

Walford Parish Newsletter

Autumn
2011

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Chairman: Frank Myers MBE

Vice Chairman: Philip Heath

Clerk: Catherine Murray

Website: www.walford-pc.org.uk

An introduction from the Chairman

Welcome to the Autumn edition of our newsletter, I hope you all had a good summer.

As you will see many of the projects have moved on during the summer but it is in this context that I need to reiterate my appeal for you to get involved and provide us with your opinions on the initiatives which we are taking on your behalf.



Councillor Frank Myers

Two recent surveys of your views have each brought no more than thirty responses from the whole parish. At the last Parish Council meeting those who attended were able to express their views and guide us on the trend of public opinion. However, judging from the phone calls and emails I am getting, many of you are surprised by some of the subjects under discussion and the possible outcomes but you have not taken the opportunity to make your views known.

As I said in the last edition, "You elect us to represent your interests, please help us by engaging in dialogue with us as we attempt to shape the future in the interests of *all* who live in the Parish."

Councillor Frank Myers MBE – Chairman

Kerne Bridge Ward Councillor's Report

This next month sees two important consultations with the local community:

BROADBAND:

During October you will all receive a form from fastbroadband4herefordshire.org.uk. If you are a Business or Household that uses Broadband or will in the future please return and if possible online.

We are currently working with Gloucestershire on a contract to bring superfast broadband to the rural areas of the two Counties. We need to be able to demonstrate to the companies interested in bidding for the contract the level of need so they can properly price that contract.

We all know the frustrations of either no or poor connection so this is our opportunity to do something about it. For more information contact the website or ring 01989 750923.

PLANNING: This week a consultation period begins on PLANNING in the County. We will be meeting at 7.30pm at Bishopswood Village Hall on 19th October with the planning officers who will outline the proposals for the County and potentially what that might mean for our own Parishes.

What is clear is that with the new localism Bill passing through Parliament, Parish Councils and local communities have the opportunity to develop Neighbourhood plans which will significantly influence local parish planning. This will be discussed at all four Parish Council meetings during the next six weeks.

The other elements are the more Countywide policies and proposals included in which are future Transport and Economic plans. The Council will be proposing that a bypass/relief road is built from the A49 in the south to the A49 in the north on an inner western route. The reason the west is chosen is that it is impossible to build a complete road to the east as the Lugg meadows are protected by not only UK but also European environmental legislation and therefore you could only build on the East to the A438 (Ledbury road) and not be able to link up to the Worcester road let alone join the A49.

Opposition to the road is strong but it is the view of the administration that failure to build the road will mean Hereford and the County will condemn itself to no new jobs, continued low wage levels, severe lack of housing and infrastructure deadlock.

No Poll will be held as only one side is possible and the cost of holding a poll this autumn would be over £80,000. My concern is that while people rightly should discuss the road they will miss the importance of the decisions on future housing provision in our communities.

Councillor John Jarvis - Kerne Bridge Ward

Faster broadband - make your voice heard

A major survey has been launched in our parishes and market towns to help bring high-speed broadband to rural Herefordshire. With the support of Government funding to improve broadband in rural communities, work is expected to begin in south Herefordshire next year, and will then be extended throughout the county.

Local Broadband Champion volunteers are being recruited to help engage their local communities. In the coming weeks questionnaires will go out to thousands of homes and businesses to gather evidence on demand for superfast broadband. Or you can do the survey online at www.fastbroadband4herefordshire.org.uk.

Cllr Graham Powell, broadband champion for project partner Herefordshire Council, said: "These questionnaires are crucial to the process of bringing superfast broadband to Herefordshire. We urge every household and business to complete and return them."

To become a broadband champion for your rural community, contact: Graham Powell grahampowell@herefordshire.gov.uk or Fast Broadband4Herefordshire organiser David Sheppard david@davidsheppard.com

The Localism Bill – How it might affect you

The Localism Bill was introduced to Parliament on 13 December 2010.

This Bill is intended to shift power from central government back into the hands of individuals, communities and councils.

The coalition Government is committed to this because, in their view, over time central government has become too big, too interfering, too controlling and too bureaucratic. This is thought to have undermined local democracy and individual responsibility, and stifled innovation and enterprise within public services.

The intention is to see a radical shift in the balance of power and to decentralise power as far as possible and to push power downwards and outwards to the lowest possible level, including individuals, neighbourhoods, professionals and communities as well as local councils and other local institutions.

