business and rural crime unit gave a detailed report about the proactive work West Mercia are doing, including some details of operations.

There was also an overview report of what we, as rural residents and businesses should look out for and what support is available from the police. We encourage everyone to read the minutes of our January meeting, which can be found on our website, to fully understand the detail of these types of threats.



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.

## LOCAL POLICING TEAM DETAILS

### Wellington West and Rural

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



PC  
Rob McNally  
07811 748260



PCSO  
Zoe Beven  
07870 167791



PCSO  
Ivan Collumbell  
07817 941151  
(Rural)



PCSO  
Evie Dunkley  
07779 543156  
(Safer Schools)



PCSO  
Gareth Rhodes  
07971 395039



PCSO  
Ryan White  
07971 395158

# WILDLIFE 'GARDENING' IN RODINGTON'S COMMUNITY ORCHARD



Firstly, a thank you to everyone who has given feedback on the Climate & Nature Vision document that was distributed alongside the last edition of Village Voice. The Rodington Parish Climate & Nature Steering Group know that something people in our area have been clear about is that these initiatives are only good if they are not just words – they must be backed up by some action!

We're really happy therefore to be able to report that our first big project is up and running! Many residents of the parish will be familiar with the playing fields behind

Rodington Village Hall, but some people have been surprised to learn that there is already a community orchard in the north-west corner which was planted back in 1994 with a number of trees, including varieties of apple and pear. The Steering Group put a proposal forward to our Telford & Wrekin ward councillor, Cllr. Jacqui Seymour, and are pleased that we have been awarded some funds to make this little corner even better for wildlife as well as for people to enjoy.

As well as planting more fruit trees (Shropshire damsons), in the next few months we will be putting in various new habitats that will be designed to show residents what they could do in their own gardens, even with relatively little space. We will be creating a wildflower meadow and a bog garden as well as installing bug hotels and wood piles. We will also be installing a bench so that people can pause for a moment and enjoy this little nature corner whilst looking over at the magnificent view of The Wrekin.

Please keep an eye on the local community Facebook groups and Rodington Parish Council website for news of when we'll be working in the community orchard – all will be welcome to join us.

We have also started actively working a project to improve recycling and one to create more hedgerows in the parish – more news on these to come. If you would like to join us at the next Climate & Nature Steering Group meeting, please feel free to join us at 7.00pm on **Wednesday 14th March at Rodington Village Hall**. If you would like to find out more beforehand, please contact the Parish Clerk at [rodingtonpc@gmail.com](mailto:rodingtonpc@gmail.com).

**Tom Hayek**  
**Rodington Parish Climate & Nature Champion**



**Rodington Community Orchard**



# Be the difference, make a change!

In Great Britain we value our democracy so much and always fight for it to be maintained and respected.

People from all walks of life get involved in democracy in many ways. One way you can be involved is by becoming a Parish Councillor.

Parish Councillors are local people, they might even be your neighbour. But you don't have to have any specific qualifications or skills to become a Councillor and exercise your democratic right in decision making.

**You just need the passion and determination to want to improve your local area for the betterment of your community. Working in a cohesive team to achieve that goal.**

A parish council is the grassroots of government and therefore makes the most local level of decisions, and can often supply the most local level of services that are aimed at improving the community around us.

At Rodington Parish Council we have 7 Councillors, with skills and experience ranging from financial advisers and retired public protection managers to letting agents and HR specialist. We're not all experts at subjects such as planning or event management, but all training and professional expertise is on hand to help guide us in the right direction for our residents.

To be a Councillor, you simply need to qualify to stand, the criteria is;

- You are 18 or over.
- You are a British citizen, a qualifying Commonwealth citizen or a citizen of any other member state of the European Union.

And at least one of the following apply:

- You are an elector for the Parish and continues to be an elector.
- Or have resided in the Parish for the past twelve months or rented/tenanted land in the Parish.
- Or have had your principal or only place of work in the Parish for the past twelve months.
- Or have lived within three miles of the Parish for the past twelve months.

There are certain disqualifications for being a parish councillor, of which the main are:

- Holding a paid office or employment under the Parish Council.
- Bankruptcy.
- Having been sentenced to a term of imprisonment (whether suspended or not) of not less than three months, without the option of a fine during the preceding five years.
- Being disqualified under any enactment relating to corrupt or illegal electoral practices.

If you'd like to learn more about what we do, the role of a Councillor and how you can get involved, you are more than welcomed to speak with our Parish Clerk informally, who can guide you through the details.

# RODINGTON CANAL PROJECT

The restoration of the canal embankment area in Rodington has been a long-held ambition of the Shrewsbury & Newport Canals Trust (SNCT), the Parish Council and the local community. By working in partnership with the landowners, Telford and Wrekin Council, and Rodington Parish Pathways Partnership (RP3) SNCT hope to restore parts of its lost architecture together with establishing a permissive right of way. It will be a long-term project, probably 5 years or more.



