

May Newsletter

Bredenbury & District Group Parish Council

This month I would like to provide an update on two topics – Potholes & our Neighbourhood Plan.

Many of us have noticed the marked deterioration in the condition of roads, both major and minor, over the winter months. The formation of potholes caused by ingress of water into cracks in the road's surface and the aggressive freeze/thaw cycle is now well publicised. Over the last few months, you will have seen workers from Balfour Beatty repairing potholes only for them to re-appear after further falls of snow. We know, from our meetings with Balfour Beatty, that they are doing their utmost to keep up with the repair programme and how responsive they are to requests for potholes to be repaired despite the unprecedented workload. Please don't forget that you can report new potholes, either directly on the Herefordshire County Council website (<https://myaccount.herefordshire.gov.uk/report-a-pothole>) or to a member of the Parish Council. Some good news is that the A44 will be a priority for the coming year and despite the obvious disruption which will be necessary while the works are completed, we should see a marked improvement as a result. At the same time, we are in discussions with Balfour Beatty to ensure that the section of the A44 through Bredenbury is given the level of attention required both with respect to the surface of the road and the road safety requirements which we have identified.

By the time that you read this update, every household in Bredenbury, Wacton & Grendon Bishop will have received the first of a series of communications regarding our Neighbourhood Plan. In announcing this I would like to address two concerns which have been aired recently. The first is that Neighbourhood Plans will not be enforced if the County Council wish to override them. This may have been true of the old Parish Plans but since the government passed legislation in the 2011 Localism Act it is very difficult for the views of the local community set out in a properly constituted Neighbourhood Plan to be ignored. The second is that the plan is already set out by the Parish Council which is most definitely not the case. We do have ideas about priority issues which are outlined in the initial leaflet but we will consult with all households to check that these are shared throughout the community. Every member of the community should have the chance to have their say in putting our plan together. It is also a chance for you to get involved directly should you wish to do so. This could be anything from joining the steering group to becoming a " friend" of the Neighbourhood Plan to ensure you have regular updates on our progress over the coming months. If you do not receive a leaflet please contact either Vicky Hancock (01885 482832) or myself (01885 488360) and we will deliver a copy.

This first leaflet will be followed by a second communication containing a short survey which is intended to get everyone's view on which issues we should address in our plan. Please take a few minutes to read and complete this survey. Your response, which will be greatly appreciated, will be anonymous to enable you to have your say freely and it will help us to prepare the draft plan. If you would like more than one copy for your household just let us know and we will arrange delivery.

In signing off, I would like to introduce you to a phrase which I hope will resonate with you and become very familiar over the coming months – Your Place, Your Future!