

Bredenbury Group Parish Council

Recently, there have been two incidents giving cause for concern. Reports are that two individuals have attempted to break in to properties late at night. In both cases, at least one of them is dressed in either brightly coloured or hi-vis clothing. We checked this out with the Bromyard Safer Neighbourhood Team and it appears that this is now common practice. Apparently, they would argue that nobody would try to attempt a break in if they are dressed like that! The advice from the police is to stay indoors rather than going outside to challenge them. Call 999 immediately, if they are still on the property and 101 if they have left. The good news is that the police responded quickly after the 999 was made. Thankfully, nobody has been hurt in either incident but it is clear that these are very disturbing events. If you have any other concerns you can also contact the Bromyard Safer Neighbourhood Team through the Neighbourhood Matters website (www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk) or just enter Bromyard SNT into your search engine.

With the resurfacing of the A44 through Bredenbury completed, it was good to hear comments from many local residents, especially those who either live along that stretch of road or walk along the pavements on a daily basis and who have noticed that most of the traffic appears to be going slower between our village gates and that they feel more comfortable while walking through the village. I would also like to acknowledge the traffic control team who despite receiving torrents of unnecessary abuse from drivers who having ignored all of the road closure signs found that they could not travel through Bredenbury but were quick to help those of us who live within the road closure zone to have access both safely and with minimal delays. Finally, we have also noticed that some of the remaining notices that are painted on the road refer to the impending implementation of the 30mph limit. While there has been no official communication, these signs are at the very least, encouraging.

I can't leave this subject without acknowledging the work of our Traffic Management Group who helped "pave the way" towards making these improvements. Encouraged by Simon Hobbs, Highways Accident Investigation & Safety Manager for Herefordshire Council, who suggested that we prepare a Traffic Management Plan. Simon advised that this would assist greatly in convincing the powers that be that we were serious about improving road safety in Bredenbury. As a result, the group prepared and submitted the Plan which was instrumental in achieving these improvements. So, I would like to acknowledge and thank Becca Libby, Hugh Farey, Huw Burton, Pete Jones, Peter Kirk and Vicky Hancock all of whom helped to prepare the Traffic Management Plan. The group first met on 9th August 2021 so it shows that both patience and tenacity are absolute requirements when working on this type of initiative.

On another topic, a new local Facebook group has been launched. It is called Bredenbury Community News and is intended as a general site for local news, events and general interest topics. Again, special thanks to Huw Burton who set up the page. The group is not aligned to any particular organisation so can be used by any local resident who would like to make posts about matters of local interest. As is usual with this type of Group, inappropriate posts will be filtered out by the group admins. If all you want to do is keep up to date then search for the group then click on "follow" so you will then receive any updates whenever you are logged on to Facebook.

By the time you read this, we will have held our first Community Forum as part of our Neighbourhood Plan renewal. Even if you were not able to attend in person, the opportunity remains for you to become involved and to give your thoughts on our renewed Plan. Over the last few months, we have shared how we were determined to carry on with the Plan renewal even though the official advice from Herefordshire Council was to put this work on hold. I am sure you will share our delight when you learn that that they have withdrawn this advice and are now encouraging every parish in the county to consider renewing their Plans where appropriate. They have already shared some essential components with us which we will be able to incorporate into the new Plan. Of course, we still face the problem of financing this work as the Government have removed a grant funding for Neighbourhood Plans so you may notice that some of our notices and displays are a little less professional in their appearance than previously but the content is just as good!

And as I have said previously, this is not the Parish Council's Neighbourhood Plan. It is the community's Plan. The Steering Group will do the work of bringing all of these thoughts and ideas together but we do need your input to ensure that we are

getting it right. We cannot hope to implement every suggestion but we can ensure that the Plan reflects the views and wishes of the majority. In doing so we will endeavour to understand everyone's opinions and we will always respect them.

Reflecting on all of the above, also brings home to me how differently things work in a rural community. Having been born and brought up in urban Manchester where it always seemed that things just happened, both good and bad, without the input of local people, I now recognize how local people in our community make things happen. Not just being a Parish Councillor or becoming a member of a Traffic Management or NDP Steering Group. Local people help to keep our Village Hall running, they keep our Church services running now that our Vicar has retired, they run Xmas Fairs, Summer BBQs and monthly quiz nights. None of the above would happen without the local volunteers who organize these events and and of course, all of those who attend and support them.

As always - *Our Place, Our Future!*

John Hulse – Chairman, Bredenbury Group Parish Council