



Winter Newsletter –February 2022

Welcome to our Winter Newsletter. Since our last Newsletter in July 2021, RPC has been able to operate more normally and hold meetings in Ripple Parish Hall meaning members of the public have been able to attend. We are hoping that this will continue, but if meetings have to be held virtually, full information on how the public can join the meetings will be available on the agendas.

Agendas and minutes from previous meetings are published on the Parish Web Page, on our Facebook site and on the notice boards around the Parish. Please look at them and if you have any comments to make, please either come to our meetings or contact the Clerk or one of the Councillors. We want to be sure that RPC is representing your views.

RPC has had some changes recently. Firstly, Councillor Robin Jones decided to stand down from RPC in December to pursue other interests. Robin was on the Council for 13 years and his local knowledge and, particularly, expertise in planning issues will be greatly missed. We would like to take this opportunity to thank him for all the time and assistance he has given. Secondly, Councillor Clare Cozens has also decided to stand down. Clare has been dealing with social media for RPC and we thank her for all her work.

These departures meant that we were short of three Councillors. Fortunately, Dawn Long, who was previously on RPC has stepped forward and was co-opted on to RPC at our last meeting on 17th January. However, we will still be two short, so if you are interested, please contact the Clerk or one of the Councillors and they will tell you all about being a Councillor.

Robin was also Vice Chair, so a new Vice Chair will be elected shortly.

Defibrillator at Naunton

Many thanks to the residents of Naunton who recently raised a magnificent sum of £825 towards the purchase of a defibrillator for their village.

RPC, Cllr Jeremy Owenson and Cllr Martin Allen contributed a further £500 each. The defibrillator has been sited on the old telephone box (The Book Exchange) in the village. This brings the total to 4 defibrillators in the parish, the others being at The Bluebell Pub on the A38, The Railway Inn in Ripple and at Beechwood Care Home on The Beeches.

Roundabout A38/A4104 Junction.

Work restarted on 4th January, following the Christmas Break. The work is currently on schedule, but future work will depend on weather conditions. The contractors do try to keep disruption to the minimum, but of course there will be periods when it is necessary to use temporary traffic lights which may cause some delays. During the periods of lights, signs are placed at both ends of the Ryall Road to remind drivers that it is access to frontages only and should not be used as a short cut. Please be aware there is an overnight closure of the A4104 from Ryall Court Lane to A38 commencing 17th February for 2 nights (20:00-06:00).

After a question from Martin Allen to Alan Amos, Worcestershire County Council (WCC) have indicated that it may be possible to install a piece of public art at the roundabout

which many people have expressed an interest in, possibly something that would reflect the musical nature of Upton. WCC have stressed that the cost would have to be borne by a sponsor or the parish councils. It would also be subject to stringent checks with regard to safety and planning issues. To this end, RPC will be discussing this at future meetings and then with Upton Town Council and possibly, Earls Croome Parish Council. We will also be investigating funding for the project.

Pedestrian crossing A4104 (Near Ryall Road junction)

RPC has been pressuring WCC for a crossing on the A4104. The existing bollards do not provide a safe crossing refuge. Martin Allen has been working on our behalf to secure a suitable crossing. The County Council is currently looking at options and when we have fuller details, we will be discussing them at a future meeting. It is unlikely however that it will any form of “controlled crossing”. RPC will put an item on an agenda and give full details so that residents can make comments.

Speedwatch on the Ryall Road.

In the weeks prior to Christmas the Speedwatch Team were out several times, and each time several vehicles were recorded exceeding the speed limit of 30mph on the road, these have been reported to the Police. Barbara Wilson, the Speedwatch Co-ordinator, also reports that 4 new volunteers have now been trained with a further volunteer awaiting training. New volunteers are always welcome as a larger group of volunteers makes it easier to find regular teams to operate, please contact her if you can help.

In November, West Mercia Police also operated a check on the vehicles using the Ryall Road as it is an “access only” road. Only drivers needing to go to properties on Ryall Road or the roads off it, should be using it. Many drivers were using the road when they should not have been. They were issued with a letter which warned them that under Section 38(1) Road Traffic Act 1988 it was an offence to fail to comply with a traffic sign, in this case the access only signs. The penalty is 3 points on the licence and a fine. On that occasion drivers were only warned, but it is likely in the future more action will be taken. Ryall Road should not be used as a shortcut, even by other residents of the parish.

Speedwatch is totally independent of RPC, though RPC supports its actions. If you think that there are other areas in the Parish that would benefit from Speedwatch, please contact Barbara Wilson and she will be able to advise you on who to contact.

Barbara’s email is barbarawilson63@hotmail.com

Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS)

On a similar theme to the previous item, there have been several complaints about speeding generally in the Parish. RPC currently has one VAS which is quite old and gets moved around periodically to 3 approved sites in the Parish. RPC is currently looking into purchasing another VAS and getting more sites for it’s use approved. The cost of a new sign is approximately £2,500 and so, in the first instance, RPC is going to make an application to the Police Commissioner’s Community Road Safety Fund. Hopefully RPC will be successful as the police are aware of the problems in the parish from the activities of the Speedwatch group.

