



Autumn Newsletter – October 2022

Welcome to our Autumn Newsletter. Quite a few things have been happening in the area and we would like to update you and keep you informed. We want to be sure that Ripple Parish Council (RPC) is representing your views.

RPC Councillor Changes

Unfortunately, **Roger Sutton**, a long serving councillor, is unable to continue as a councillor for Ripple Parish Council. Roger has been a stalwart of the council for a very long time and his knowledge has been invaluable to us all. For many years he was not only a Parish Councillor, but also a District Councillor and a County Councillor all at the same time. RPC is sure that you will join us in thanking Roger for all the service he has given and wish him well for the future.

Roger's departure means that, once again, RPC has more vacancies. When there is a full complement, RPC has nine Councillors and to be three short for any length of time does pose problems and means that, sometimes, RPC cannot effectively deal with everything it would like to. Councillors give their time voluntarily and often have other things that draw on their time. In some cases, they are also in full time employment, so spare time is limited. Fortunately, **Matt England** has volunteered and has been co-opted on to RPC, but we are still short of two Councillors. If there is anyone who would be interested in becoming a Councillor and helping us, please contact Shelley, (clerk@rpcworcs.co.uk) and she will be able to tell you more. RPC is particularly underrepresented in the Ripple and Uckinghall areas, where the only Councillor is Mark Peters, our Chairman.

It is interesting and rewarding to be a Councillor, so please come and join us.

Roundabout A38/A4104 Junction.

At long last the roundabout is nearing completion with final surfacing being done over several nights at the beginning of October. Once that has been completed the only thing remaining will be more landscape work around the roundabout and eventually, the artwork for the island itself. During construction, there have been times when the traffic congestion has been very serious, especially when large events have been on either in Upton itself or at the Three Counties Showground, and RPC would like to thank local residents for their patience! RPC is aware that a great deal of traffic has been using the Ryall Road to avoid the roadworks, and hope that once the roundabout is fully operational this will reduce. RPC will also be asking the police to assist in enforcing "ACCESS ONLY" on the Ryall Road as well as speeding. The new VAS sign has recently been put into position and "SLOW" signs have already been painted on the road.

RPC would also like to thank County Councillor Martin Allen for all the assistance that he has given during the roundabout construction. He has kept RPC informed by giving updates on progress of the project at each parish council meeting and has been able to use Facebook to get information directly to residents especially in regard to closures, which have been necessary from time to time.



Roundabout Artwork

This is a joint project by Upton Town Council, Earls Croome Parish Council and Ripple Parish Council. Councillor Maggi Davis has been dealing with this on behalf of RPC. It is not an easy project as there are many implications to be considered, mainly regarding safety on the island. At the moment, students from Hanley Castle High School are working with pupils from Upton Primary School to formulate some designs and we hope to hear more about this shortly.

Pedestrian crossing A4104 (near Ryall Road junction)

RPC had been hoping that the crossing would be constructed as soon as the roundabout was completed, however it now looks like this will be done late Spring 2023. The design hasn't quite been finalised as there have been problems with visibility required for the provision of the crossing in a 40mph area of the road. It looks like a small area of the grass on the A4104 in the vicinity of Parish Notice Board may have to be used so that an adequate central refuge can be formed. As soon as RPC receive final plans, they will be discussed at a Parish Council meeting, so please look out for this on forthcoming agendas.

Missing bench A4104

Many residents have asked about the missing bench. Unfortunately, it was very badly damaged a few months ago and could not be repaired satisfactorily. RPC have been looking at using the opportunity to purchase a new one and had decided that it would be nice to have a Jubilee Bench. Due to the work on the proposed pedestrian crossing, Worcestershire County Council have advised that it would be best to delay putting the bench there until the work on the crossing is complete, so it is unlikely to be in position until Spring 2023.

Speedwatch on the Ryall Road.

The Speedwatch Team on the Ryall Road still continues to operate but would definitely benefit from more volunteers. If you think you would like to help, please contact Barbara Wilson, the Speedwatch Co-ordinator (barbarawilson63@hotmail.com) who will advise you on training. Likewise, if you think that there are other areas in the Parish that would benefit from Speedwatch, please contact Barbara, who will advise you who to contact.

Rubbish Bins and Litter

Unfortunately, the Lottery Funding Application was unsuccessful, however RPC is still going ahead with the purchase of the bins, and they will be put in place over next few months. Residents were very concerned about the level of litter in some areas, particularly in the lay-bys.

In April RPC organised a Parish Litter Pick, which was advertised both on all the notice boards and on Facebook. RPC was very disappointed by the response to our request for help, in fact the only people that turned up were RPC Councillors and in some cases their partners, plus the Footpath Officer. We managed to collect 14 bin bags of rubbish!



