

Warndon Parish Council News

January 2024



Chair's Message

We were all devastated with the sad news that Cllr Andy Roberts died in August. He was a friend and colleague for many years, and we have a lot of happy memories. Our heartfelt sympathies go out to his widow Fran and his family. We shall so miss his wisdom and guidance that he gave us. Nothing was too much bother to him, and he always found a solution to a problem or issue. We recently had two By-Elections to replace Andy Roberts. The results were that Cllr Andrew Cross was elected to the County Council and Cllr Katie Collier was elected to Worcester City Council. We look forward to working with both of them.

Everyone is most welcome at Parish Council meetings. It meets at 7pm on the first Monday of each month except after a bank holiday when it meets on the second Monday. Meetings are managed in accordance with the requirements of the law and by the Council's standing orders. The public are invited to speak at the start of the meeting as indicated on the agenda. Usually, each speaker will have up to 5 minutes. The Clerk will note the contact details of each speaker so that a written answer if required, may be supplied. The public is most welcome to remain, however it is down to the discretion of the chair to invite questions from the public to allow the effective conduct of the business of the meeting.

Cllr Lucy Hodgson

Family Fun Club at the Lyppard Hub

This year the parish council in partnership with St Nicholas Church Warndon, is again supporting a family fun club at the Lyppard Hub during the colder months.

The Family Fun Club is a free family-based after-school play session to support families during the colder months.

Open from 3.30pm – 5.00pm every Tuesday until February half term and will restart from Tuesday 9 January.

This session offers sports activities, crafts and board games aimed at families with children aged 4-11 years. There is no need to pre-book, just pop along after school! Please note, parents/carers must supervise their children at all times.



Introducing our new Parish Warden

Jake and his team have been working hard in the last few months to take control of the shrubbery and hedges, which have grown at an alarming rate due to the 'tropical' late summer and autumn weather. Most of the hedge trimming has now been completed and the team will focus on the shrub beds and roundabouts, with some of this work having already started. Thanks go to Jake and his team, as it has been a particularly challenging time due to a shortage of team members. Since the end of July, the parish have also been without a dedicated Parish Warden, which has also had an impact on the management of our greenspaces.



We are now pleased to introduce you to James, our new Parish Warden, who joined the team in late November and will be working in the parish Monday-Wednesday and Friday and on Thursday he will be working in St Peters.

Speed Activated Signs supported by the Parish Council



Speeding has been a hot topic in Warndon Parish over recent months. In the summer we had the incidents of "boy racers" who assembled at the KFC car park off Nunnery Way, which have thankfully reduced following greater police action because of concerns raised by residents through the Parish Council. The other speeding concern are drivers exceeding the statutory speed limits on the roads within Warndon Villages.

The Parish Council has owned and operated a speed activated sign for many years, and last year a second sign was purchased that has increased the coverage. Recent data records have shown a reduction in the number of speeders (exceeding 30mph) by 5% on Hastings Drive, and around 2% on Millwood Drive. Encouraged by these findings the Parish Council voted to purchase an additional sign that will provide all year-round coverage on Dugdale Drive where around 17% of drivers are exceeding the speed limit. We are hoping to secure a grant from the West Mercia Police Commissioner's Community Fund that covers Safer Roads towards its purchase. In the New Year proposals will be discussed at the Parish Council that will include several traffic calming measures. These will require approval from various agencies including Worcestershire County Council.

Cllr Stephen Hodgson

Defibrillator

The **Parish Council** is still searching for a suitable location for its 4th defibrillator, ideally in the Berkeleys. It would need to be in a prominent, easily accessible location, for instance a garage wall which is immediately adjacent to a footpath.

Do you think you can help... please contact the Clerk at

clerk@warndonparishcouncil.org.



Ash Dieback



You will probably have heard a lot in the news about Ash Dieback, but have you thought about how this will affect the landscape, particularly in this parish!

Ash Dieback originates from Asia and was inadvertently introduced to Europe approximately 30 years ago and identified in the UK in 2012 and in Worcestershire in 2016. It is a fungal airborne disease, which overwinters in leaf litter. Between July-October the spores are released and can travel for miles. Once they land on the tree, they penetrate the leaves of the ash tree and the fungus grows inside the tree, eventually blocking the water transport systems within, there may be a resurgence of new growth, but branches soon die back and eventually the whole tree dies. The European Ash has been devastated, as these native ash species did not evolve with the fungus, this means it has no natural defence against it. The tree will try to fight the disease, but it will weaken the tree's defence, and with year-on-year infections, few trees survive longer than four years.

