

Bredenbury Group Parish Council

Following the recent Community Forum, our Neighbourhood Plan Steering group are working through the comments which will help us to formulate the more detailed second Community Survey. Again, a big thank you to those who were able to attend. As there is a lot of preparation work needed in advance of the second survey, this is likely to take place either late November or early December. We will distribute the surveys by hand and arrange to collect the completed surveys within the following two weeks. We hope that by doing so, everyone will have the chance to have their say which will ensure that we get the views of the majority of households. One final important point is to ask that you complete the survey even if you agree with everything that is being done and you see no need for further change - that viewpoint is just as valid as any other.

In the meantime, we were pleased to learn that funding for the examination and referendum stages of the Plan will be available and we remain hopeful that additional funding will be forthcoming along the way. However, as I explained previously, the Parish Council agree strongly that a renewed Neighbourhood Plan is essential for our community and we will continue with this initiative irrespective of external funding.

During early October, members of the Parish Council attended two meetings held at the Offices of Herefordshire Council at Plough Lane. The first was an update on the work of the in-house Flood Risk & Drainage Management Team. While we do not suffer major problems in Bredenbury, there are some areas where we can benefit from the work of this group and we have made contact to discuss these issues further. On a lighter note, during the meeting, a Parish Councillor from nearby Pencombe made the observation that Bredenbury does not have flooding problems as we send all our flood water directly to Pencombe!

The second meeting was the Parish Summit which details the interaction between all Parish Councils and Herefordshire Council. Over the last couple of years, a group which is made up of representatives of both bodies have developed a document known as the Parish Charter, which sets the standards for all work between individual Parishes and Herefordshire – thankfully, in both directions! All Parish Councils across Herefordshire have been asked to discuss and determine if they wish to adopt the Charter.

Please don't forget the new local Facebook group that has been launched. Bredenbury Community News already has a growing number of followers and is intended as a general site for local news, events and general interest topics. The Parish Council discussed this new initiative and agreed that it would be sensible to remove our dedicated Facebook page. Having a single Facebook group which is available to the entire community rather than separate groups for different entities seems to make so much more sense.

During October we received a further update on progress towards the reduction of the speed limit along the A44 through Bredenbury. We were assured that this is still work in progress. However, any proposal to change a speed limit has to undergo a rigorous consultation process, much of which goes on behind the scenes. This explains why the inclusion of further road markings has been carried out without specifically signing the speed limit. The roadside roundels still meet the legal requirements but when the new reduced limit is in place, there will be further reminders painted directly onto the road surface.

And finally, a super night out was enjoyed by all who attended the recent Harvest Supper in Bredenbury Village Hall. The event was very well attended with everyone enjoying great food and great company! Thanks to all who made this happen!

As always - *Our Place, Our Future!*

*John Hulse – Chairman, Bredenbury Group Parish Council*