Bus Services



Unfortunately, the funding for the trial 363 service to Tewkesbury has now ceased and the last service was on Monday 20th December 2021 as First Bus consider the service uneconomic. The trial proved that, despite low usage, there is a need for a service to Tewkesbury. Cllr Martin Allen has secured a new Community Bus service which will run on Wednesdays. This service has to be booked in advance and the cost is £4 for concessionary pass holders and £8 for other users. Full details are on several of the noticeboards and bus stops, and also on RPC facebook. The 363 will continue to run as normal just not as far as Tewkesbury. Thanks to Martin for providing funding.

Saplings on A4104

You may have noticed that in the last few weeks work has been going on in the area of the A4104 that was raised. The dead saplings have been removed and after inspection by WCC, it was decided not to replant saplings but to plant more native hedgerow. This was a decision that RPC supported. The new planting has now been done and we hope they will soon begin to grow and provide an attractive area. Thanks to Martin Allen for pursuing this on behalf of RPC.

Overgrown Hedges and Footpath obstructions.

Yet again more complaints have been made to RPC concerning overgrown hedges causing a problem and being a possible danger both for vehicles and pedestrians. Just to make it clear RPC cannot cut hedges or undergrowth belonging to private individuals. RPC will write to landowners requesting that the area is cut, but if the matter is not resolved and is deemed to present a hazard, it must be reported to WCC. RPC can of course do this, but it often helps if it is also reported directly by a member of the public. Please use <https://worcestershire.gov.uk/Report>.

Likewise, if, when you are out walking, you come across an obstructed footpath, either naturally for example by a fallen tree, or intentionally by the landowner, please report it.

Rubbish Bins

The Lottery Funding application for the provision of additional and larger bins, is still ongoing. If the bid is unsuccessful, RPC will purchase some gradually over the next couple of years to spread the cost, which we said in the previous Newsletter is in the region of £6,000 but with fitting costs is likely to be more than £7,000.

Notice Boards

The community notice board, at the corner of The Beeches and Ryall Road, has been repaired and is back in place, thanks to work done by residents.

The new notice board for Ripple will be replaced as soon as RPC receive confirmation from the owner of the wall to which it will be attached that they are happy for the work to proceed. On each of the Notice Boards is an area for the community to use as well as the area for RPC information, please feel free to post notices.

Local Housing Needs Survey

In the last Newsletter we told you that MHDC was going to issue a survey form to the residents of Ripple Parish, as yet we do not have a definite date for when this will issued.

Planning

The application for mineral extraction by Messrs Cullimore at Bow Lane is still ongoing and RPC has been asked for further comments, this is being dealt with at the moment. In the case of the application by Cemex, following further consultations, RPC have been asked if they would like to make further comments in addition to those that were made in July 2020. You may have seen in the press the proposal to create a 1 KM rowing lake once the extraction of minerals is complete. In our response, we have raised questions concerning, public access and the future viability of the land for festival use as the areas shown on the plans are very limited. Full details can be accessed at Worcestershire County Council Planning, using the reference 20/000015/CM.

Lengths Man and Footpath Officer

RPC have been asked about the responsibilities of both the Parish Lengths man and the footpath officer, so here are a few details about them and their jobs in the parish. The Lengths man is a paid position and although he undertakes duties for RPC, the contract, and duties he undertakes are defined by Worcestershire County Council. The current lengths man is Ben and he works 16 hours per month for RPC. He undertakes a wide variety of duties which include, amongst a lot of other things, clearing gully grates, advising landowners when ditches need cleaning, removing vegetation obstructing signs, removal of illegal fly posting and the rotation and charging of the VAS. Ripple is a large Parish so if you see anything that needs attention and you think it is possibly something that Ben would do, please let the Clerk know and then she can tell Ben. You may see him working around the parish in his high vis jacket with Parish Lengths Man on the back!

The Footpath Officer is a voluntary post and the current officer is Brian. Again, like the Lengths Man, he is frequently out and about in the parish. Brian can do small repairs and make sure that way markers etc., are in place and can be clearly seen. Bigger repairs are reported to Worcestershire County Council.

Schedule of RPC meetings to April 2022 and Councillor Contact Details

28th February and 11th April. Meetings are held at Ripple Parish Hall, commencing at **7.15 pm (New time)** and public participation takes place at the start of the meeting.

Mark Peters (Chairman)	07568 741324	markpeters@rpcworcs.co.uk
Michelle Hinde (Clerk)	07498 076125	clerk@rpcworcs.co.uk
Tim Armitt	079662 15775	timarmitt@rpcworcs.co.uk
Marian Baum	01684 594276	marianbaum@rpcworcs.co.uk
Maggi Davis	079636 89729	maggidavis@rpcworcs.co.uk
Dawn Long	077215 64340	dawnlong@rpcworcs.co.uk
Roger Sutton	01684 593282	rogersutton@rpcworcs.co.uk
Keith Weyman	01684 592750	keithweyman@rpcworcs.co.uk
District Councillor Jeremy Owenson	07944 408307	jeremy.owenson@malvernhillscdc.net
County Councillor Martin Allen	07375 860264	mallen2@worcestershire.gov

Visit our official website: www.worcestershire.gov.uk/MyParish (Select Ripple from the "Find your Parish list") Join us on Facebook @RPC2017. We also share Facebook posts,



where appropriate to, Upton Parish Notice Board, Ripple Parish Hall and Uckinghall Flood Action Group.