Some of the likely outcomes are:

- For services which are used individually, this means putting power in the hands of individuals themselves.
- Where services are enjoyed collectively, they should be delivered by accountable community groups.
- Where the scale is too large or those using a service are too dispersed, they should be delivered by local institutions, subject to democratic checks and balances, enabled by full transparency.

The Bill includes a number of important packages which will potentially have a profound effect on the work of the Parish Council:

- Decentralisation and strengthening local democracy.
- Non-Domestic Rates.
- Community empowerment.
- Radical changes to the planning system including neighbourhood planning.
- Changes to social housing policies.

They will mean that your Parish Council will be required to radically re-assess how it conducts its business and input from the local community will become even more important.

As you are probably aware, the National Grid has been working in the area since April this year to replace underground electricity equipment running between Walford and Brelston Green. The work has been going well, and you may well see engineers and equipment as they work on the 3km stretch between the two locations. The main working compound is in Walford, with another at Pencraig and a third one being established at Brelston Green.

Bob Hughes, the project manager, said: "We'd like to thank the local people for welcoming us into the area. We're doing everything we can to make sure our work causes as little disruption as possible, and will of course ensure that the environment is returned to its pristine condition once work is complete. When we've left the area, you'll struggle to find any sign of us having been here. If anyone would like to talk to us about the project, please call our community relations helpline on 0800 073 1047. The line is available 7am – 7pm, 7 days a week.

The project has been talking to local parish councils about the work, as well as working with Herefordshire County Council, the Environment Agency and other statutory consultees. Additionally, the project is giving a talk to the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Group at the end of September, to explain more about the scheme and how we will protect and enhance the environment as part of the work. The first part of the work should be complete in late 2013. Then the project has to decommission the old equipment and re-instate vegetation in the area, which could take up to another two years.



West Midlands Ambulance Service



NHS Trust

The make Ready Project within Herefordshire has had final business approval from the Trust Board and the Hereford site was handed over to the developers on 5th September 2011. It is anticipated that the refurbishment and re-development of the site will be completed by 16th November 2011, with staff returning on 17th November. Currently the operational staff that are based at Hereford have been temporarily re-housed at the Rotherwas Industrial Estate in Hereford.

The advanced paramedic training has commenced with a total of 14 staff across Herefordshire having completed the course, with another 14 staff planned to complete subsequent courses by the end of February 2012.

The first 24/7 Community Paramedic scheme is currently operational in Bromyard and the first three staff are now operational within the Ross On Wye area; it is anticipated that this will be fully 24/7 by November 2011.

WYE VALLEY Area Of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Around 75% of Walford parish lies within the boundary of the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The area was designated in 1971 and so this year is the 40th anniversary of its establishment

During this 40th birthday year there has been a special series of 4 free celebration events focussing on the themes of hidden industry, viewpoints, river connections and hill forts. Events have taken place at Tintern, Symonds Yat, Ross and Chepstow. The final event, '*Mediaeval Mayhem*', was recently held in Chepstow Castle. Jesters and story tellers

helped set the scene whilst The Mediaeval Combat Society entertained the public with a range of re-enactments and mediaeval merchants traded their wares outside the castle walls

A brand new *Youth Rangers* scheme is being launched this autumn which will offer, free of charge, to 15 young people aged 14 to 16 years the opportunity to explore the natural landscape and industrial heritage of the AONB area and learn a range of new skills. A grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund has made this 2 year project possible and for those interested there will be an introductory day on 15th October – so look at the website for more details and book your place at the AONB office



The Wye Valley AONB unit in Monmouth is responsible for the administration of the AONB and it arranges events and walks throughout the year in the AONB area. These are advertised in its '*Wye So Special*' leaflet and the quarterly '*Picturesque*' Newsletter. The latest edition of the *Wye Valley Walk Guide* is now available having been launched at the Mediaeval Mayhem event.

Further information about the WVAONB, their events, activities and volunteering to help the unit can be obtained by contacting the WVAONB Administration Officer on Tel No = 01600 713977 or by looking on the Website = www.wyevalleyaonb.org.uk

Finally to say that returns from a recent parish survey showed that the residents of Walford value the AONB status of the parish above all eight other criteria commented on - long may this continue to be so!

Parish Field – A Conservation success story



Tucked away in a quiet corner of Walford parish lies a real wildlife gem. Parish Field is situated near Hom Green, east of the old railway embankment, and is owned and managed by Herefordshire Nature Trust as a nature reserve. The Field is a 2.5 acre remnant of wet common meadow, which originally formed part of the once extensive Coughton Marsh, lying between Old Hill Court and Coughton.

