

Community News

February 2026



SNOW WAY OUT – VILLAGERS BATTLE THE GREAT SLIDE



It won't have gone unnoticed that we were greeted with a glittering white blanket of snow just when everyone was returning to work after the festive celebrations. Fields were blanketed in pristine white, creating postcard-worthy scenes that would have been far more enjoyable had they not been accompanied by pavements so slick they could have hosted an Olympic figure-skating qualifier. Villagers were spotted shuffling along with the cautious determination of penguins, whilst some were seen performing a variety of involuntary dance routines as they navigated the icy surfaces.

The roads were like ice rinks, as cars slid elegantly sideways into a parking space that they never intended to occupy. Making it to the gritted main roads was an exercise in extreme caution or through momentum and prayer.

It brought into sharp focus, the need to be a good neighbour. It is a time to check on our more vulnerable neighbours to ensure that they have everything they need if they are unable to get out. If you know of anyone who might need this support, share their names with others, who might be able to offer their help if you are unable to.

In and around....



The clothes bank at the Jubilee Hall was full over the Christmas period, which prevented some of our villagers from depositing their unwanted items. To try to avoid a reoccurrence, a larger container will be ordered to replace the one we have.

A41 – Road Safety initiative

It has been agreed that smart cameras will now be installed on the A41. Whilst this is good news, it is not yet known where they are likely to be installed. There is some speed testing to be completed before the decision on where they are to be sited is taken. We continue to be optimistic that the Four Crosses area will be included in siting zone.

Planning Ahead

Disappointingly, the application to allow construction traffic to route down the Eaton Road has been approved. For updates on the remaining planning applications currently being considered,

please log onto the planning tracker on the Childs Ercall website. You can sign up to receive alerts if you wish. <https://www.childsercall-pc.gov.uk/community/childs-ercall-community-website-20417/planning-tracker/>

Parish Council Small Grants Policy

The Parish Council continues to consider applications for grants from not-for-profit, charitable organisations, or for worthy causes that will benefit the Childs Ercall community. Details of the policy and an application form can be found on the Childs Ercall Community website (www.childsercall-pc.gov.uk). Click on "Parish Council" then select "Parish Council Governance & Policies" from the drop-down menu. Or just follow this link:

www.childsercall-pc.gov.uk/community/childs-ercall-community-website-20417/policies/

Village Gardening Group

Calling all enthusiastic and community minded gardening wannabees. Or maybe just community spirited volunteers who would like to make a difference. To be launched in February, we are seeking willing volunteers who can spare just a little of their time to help with the upkeep of our beautiful village. Pot planting and litter picking are just two of the likely duties that would need your support. The inaugural meeting of the group is to be scheduled to take place at the Village Club. A date and time is to be decided, but please contact James Maddocks at chair@childsercall-pc.gov.uk if you are interested and can spare some time.

What's on...

There is a slight lull, while we recover from the festive celebrations. Watch this space and the Childs Ercall and Village Club chat forums for notifications of upcoming events.

A message from Neil....



It is fair to say that 2026 is going to be a challenging year for Shropshire as the council continues to fight to get the finances under control. Despite these difficulties, we also have an opportunity to reset the council to ensure that it can provide the best services for Shropshire now and into the future.

On a positive note, I am very pleased that we ended 2025 by finally securing the finances and engineering plans for the A41 Average Speed Camera project that many of us have been working on for many years. Working with Telford & Wrekin Council, Shropshire has also started a separate investigation into highway improvements along the A41 which we hope to see secured over the next few years. (Neil is the Unitary Councillor for the Cheswardine Ward)

Have Your Say

The next Parish Council meeting will be at the Jubilee Hall on Wednesday 18th February at 7.00pm. All are welcome to attend.

An on-line version of this newsletter can be found on the website. (www.childsercall-pc.gov.uk)
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