It's thought that the UK will lose as many as 95% of its ash population. This is going to have a devastating impact on the landscape and the biodiversity of our woodlands, and in this area, particularly **New Plantation, Warndon Wood** and throughout our greenspaces, due to the high density of ash trees. There are around 5,000 ash trees within Worcester City boundary, which will be potentially lost over the next ten years. For those old enough to remember it will have a similar impact to our landscape, as Dutch Elm disease had in the 1970s, which saw millions of trees lost. The infected trees will need to be removed and this is due to start in the parish this winter. They may not look in particularly poor condition and it will be upsetting for many residents who regularly use the green networks seeing the landscape changing, but sadly there is no alternative. The diseased trees will be replaced with a variety of different species of trees to promote tree diversity, focussing mostly on native species, this will help lower the risk of future disease outbreaks having such a severe impact. There is evidence of ash trees in Worcestershire showing high levels of resistance and will be monitored and preserved. In future, the seeds from these disease resistant trees could be collected and grown to restore ash trees in the UK. The estimated cost nationally to manage this disease will be borne by Councils and expected to be around £15 billion.

Fancy being a Parish Tree Warden?

Tree Wardens are local tree champions who plant, look after and stand up for the trees in their patch. Whether you want to get your hands in the earth and plant trees, raise awareness about trees in your local community, or simply be the eyes, ears and voice for the trees down your street or in your parish, then you may have what it takes to be a Tree Warden. The Tree Warden scheme has been run by The Tree Council since 1990 and is supported locally by Worcestershire County Council's countryside service. It is a voluntary role and further details are available on the Tree Council's web site on the Tree Warden page. Trees and their value to our communities and landscapes have never been more vital so if you fancy getting involved for an informal chat call Wade Muggleton, The Worcestershire Tree Warden co-ordinator on 01905 844 946 or email wmuggleton@worcestershire.gov.uk



Drop in and talk to us

The parish council hosts drop-in surgeries at the Lyppard Hub, on the last Monday of each month 6.00pm - 7.00pm, for residents to meet with a Parish Councillor to raise any matters of concern.

We are here to help and look forward to meeting you.

No appointment necessary—just turn up!

Next Surgery Dates:

Monday 29 January 2024

Monday 26 February 2024

Monday 26 March 2024



Report It.....

Potholes, Road & Pavements, Streetlights, Flooding, Gritting

Report it to **Worcester County Council** Customer Services Tel: **01905 765765**

<https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/travel-and-highways>

Public & Household Bins, Vandalism, Graffiti, Dead animals, Trees & Hedges, Fly-tipping

Report it to **Worcester City Council** Customer Services Tel: **01905 722233**

<https://www.worcester.gov.uk/report-it>

Parish Council Meetings 2024

Monday 8 January 2024

Monday 5 February 2024

Monday 4 March 2024

Monday 8 April 2024

Monday 3 June 2024

Monday 8 July 2024

Monday 2 September 2024

Monday 7 October 2024

Monday 4 November 2024

Monday 2 December 2024

Annual Parish Council Meeting (AGM)

Monday 13 May 2024

Annual Parish Meeting

Thursday 16 May 2024

Warndon Safer Neighbourhoods Team (SNT)



Report a crime to **West Mercia police** 101 non-emergency calls 999 emergency calls

Online <https://www.westmercia.police.uk/ro/report/>

Please visit the website for information or assistance, or follow social media accounts for police news in your area: <https://www.westmercia.police.uk/>

Your Safer Neighbourhoods Team (SNT) is a group of local police officers dedicated to serving your community. The team is made up of officers and PCSOs based in your area, supported by additional officers from the wider area. **Report a non-urgent crime** E.mail warndon.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

Safer Neighbourhood Officer:	PC 21453 Graysmark
Safer Neighbourhood Officer:	PC 20380 Sly
Police Community Support Officer:	PCSO 6224 Anderson
Police Community Support Officer:	PCSO 40108 Exon
Police Community Support Officer:	PCSO 40601 Stansfeld

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Mobile: 07811973806
Mobile: 07811769900
Mobile: 07811769708
Mobile: 07811751560

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