When the Trust acquired the land in 1998 from the Walford Relief in Need Charity it had become completely invaded by willow scrub and vigorous perennials like Bramble and Meadowsweet. A permanent up-welling spring, emerging in the centre of the site, kept the peaty soil wet throughout the year, and the Field clearly had great potential as a wetland reserve.

The Trust immediately set about restoring the site, by cutting down much of the willow, and repeatedly using a flame-gun to destroy and prevent re-growth. A programme of mowing was begun to control the coarser perennials. Within a few years, with the site opened up to more light, and competition reduced, wet meadow plants from the seed-bank still present in the soil started to re-appear. First came Yellow Iris, Ragged Robin, Common Spotted Orchids and Fleabane, all spreading quickly over the areas cleared of willow.

But particularly exciting was the discovery of several Southern Marsh Orchids. Known to have occurred in Coughton Marsh in the past, this scarce, stately orchid, with its impressive spikes of rich purple flowers, was a brilliant reward for all the hard restoration work. Today, the Marsh Orchid population numbers several hundred individuals, making a wonderful show in mid-summer, together with a few individuals of two other rare orchids, the Marsh Helleborine and Fragrant Orchid, although numbers vary annually. These marshland species have virtually disappeared from Herefordshire as wet sites were drained.



The Trust is particularly glad to have had this opportunity to restore this special habitat, and bring back from the brink some of its typical marshland plants.

Roger Beck, Trust Chairman and Walford resident.

Rights Of Way

Work continues on our extensive network of Public Rights of Way. We have been using the services of the 'Can-Do-Crew', who are part of Ross Enviroability, to clear & strim a number of paths this year, & we have pictures! (With thanks to Bridget Vine for running the length of WA66 to capture these!)



I am relatively familiar with many of our paths & tracks, but have limited time available to traverse them. I hope I have reacted to notifications of problems so far, and would welcome feed back after clearance work has been done. A call or e-mail to tell me something has been done well, or not, would be most helpful - I think my legs are shrinking!

I believe we also have some 'secret trimmers', which is great. If you have a regular walk, it is much appreciated if obvious occasional overgrowth is trimmed when passing - the runners from brambles & briars can become intrusive

very quickly, & are easily removed during early growth. Thank you to those of you who already do this!

During the latter part of this year I would like to address any ongoing problems of access, as well as missing & damaged stiles, of which I know we have several. The local 'policy' is that these stiles, wherever possible, will be replaced by suitable gates. I hope this will meet with general approval from parishioners & walkers alike.

Heather Evans – Rights of Way Officer

The Lengthsman report

The Lengthsman has been busy completing his usual work, cleaning the grips and verges throughout the parish.

He has also cleaned out the bus shelters and the War Memorial to keep them up-together.

If any parishioner notices anything for the Lengthsman to attend to then please let the parish clerk know.

Councillor Luke Freeman – Lengthsman Co-ordinator.

Meet Your Councillors Session at EC Drummond

The invitation to “Meet your Councillors” was scheduled for Saturday 17th September and was hosted by Eric Drummond at The Homme Farm.

The essence of “Meet your Councillors” is to offer village residents the chance to raise issues in which they have an interest or concern, or simply share their views about the future, with any of the Councillors present. The Councillors, in turn, can reassure people that some concerns are just rumours and should be treated as such. Where the Councillor has not heard the buzz he can raise it with the Council.

Several matters raised this time were the Recreation Field and its implications for everyone; rumours of a building programme that was just another rumour; whether it would be a good idea to display maps around the Parish showing the location of houses, so that ‘white van man’ doesn’t get lost quite so often and what can be done about the earth slippage which creates danger on the road under Thorny Orchard on Howle Hill.

Apart from being able to raise these concerns visitors were offered more than just a chance to bend someone's ear as Councillor Eric Drummond decided that it might be of interest to everyone who attended the session to show how his Walford farming enterprise was organised. From soft fruits to chickens to potatoes Homme Farm supplies foods that finish up on the shelves of major outlets such as Morrisons and Sainsbury. One thumping great enterprise for a permanent staff of forty to run.

All in all, this was more than just a "Meet the Councillors" session, as the 23 who turned up will testify!

Councillor Terry Snow

**** Meet Your Councillors – Next Session ****

The next Meet Your Councillors session is being planned to take place at **Walford School**.

Walford Parish Council are having discussions with the School and it has been suggested that an evening event might be more convenient for many Parishioners, so we will be considering this when establishing a suitable date and time.

The session will be publicised in the Ross Gazette, Village News and Walford Flyer as well as by means of posters and signs throughout the Parish.