*Aerial view of Rodington Canal Embankment, 6.6.22*

The aims of the project are to provide community areas including a short all-ability (permissive) right of way which will link up a preserved section of canal, a nature reserve area and a bench to rest and admire the countryside. This will also provide a link to the long-distance Shropshire Way (139 miles) which runs via the road alongside the canal embankment. The project will enhance the approach to the village, as well as raise interest in local canal heritage. A primary consideration throughout is the preservation of existing flora and fauna. An Ecological Appraisal was commissioned by Rodington Parish Council prior to any work taking place and this report informs the how the project is undertaken.

Work began on the project in November 2021, and a project team meet fortnightly on Wednesdays. If you would like to volunteer, please contact the Project Lead, Alistair Price, on [alistairprice1@gmail.com](mailto:alistairprice1@gmail.com). The project team has undertaken a range of tasks including the removal of dead undergrowth and self-sown trees from the canal basin, clearance of the towpaths and uncovering the archaeology of the lift bridge and its foundations. The access tunnel which leads to two main sluices (ponds) now part of a nature restoration area, has also been cleared.



*The access tunnel, 2023*



*The lift bridge (No.25) prior to 1956*

Until the construction of the railways in about 1850 the canal was the only long distance means of transporting goods other than by horse wagons along toll roads. Goods were moved locally by boat from canal wharves at Longdon-on-Tern, Rodington and Berwick.

In 1951 most of the original counter-weighted lift bridges along the canal were replaced by more modern bridges, as the old ones had restricted traffic. However, Bridge 25 on the Rodington Embankment was still in use in 1956.

The canal was carried across the river Roden just south of Rodington village in a triple semi-circular arched brick aqueduct. Regrettably this was demolished in the 1960's after being deemed unsafe.

Another aqueduct of some significance was built at Longdon on Tern, constructed of iron by Thomas Telford, which survives to the present day. This is the oldest surviving cast iron aqueduct in the world and it may have been the precursor to the aqueduct built by Telford at Pontcysyllte.

**Cllr Tom Currie, on behalf of the partnerships SNCT/RP3, and Rodington Parish Council**

# PARISH COUNCIL EVENTS

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Rodington Parish Council is looking forward to our community events in 2023... Please join us!

Contact: [rodingtonpc@gmail.com](mailto:rodingtonpc@gmail.com) for more details



**Great British Spring Clean - 19th March, 10am**

**Annual Electors Meeting - 17th May, 7:30pm**

**Summer Litter Walk - 17th Jun, 10am**

**Green Clean (Jointly with CPRE) - 2nd Sep, 10am**

**Community Christmas Fair - 25th Nov, 7pm**

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## WHAT'S ON AT LONGDON UPON TERN VILLAGE HALL...

**Line Dancing** at Longdon-upon-Tern Village Hall Monday evenings from 7.00pm to 9.00pm - Contact Janet on 10952 770677

**Tai Chi** at Longdon-upon-Tern Village Hall Thursday mornings from 10.00am till 12.00pm - Contact Jo on

**Spoiler Alert** - St Bartholomew's Fete on Saturday 10 June 2023 from 1.00pm till 4.00pm - Lots of attractions and, of course, the best cake stall ever!



### Coronation

Lots of plans for events in Longdon-upon-Tern - whilst we are still waiting to see if we have been awarded a grant from Telford & Wrekin, work parties are working on various sustainable projects around the village to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III, including wild flowers and hedging to attract bees, birds and other wildlife.

# YOUR VIEWS - HIGHWAYS SURVEY

In view of our parish being lined up for a Road Safety Scheme we're very keen to move quickly, though this all depends on the borough councils support.

In September last year Telford & Wrekin Council agreed that we could have a RSS developed, but these schemes take time, money and we're on a waiting list with other parishes.

But that doesn't stop us from starting an informal consultation to get your views. To take part please scan the QR code or visit:

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



## STAY IN TOUCH...

The parish council will always make efforts to keep residents informed on local matters, even with little resources we always try, **but we need your help!**

In line with our Communications & Engagement Strategy we...

- Publish minutes on our website as quickly as possible after a meeting.
- Publish agendas on all notice boards and our website at least 7 days before a meeting (only required to do this 3 days before).
- We're on Facebook and Twitter where we post all sorts of local information.
- Post news updates on our website, including upcoming **road closures, events, meeting dates and ways to respond to surveys and volunteer.**
- Publish a quarterly parish magazine to every house in the parish (one of very few parish councils that do this in Shropshire).

Please use any of these facilities to keep informed, however if you want to receive direct information when important issues or updates come up, feel free to sign up to our e-bulletins scheme where you provide your email address, just scan the QR code on the front page!



## E-bulletin for Rodington Parish residents

Village Voice is a publication created and published by Rodington Parish Council. The opinions expressed by the various contributors are not necessarily those of Rodington Parish Council. The inclusion of an article in this publication does not necessarily imply a recommendation of its aims, policies or methods. Every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of information in this publication; however, no liability can be accepted for loss or inconvenience caused as a result of error or omission.

The  
Electoral  
Commission

You now need  
photo ID to  
vote at a  
polling station

No ID? You can apply for free voter ID

Find out more at

[electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID](https://electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID)

or call 0800 328 0280

