



Hello,

Summer Bus to Ledbury

I am pleased to announce that the Summer Bus Service to Ledbury started again in May and will continue to run on the fourth Friday of June, July and August this year. The timetable is on the noticeboard outside the West End Stores, in this issue of the Flag and on the Noticeboard page of the website: <https://fownhopeparishcouncil.gov.uk/noticeboard>

Please use the service to protect it.

Annual Governance and Accounting Return (AGAR)

Each year, every Parish Council is externally audited on their governance and accounting procedures. Whilst every council must undertake the same process, smaller authorities can submit a certificate which exempts them from submitting documents to the External Auditor, PKF Littlejohn, though this does not apply to Fownhope. As part of the audit, parishioners are able to request to view the Parish Council's accounting records. Details of this and the audit forms are available to view on the noticeboard and to download on the website: <https://fownhopeparishcouncil.gov.uk/financial-reporting>

Parish Council Vacancies:



The Parish Council still has three vacancies and we are keen to fill these as quickly as possible.

Cllr Stuart Eames was elected as the Chair of the Parish at the May meeting, and Cllr Kevin Braybrook was elected as Vice Chair. Contact details, photographs and short bios on all councillors can be found on the website at <https://fownhopeparishcouncil.gov.uk/meet-the-council2>

The Parish Council is a busy, pro-active council - current projects include a circular Coronation walk, designed to take in the best bits of Fownhope; a traffic calming scheme funded by a grant awarded by Herefordshire Council, together with ongoing work with the B4224 Multi Parish Strategy Group; and an application for Quality Gold status of the National Local Council Award Scheme, which demonstrates that a council is at the forefront of best practice and is achieving excellence in governance, community leadership and council development.

If you would like to join the team and help care for Fownhope and its residents, please get in touch – we do need you!!

Tree Warden:

However, after months of searching for a new volunteer Parish Tree Warden, I am delighted to announce that Frank Hemming has been appointed to the role. Frank is an experienced Parish Councillor and keen environmentalist with a good working knowledge of trees, so if you have any questions or concerns, please contact Frank by email at frank.hemming@fownhopeparishcouncil.gov.uk

Highways:

Just a brief update on Highways matters this month – we are continuing to seek a progress report on the £175,000 Traffic Calming Scheme with Herefordshire Council and Balfour Beatty. We have copied in our new Ward Councillor, Cllr Graham Biggs, and the new Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Cllr Philip Price, and will hopefully have something more to report next month.

Balfour Beatty have installed some additional safety bollards on Common Hill Lane but declined to replace the broken road sign on Church Croft. The Parish Council has gone ahead and ordered the sign (at the princely sum of £41.34) and will install it when it arrives. The replacement safety barrier at the top of Biggs Lane has also arrived and may have already been replaced by the time you read this.

A site meeting has been arranged with Welsh Water to discuss concerns about the verge and trees near to the sewage treatment works that are being damaged by tankers.

Data from the Speed Indicator Device continues to be monitored and is available on the website: <https://fownhopeparishcouncil.gov.uk/traffic-calming>

Environment:



We are continuing to run the Fownhope Community Saturday events with the next one scheduled for Saturday 24th June. The event runs from 2pm until 4pm and this month will be focusing on Recycling and Upcycling.

On the theme of ‘cycling’ we have invited Dr. Bike to come along and give residents the opportunity to bring their bike for a free check over with advice on how to keep your bike in good working order.

We shall also be holding a good old-fashioned jumble sale to re-use and re-purpose clothes, books, wellies, coats and anything else that comes our way; and we shall be welcoming Ginn Downes who hosts Creative Workshops and has her own School of Sewing to show us how to upcycle old textiles. Any leftover textiles will be donated to the two textile banks in Fownhope – St. Mary’s School and Firefighter Service at Faulkner House.

Please keep an eye on the website for more information:

<https://fownhopeparishcouncil.gov.uk/fownhope-community-saturdays> and join us for the next event on 23rd September when we’ll be all about Home Energy.

Invasive Plants:

It has been reported that Japanese Knotweed has returned to the River Wye and it was resolved to once again contact the Wye Usk Foundation to come along and attend to it as they have done before. A small but dedicated team of local volunteers continue to tackle the Himalayan Balsam growing in Tan Brook and (very) carefully also attending to some Giant Hogweed that has taken root there. We'd like to record our grateful thanks to them all for their time and dedication.

Scotch Firs Grass Cutting:



You may have noticed that the grass at the front of Scotch Firs had not been cut as usual this year; unfortunately, the usual contractor did not have the capacity this year.

Whilst some argued for 'No Mow May', others preferred the grass to be kept low and eventually the grass was cut over the Bank Holiday at the end of May.

The Parish Council agreed that it should be kept down during the summer, and I have today received confirmation from Balfour Beatty that their contractors will cut the grass on a monthly basis.

I have also been informed that Herefordshire Council have inspected the two trees on Scotch Firs following a number of concerns reported. The inspection noted:

- No indication of imminent failure.
- Minor dieback in upper crown.
- Remove elder growing into both trees
- Sever ivy at base – 1m gap

The contractors attended on 17th May and severed the ivy and removed the elder and we are informed that the trees will be monitored and remedial works will be carried out as necessary.

Environment Group Meetings:

The next meeting for the Environment Group will be on Monday 26th June at the Green Man. The meetings are open to anyone with an interest in the environment, so please do come along and join us. We start at 7pm and generally finish by 8.30pm.

Herefordshire Council Waste Team:

We shall be inviting the Waste Team to come along to an Environment Group Meeting later in the year (October/November possibly) to talk about the new waste and recycling service being implemented either later this year or in 2024. I shall report more on this in due course, but if this is something that would be of interest to you, it would be helpful if you could please let me know so we can organise something appropriate to the number of people who'd like to come along.

And 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:

- **Fownhope Community Saturday Event, 24th June, 2-4pm, Pavilion**
- **Environment Group Meeting, Monday 26th June, 7pm, Green Man**
- **Parish Council Meeting: Wednesday 5th July, 7pm, Pavilion**

Helen Tinson, Clerk
clerk@fownhopeparishcouncil.co.uk
07989 066782