Please look out for these and come along to express your views – they are important.

Walford Recreational Field project

Since our last report there has been some research activity going on to establish the viability of such a project. The working group has looked at this type of facility in other counties and extensively researched the subject. We feel that we can provide a unique facility which suits our community and gives them an individual identity, as well as providing education, outdoor activities and a social gathering place to enhance community life and spirit and encourage a healthier lifestyle.

The working group wishes to bring back a sense of village life and hopefully create an annual event within Walford whether this is a village fair or carnival or something of that type. We hope that the villagers will be interested enough to help us decide on what we should have.

We would like now to plan an information evening where we can show our ideas to the residents of Walford and then we can begin a full consultation process and it is hoped, progress this project forward.

Cheryl Carpenter – Chair - Walford Recreational Facility Working Group

Walford Links Cycle / Bridle Way and Footpath

Having established exact land ownership information, preparation for the negotiations with land owners continues. A Trails Trust Guide has been produced and the project will be using it where applicable. It has been noted nationally that creation of Rights of Way is in need of reform, nevertheless steady progress is being made by the Walford Links Project and it is anticipated that negotiations with land owners will commence this autumn.

Philip Heath – Project Leader – Walford Links.

Kerne Bridge Canoe Launch Management

Work has continued during the summer. Meetings have taken place with Herefordshire Council and the AONB and information has been sought from the Environment Agency in order to properly assess the type of approach which will lead to the optimum use of the facility, for the benefit of all concerned.

The Bishopswood Village Hall Committee has also engaged in the process as we work towards establishing an approach which achieves the best possible interaction of the adjacent facilities.

The work on improving access at the launch site is nearing completion and we are on target to have the new management arrangements in place by the start of the next season in April 2012.

As ever, as our plans move on, we would welcome points of view from Parishioners.

Forest Green – Application for Village Green Status

As far back as 1919 this piece of land has been used by the public, a factual statement that is well documented. In the 1950's a telephone kiosk was erected on the site, and also a bus shelter. For some time the bus shelter was not used. However in recent years it has been brought back into use, collecting children whose families have moved into the area to take them to school.

For many years a local resident cleared the site of bracken and nettles twice a year and generally kept the green tidy, until his death in 1998. From that date forward it has only been cleared by means of goodwill gestures by local residents and farmers in order to keep access along a bridle path open and prevent people thinking it was an area where they could dump rubbish.

This piece of land was brought to the attention of the Parish council at a PC meeting and in 2008 Herefordshire Council were approached by Walford PC with a view to making the land at Forest Green common land and owned by Walford Parish. At that time the advice was the land had to be maintained by Walford for a minimum of 12 years, and there needed to be a proof of use by residents to support the application.

Herefordshire Council now confirm that they have all of the history detail that they require but need proof of current use. In order to prove this we need letters from residents to say that they are using the land and for what purpose.

If you are one of those residents who uses this piece of land please write and tell me in order that I may start to prepare a dossier to forward to the planners for approvals. If you have any recent photographs of you using the area that would be an advantage for us.

Cheryl Carpenter - Chair - Forest Green Working Group.

External Audit for Walford Parish Council

Walford Parish Council are pleased to report that the External Audit of their accounts for year ending 31/03/11, was successfully completed by Mazars Accountants – who are appointed by the Audit Commission – and has been signed off as follows:

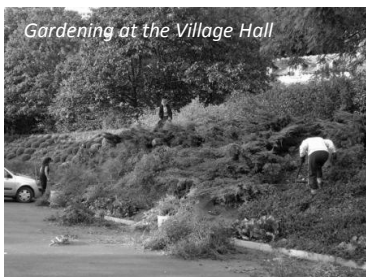
“On the basis of our review, in our opinion the information in the annual return is in accordance with proper practices and no matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.”

Copies of the Annual Return are available for inspection via the Clerk to the Council.

Bishopswood Village Hall

After a few very busy summer months with BBQ's on the patio and cream teas at the Village Hall, we are now looking forward to putting on some winter entertainment. The hall continues to be well used and busy but we have to be careful to balance that with the fundraising events.

The August Bank holiday weekend was a busy time Songs of Praise with the Ross Town Band followed by Cream Teas, the ever popular Duck Race from Kerne Bridge to the Canoe Launch and family fun at the Village Hall. This event is a joint effort with all funds raised being shared between All Saints Church and the Village Hall.



