



Hello,

The sun is glorious as I'm writing this and I'm struck by what a difference it makes to all the rain we had in March!

We held our PC meeting on the 5th April, the day the Statements of Persons Nominated for the Local Council Elections were released. The Statements are available to read on the website <https://fownhopeparishcouncil.gov.uk/local-council-elections> and on the noticeboards outside the West End Stores and New Memorial Hall. However, to save you looking, I can tell you that we have nine nominated Parish Councillors: Kevin Braybrook, Stuart Eames, Frank Hemming, Tim Jones, Will Morris, Michael Short, Mike Simmons, Lavinia Smith and Gareth Williams. There are twelve seats on the council so all persons nominated will be elected and we will have three vacancies. If you feel you could fill one of these vacancies and would like more information on becoming a Parish Councillor, please do get in touch.

There are three councillors who stand nominated for District Councillor for Backbury Ward, and they are Graham Biggs (Local Conservatives), John Hardwick (Independent) and James Vidler (Liberal Democrats).

The election will take place on Thursday 4th May between 7am and 10pm at the New Memorial Hall; and because of the elections, our next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 17th May at 7pm at the Pavilion. This will be the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

So, on to the summary of the last Parish Council meeting. If you'd like to read the full draft minutes, they are available on the website: <https://fownhopeparishcouncil.gov.uk/agendas-and-minutes>

Ward Councillor Report:

Cllr Hardwick made a very brief report as we are in the period of purdah, but wished to report that Children's Services have received their first Ofsted report since being placed in special measures. The team had been praised for improvements already made, though Ofsted inspections will continue for the next couple of years. The Parish Council acknowledged the progress made and noted that the positive comments would give the team a much-needed boost.

Highways and Traffic Calming Scheme:

SID data continues to be monitored on a monthly basis and is now available to download from the website: <https://fownhopeparishcouncil.gov.uk/traffic-calming>. Please note periods of roadworks are marked with an asterix.

We are still chasing the replacement of the litter bin removed from outside Fairfield Green but the new Lengthsman, Lee Fishwick, has now started his new role and we will be meeting with him during April to discuss this and other matters that we feel need to be addressed.

The Traffic Calming Grant proposal is still with Herefordshire Council as BBLP are in the process of completing design drawings for approval within HC and West Mercia Police, and then the recommended scheme will be costed. At that point, a further meeting with representatives of the Parish Council will be arranged to discuss the design, costs and delivery and we expect this will be towards the end of April or beginning of May. There will be a public consultation if there are any modifications to the scheme that has already been proposed, but I shall report more in due course. For now, though, the scheme is moving forwards and is anticipated to be delivered before the 31st March 2024.

The meeting was informed that MF Freemans have now transferred £19,800 to Herefordshire Council to add to the £175,000 Traffic Calming scheme for Fownhope. This relates to cost savings made by Freemans when they altered some aspects of the planned development, which had been agreed would be passed on for the benefit of Fownhope, and means that the total sum for the traffic calming scheme is now £194,800.

Fownhope Community Saturday Event:



We held the second Community Saturday on Saturday 25th March and were all about **Gardens and Habitats**. It was a fun, busy, vibrant couple of hours with plant sales, information and advice, creative and practical activities for children and amazing refreshments, and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who came along to help, and of course everyone who came along to

enjoy it. I can't imagine it would be much fun if no-one came!

So, with thanks to Melodie and Tony Winch of [Friends of the Earth](#), who talked to us about bees; Anne Crane and Sally Webster from [Verging on the Wild](#) who talked about the importance of wild flowers in our verges, and donated some plants to sell; and to Jane Cawley and her family who talked about [hedgehogs](#) and how we can help to nurture and protect them in Fownhope. Jane created a brilliant Powerpoint presentation which we showed throughout the afternoon and which I plan to put on to the website under the Climate Emergency and Biodiversity page: <https://fownhopeparishcouncil.gov.uk/>, and many congratulations to Juliette Austin-Chandler who won the Hedgehog House in the free prize draw!

We'd also like to thank Tanya and Kate from St. Mary's PTA for amazing children's activities, Heather for her composting know-how and plant sales, Frank for his seed swaps and of course all our regular Environment Group volunteers and cake bakers and helpers who provided our delicious afternoon tea.

We really hope that everyone who came along enjoyed the afternoon and took away a little something new to try at home. I was delighted to receive the following message when I logged back onto my emails on Monday:

"I just wanted to say a quick thank you for organising such a lovely community event. We have recently moved into Fownhope and it's so wonderful to go to something like that and see a community in action. Everyone was so welcoming and our children had a ball. If ever you'd like additional help and support, I would love to be involved."

If you weren't able to make it this time, please save the date for the next one on Saturday 24th June! You can find out more here: <https://fownhopeparishcouncil.gov.uk/fownhope-community-saturdays>.

King Charles III Coronation:



On **Monday 8th May** we will be celebrating the coronation of King Charles III with a street party vided community event on the Recreation Field and will have tables and chairs set up for you to bring along your own picnic and enjoy it with your family, friends and neighbours in true Street Party style!

We're delighted to be working with St. Mary's PTA to make this a super event and you'll find more information detailed on another article within this issue of the Flag.

As well as the activities planned by the PTA, we are asking all of the village Clubs and Organisations if they would like to host a table to promote the wide variety of activities and opportunities available in Fownhope.

So, please pop the date in your diary and come along to celebrate our wonderful community and another historic royal event. Everyone is welcome!

Parish Footpaths and the Fownhope Coronation Walk:

We were delighted to have received 11 gates this month, five kissing gates and six self-closing pedestrian gates, from the Wye Valley AONB – DEFRA Access For All funding, a scheme designed to improve accessibility within protected landscapes. All of the gates have been allocated and will be installed over the next few months.

Plans for the new circular Fownhope walk were discussed and following the responses to the consultation, it was agreed that the walk would be called the **Fownhope Coronation Walk**. Finishing touches are being made to the new waymarker logo which will mark the way, along with a map and directions, available printed or downloadable from the website. It's a walk designed to take in the best bits of Fownhope and will be made as accessible as possible.

Website:

Finally, just a gentle reminder to keep an eye on the website for updates and information, or subscribe to my emailed newsletter if you don't already receive it.

<https://fownhopeparishcouncil.gov.uk/>

Dates for your diary:

- **Local Council Elections, Fownhope New Memorial Hall, Thursday 4th May**
- **Coronation Celebrations, Monday 8th May, Recreation Field**
- **Parish Council Meeting: Wednesday 17th May, 7pm, Pavilion**

- **Fownhope Community Saturday: Saturday 24th June, 2-4pm, Pavilion**

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