Overgrown Hedges and Footpath obstructions

RPC regularly receives complaints about overgrown hedges causing problems and posing an obstruction. This is very dangerous for vehicles and more importantly for pedestrians. If pedestrians have to step into the roadway to avoid these kinds of obstructions, there is the potential for a serious accident, especially when children are getting off the school buses and walking along the road home. RPC cannot cut hedges or undergrowth belonging to private individuals, but RPC will write to owners requesting that the area is cut. If the owner decides to ignore this letter, then it can be reported to Worcestershire County Council, who if they deem it to be a hazard, will take further action.

If you are out walking in the countryside and come across an obstructed footpath, please report it on <https://worcestershire.gov.uk/Report> Our footpath officer does his best to spot all problems but there are many miles of footpaths in the parish to cover and so help is appreciated.

Community Bus Service

The Community Bus to Tewkesbury on a Wednesday is continuing to run, and we now have an additional service on a Friday that is bringing residents from the more outlying parts of the parish into Upton for shopping. At the moment this service is temporary until Christmas, but RPC hope that it will be able to continue for longer. The full timetable details have been put on all the Parish Notice Boards and on Ripple Parish Facebook. For the Upton Service the cost for those with a bus pass is £2 return, for those without a pass it is £6 return. It is necessary to book these services in advance, please call Community Action Malvern on 01684 892381. County Councillor Martin Allen has worked hard and provided funding to get these services going. RPC has also made a financial contribution. Please use the buses or else we may lose them.

On a similar subject, the wooden bus shelter at the Bluebell end of the Ryall Road, has been repaired. The roof has been replaced and the shelter has been painted.

Recreation Ground off The Beeches

Following the public consultation and approval by RPC at their October meeting, work will begin in Spring 2023 to transform the recreation ground into a small wildflower meadow, which RPC hope will enhance the appearance and provide the area for wildlife. The work will be done in conjunction with Worcester Wildlife Trust and the grassed area will be replaced by the wildflower meadow but will have a mown path through it to access the area of the bench. Some additional trees will be planted, and also native bulbs in the shaded areas. The project will include bat boxes, bird boxes and insect homes. It is hoped that this will provide an area of natural beauty for the enjoyment of people of all ages.

Planning

The South Worcester Development Plan Review Preferred Option Consultation is now available and will subject to Public Consultation for 6 weeks from the start of November



after which it will go before the Secretary of State for scrutiny by the Planning Inspectorate which will take place during 2023. Please see www.swdevelopmentplan.org

Planning Applications

Furrow Close.

Some residents will already be aware that a planning application has been made for 25 dwellings to go at the end of Furrow Close, Holly Green and extend into the field that runs parallel to the A4104. RPC have put forward objections to this application on a number of grounds, the full details of which can be seen on the MHDC Planning Portal using application number M/22/01073/FUL.

Land North east of Upton Marina, Holly Green

There is currently an application, which is pending decision, for the erection of 70 dwellings in the field directly above Upton Marina. There have been previous approved applications for this site. RPC, along with some of the other statutory consultees have requested further information before making any recommendation. Again, full details can be found by using application number M/22/00833/OUT on the MHDC Planning Portal.

Ryall North (Fish Meadow) – Gravel Extraction

This application is due to come before the Worcestershire County Council on 25th October. This is a relatively small part of land as the majority of the area was previously approved and has mostly been mined already. The application includes restoration to a lake. However this is not the rowing lake that has been discussed in the press and on social media. If the application for extraction is approved, a further planning application would then be required to be submitted to MHDC for it to become a rowing lake.

Bow Farm, Ripple – Gravel Extraction (Cullimore)

This application is due to be considered by Worcestershire County Council on 31st October. This is a cross boundary application and will also be considered by Gloucestershire County Council, but the date for that is not known. Both Councils would need to approve the application for it to proceed.

Ripple East -Gravel Extraction (Cemex)

This is a relatively new application which is extremely close to Ripple and Uckinghall, and for which the consultation period has ended. It is likely that this will be considered by Worcestershire County Council, in the Spring next year.

Ripple Parish Councillor Contact List and Schedule of Meetings to April 2023

Future meetings, 5th December 2022, 16th January , 6th March and 17th April 2023. Meetings are held at Ripple Parish Hall commencing at 7.15pm and public participation takes place at the start of each meeting.

Mark Peters (Chairman)	07568 741324	markpeters@rpcworcs.co.uk
Michelle Hinde (Clerk)	07498 076125	clerk@rpcworcs.co.uk
Tim Armitt	07966 215775	timarmitt@rpcworcs.co.uk
Marian Baum	01684 594276	marianbaum@rpcworcs.co.uk
Maggi Davis	07963 689729	maggidavis@rpcworcs.co.uk
Dawn Long	07721 564340	dawnlong@rpcworcs.co.uk
Keith Weyman	01684 592750	keithweyman@rpcworcs.co.uk
Matt England	07980 595091	mattengland@rpcworcs.co.uk



District Councillor Jeremy Owenson 07944 408307 jeremy.owenson@malvernhillsc.org

County Councillor Martin Allen 07375 860264 mallen2@worcestershire.gov

Visit our official website: www.worcestershire.gov.uk/MyParish and select Ripple.

Join us on Facebook@RPC2017.