Volunteers who came to help with the gardening at the Village Hall were rewarded with a free BBQ for all their hard work. The grounds were looking very neat and tidy when we had finished and the weather was kind enough for us to sit out into the evening and enjoy the food, wine and each other's company. A huge "thank you" to our gallant team of gardeners.

Tea Dances at the Village Hall continue to be popular – Malcolm Wilce providing the music and volunteers from the community serving tea, coffee and homemade cakes at the interval. The next one is on Sunday 20th November.

Table sales continue on the mornings of Saturday 8th October and 12th November at the Village Hall and Breakfast in Bishopswood hosted by All Saints Church is usually on the 1st Sunday of each month, (but see the website for dates). Make your choice from cereal, fruit, bacon, eggs, sausages, hash browns etc with tea or coffee and toast. The Sunday papers are always available and there is a short service following breakfast for those who wish to stay.



Bishopswood WI have organised a trip to the Christmas Market in Cheltenham on Wednesday November 23rd. The coach will leave Bishopswood Village Hall, where there is plenty of free parking, at 9-15am and return there at approximately 4-30pm. If you would like to join us for the day please contact Ann on 01989563068. The cost will be £9-00.

Our Quizmaster is busy preparing the questions for the Quiz Night at the Village Hall on Saturday 26th of November, a light supper will be included in the price with prizes for members of the winning team and 'wooden spoons' for the losers.

Decembers' festive activities include the Bishopswood Christmas Social on Saturday 11th – entertainment is yet to be confirmed but you can be sure it will be excellent fun, and the Community Christmas Lunch is on Sunday 18th – all the traditional festive fayre – home cooked and served at your table. We are already receiving bookings for this, reserve your place by telephoning Monica on 01594 860303.

www.BVHonline.co.uk has full details of these and other events at Bishopswood Village Hall. There is now a monthly newsletter available - delivered direct to your 'inbox' with full details of events in and around Bishopswood. You can subscribe via the website or email info@bvhonline.co.uk direct

What's cooking at Walford Village Hall?

One of the social events that the Hall committee puts on is a Pudding evening. What this means is that a group of ladies (and occasionally fellas) will rustle up six sweet puddings (I still like to call them afters) for a group of pudding lovers to chew, think about, debate and then go back for more. They are expected to taste at least three or four on offer and preferably all six!

The recipes are available for those who wish to try them out at home with or without amendments. A good appetite is obviously required as well as stamina.

It's not just eating though. To fill the gaps between eating it has become customary to challenge diners with a few well chosen brainteasers to occupy digestion time and exercise logic, memory and discussion. Couples are introduced to others and make up tables so that there's no isolation and many heads to scratch in finding the answers.

We have one of these coming up next month, Friday October 28th at 7.30pm. It precedes Halloween by three days though whether this creeps into the event remains to be seen. Drinks are available of course! The cost is a mere £5 for the evening and it seems to be a successful happening each time, as the guests always leave smiling and cheerfully full.

In order to cater adequately without waste, we like to have a good idea of numbers so if this is something readers would like to have a go at call Terry Snow, the Secretary, on 01989 567639 or better still email: terry.snow@dsl.pipex.com. The date again Friday 28 October. Worth a punt at £5 isn't it? Regulars reckon so!

Then there's the serious matter of the Hall AGM in November, date still to be fixed. We need volunteers to join the committee for next year as numbers are down and village halls need a good cross section of village people to look after the buildings and the activities that they host.

It really does not take up a lot of time. Interested ? Again contact Terry Snow.

Councillor Terry Snow.

Bishopswood WI

We have had a busy summer with outings to Taurus Crafts, Longtown in the Golden Valley & lunch at Pengethley Garden Centre. Members enjoyed a Pimms Party evening & talks about the Little Princess Trust & Policing in the 1970s. Friends from our twin Institute in Bishops Cleeve attended the latter.

We are now looking forward to the Autumn programme when we meet at 2-30pm. Visitors are most welcome.

On October 14th. Kate Price talks & demonstrates on her "Patchwork Journey"
Our A.G.M. will be held on November 11th.

A Christmas Crafts Demonstration will be given at our meeting on December 9th.

We willingly give our time to helping within the parish & to this end we ran the refreshments & cake stall on September 17th. to help Jumpstart raise money to continue running their weekly Mothers & toddlers event in Bishopswood Village Hall .(See photo on right)



We are also providing afternoon teas at a Charity Bridge afternoon being held in the Village Hall on November 1st. The recent Fashion Show we organised in conjunction with the Village Hall to raise funds for the Hall was a great success.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

These include a return visit to our friends at Bishops Cleeve W.I. in October and an outing to the Christmas Market in Cheltenham on Wednesday November 23rd. leaving the Village Hall at 9-15 returning at 4-30pm. The cost will be £9-00. We invite members of the parish to join us on this outing. To book please ring Ann on 01989 563068.

All Saints Church - Bishopswood



All Saints Church Bishopswood has played a central role in the community since it was endowed in 1841.

The church is a simple building, hidden in the trees to the East of the main B4234 Ross-on-Wye to Coleford road. Constructed of the green stone from the Forest of Dean it is known locally as "*The Church in the Woods*".

All Saints Church Services

Date	Service and time	Other Information
1 st Sunday	11.15am Morning Worship	Bishopswood Village Hall
2 nd Sunday	11am Holy Communion	All Saints Church
3 rd Sunday	3pm Evensong	All Saints Church
4 th Sunday	11am Holy Communion	All Saints Church
Special Services		
Sunday 25 th September	3pm Harvest Festival	& Refreshments on terrace
Sunday 13 th November	10.45 Remembrance Sunday 11.05 Service of Remembrance	Ceremony - War Memorial All Saints Church
Sunday 11 th December	3pm Carol Service	All Saints Church
Date to be fixed	Carols round the Village	Will be advertised

Up Up and Away – at Walford Primary School

Class 3 and 4 at Walford Primary have had a flying start to their new academic year. The school hall was transformed into an airport departure lounge complete with check-in desks, security, Bureau de Change, duty free shopping, first class travel lounge and café.

Once all travellers had checked-in, they enjoyed a safety video, virtual flight and in-flight entertainment in their classrooms (set up as an aeroplane), whilst being served refreshments by their air stewardesses – all before morning break!!



The children were then whisked off to Staverton Airport where they visited the terminal buildings, observed planes taking-off and landing, learned about airport fire engines and explored the airport hangers which housed a range of impressive aircraft.

St Michaels and All Angels Church Walford

The Produce Stall held in Ross Market Place on July 1st was a huge success and raised in excess of £1000 for church funds – many thanks for all those who contributed and came and supported. The rest of the summer has been quiet on the events front but we have an action packed autumn planned. We have already enjoyed a cinema evening in St Mary's Hall which was well supported and we have decided to make these a regular feature in 2012.

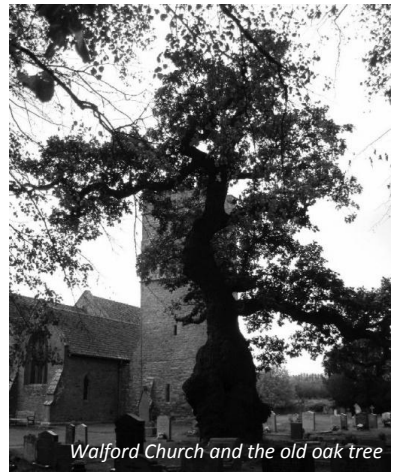
Work has been carried out on the lightning conductor on the church tower to bring it up to present required standards

The exciting news is that the diocese are advertising in September for a 'House for Duty' priest to join the Ross and Walford ministry. Interviewing will take place in December or January.

The PCC has decided to try a slight change in the order and time of services for an experimental period of a few months. This was to enable Baptisms to take place in a non-Eucharistic, All Age service at a later time in the morning which will hopefully be more convenient for the parents! In alternate months when there are no Baptisms, the All Age Service will be a Communion Service. These will all be advertised in advance and although it will be a little more complicated than the present rota hopefully we will all soon get used to it. Please do come and join us at any of the following services – you will be made most welcome!

THE SERVICE ROTA FOR THE NEXT 3 MONTHS:

2nd Oct 9.30am	Matins
9th Oct 9.30am	Parish Communion & Harvest Festival
16th October	NO SERVICE
23rd October 11.15am	All Age
30th October 9.30am	All Saints Day Service
6th November 9.30am	Matins
13th November 10.50am	Remembrance Day Service
20th November 3.30pm	Evensong
27th November 11.15am	All Age
4th December 9.30am	Matins
11th December 9.30am	Parish Communion
18th December 3.30pm	Carol Service
24th December 4.00pm	Christingle Service - 11.30pm Midnight Mass
25th December 9.30am	Parish Communion



Walford Church and the old oak tree

We also have some extra activities organised for the following weeks to which everyone is invited:

Sunday 9th October 9.30am

Harvest Festival followed by refreshments in the Church.

Any offers of produce or help with decoration/refreshments would be gratefully received – we are a very small (and friendly!) band now! *Contact Gay Chinn 01989 563128/qay@cobrey.co.uk*

Sunday 16th October 12 noon

Bus Trip to Oxford to visit Ashmolean Museum followed by evensong and dinner at Christchurch College - tickets £20. *Details available from Murray Alston, murray.alston@btinternet.com*

Friday 11th November 7.30pm

Jesse Norman MP 'Life at Westminster' talk and discussion in Hom Church. Tickets £10 including drinks and canapés. *Details from Sanna Drummond, 01989 765315/sanna@drummond1.demon.co.uk*

18th December 3.30pm Carol Service followed by refreshments

24th December 4.00pm Christingle Service. Please fill in forms available in the back of the Church during Advent to make sure that we have enough Christingles at what is always a very popular service.

Lastly a plea for your support for our **Gift Day** which always falls on St Michael and All Angels' Day or Michaelmas, September 29th.

Many of you will receive a letter through your door regarding this and I really do beg you NOT to consign it to the recycling bin without giving a moment to consider if you could give a little to help keep your beautiful old church functioning and in good repair.

Gay Chinn

h.Energy
Sustainable Herefordshire Week
15th—23rd October 2011

Don't miss h.energy week!
15th -23rd October

70 'low carbon events' will be taking place all across the county involving community groups, households, schools, farms, businesses, council departments and GP surgeries. All are opening their doors to members of the community who are interested in finding out about renewable energy, energy efficiency, local food production, and sustainable building. There is also a big showcase event at the Courtyard Theatre on the Monday (17th October) featuring Alys Fowler from Gardener's World and Andrew Simms from the new economics foundation. We hope you can come along! More information, including the brochure is available at www.herefordshirenewleaf.org.uk or contact dave@herefordshirenewleaf.org.uk

Parish Plan – Results of Survey

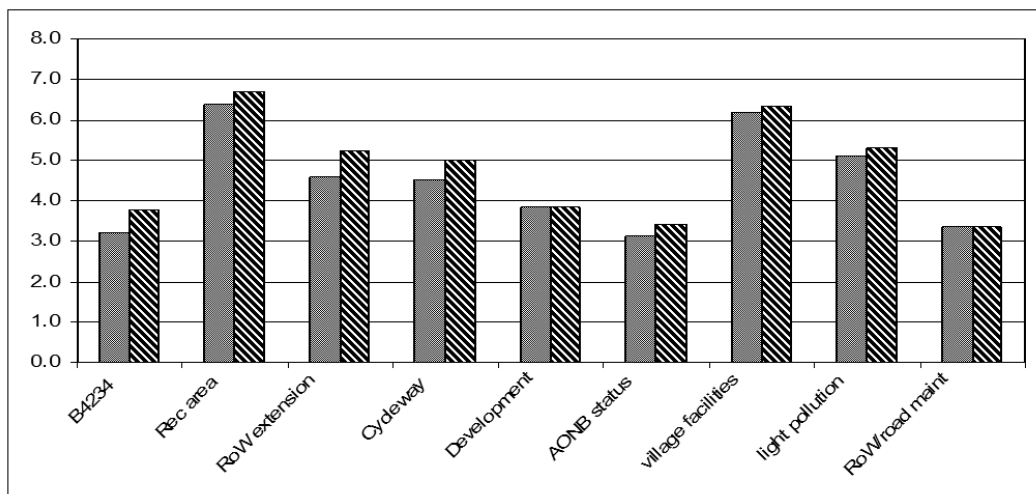
In the Spring Newsletter we asked you to update what you saw as a priority in the Parish Plan. We listed the original issues that had been identified in the plan and asked you to rank them in order of importance, or object to their inclusion. The results are shown below. The score is the average order of importance – so a lower number means more important. We had a few objections, though not a high enough proportion to actually consider dropping any particular issue. To help take these views into account, we counted an objection as a very low priority and created a modified average. Both scores and their ranking are shown in the table and graphically (the hatched lines in the graph are the modified average).

It is clear that the AONB status is highly valued by people (though one respondent felt it hampered modern farming development), and that the RoW and road maintenance should continue to be the main focus of the Parish Council, closely followed by measures to slow traffic on the B4234 or to provide alternative non-car alternative routes. This linked in to some extent with the Cycleway. Note that the actual proposal for the cycleway is for a multipurpose route open to walkers, cyclists and horse riders. Of particular concern was the need for a footway from the sawmills to Kerne Bridge, and from Kerne Bridge to the Bishopswood Shop.

Concerns over development and the style of development were also high. One respondent pointed out that development may not necessarily need to be vernacular, provided the architecture was of a high standard.

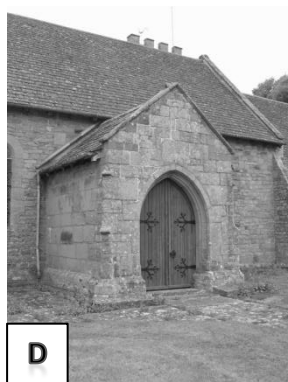
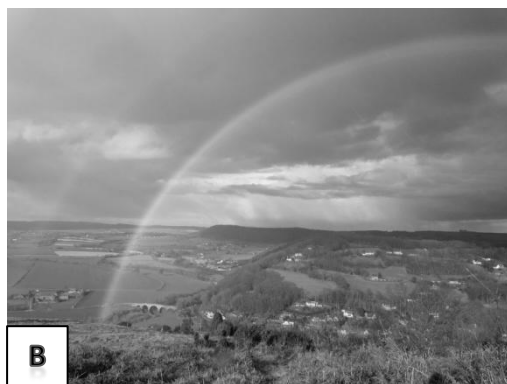
The lowest priorities were the need for additional village facilities, such as a shop in Walford, and the parish recreation area. Many respondents pointed out that the parish already has a shop in Bishopswood, and urged people to make use of it to help maintain its viability. Some pointed out that if a shop were viable in Walford, one would exist. Respondents were concerned that a recreation facility was a minority interest, and that the cost to create and maintain one would be prohibitive. Suggestions were to come to an arrangement to use the existing School facilities.

	Avg score	Rank	Objections	Modified Avg	Modified Rank
B4234 non car use hazardous and unpleasant	3.2	2	2	3.8	3
Parish recreation area	6.4	8	2	6.7	9
Extension to footpath/bridleway network	4.6	5	3	5.3	6
Cycleway	4.5	4	2	5.0	5
Development should be spread out and minimal, and in keeping with the vernacular style	3.8	3	0	3.8	3
AONB status highly valued, balanced impact fo farming with community and tourism	3.1	1	1	3.4	1
Lack of village facilities such as shop in Walford	6.2	7	1	6.3	8
Minimise street lighting and light pollution	5.1	6	1	5.3	6
Maintain roads, footways and rights of way	3.4	3	0	3.4	1



Councillor Marc Thomas.

Know your Parish?



These photos are of four locations in Walford parish. No cribbing or looking over your neighbour's shoulder, can you identify them?

Walford Pre-School Playgroup

Walford Pre-School Playgroup wishes the very best of luck to all those that have just started "Big School". It's always sad to lose children that have been with us, but such is the natural progression of Early Years education.

The current children (spaces are still available- children typically start in the term of their 3rd birthday) have been enjoying small nature walks around the village to learn more about our wonderful countryside.

A Halloween party has been planned for 31st October, mostly suitable for Playgroup and Year R children (some activities for Primary school siblings), which for the first time will incorporate a trick or treat game as we know that living around here, it is sometimes difficult to do this for real.

Residents near to the hall need not worry as it will be part of the party inside! For any information on Playgroup, please contact Sara Jones, Play Leader on 01989 566115 or visit our website, www.walfordpreschoolplaygroup.co.uk

Registration of septic tanks

The registration of small sewage discharges in England:

You may recently have had notification that septic tanks will need to be registered with the Environment Agency, however the government is now 'reviewing the registration of small sewage discharges in England.' Whilst this is happening, you will not be required to register, provided you comply with the requirements they have set out.

Following the review, if you operate a small sewage discharge and need to take action, they will give you plenty of notice and ensure there is adequate publicity advising what you need to do.

Please call or visit the website for further information.

03708 506506 www.environment-agency.gov.uk

Walford Parish Council meetings schedule for 2011

TIME / TYPE OF MEETING:	DATE :	LOCATION:
7.30PM FULL COUNCIL	12/10/11	Walford Village Hall
6.30PM FINANCE COMMITTEE 7.30PM FULL COUNCIL	09/11/11	Bishopswood Village Hall
7.30pm FULL COUNCIL	14/12/11	Walford Village Hall

Clerk to the Parish Council: Catherine Murray
Rose Cottage, Coughton, Ross on Wye, HR9 5SF.

E mail: clerk@walford-pc.org.UK

Tel: 01989 562476

PARISH WEBSITE: <http://www.walford-pc.org>.uk

The Clerk is available between
9am and 5pm Monday to Friday.