

## Shropshire Council

Parish Councillors and the clerk have attended training sessions in preparation for the new Unitary authority this Spring. Opinion is divided as to whether we will see a huge impact in Lydbury North but it is inevitable that there will be some changes. The most noticeable will probably be that Lydbury north will be part of the Bishop's Castle ward as the old Kemp Valley ward will no longer exist. Election for the new councillors to represent our interests at Unitary level will take place in June. The final Boundary Commission maps can be viewed via the clerk or at any PC meeting.

Departments we most commonly come into contact with will be based at Unitary level now instead of District such as Planning, Highways, Elections, Rights of Way etc although in reality they are only a phone call or email away.

## Quality Council

The Parish Council has been thinking for some years now about the merits of becoming a quality parish council. With a Unitary Authority now a reality it would seem that 2009 would be a good year to work towards Quality status. This will mean that the council has to pass a series of tests to prove that they are effectively delivering services to the parish, one of the tests is to offer a variety of ways for the community to hear about the work of the council. Whilst members of the public are always very welcome to attend meetings in reality very few do so. This may be because everybody is satisfied with the way the parish council conducts its work (which is what we hope) or for other reasons. We can only get better at what we do if we know where we are going wrong so do please get in touch if you feel there are areas we could improve.

We would like to set up a database of email addresses so that we can quickly and effectively communicate matters of importance to the parish, for example if we hear of a road closure or changes to the bus timetables we can let everybody know quickly. If you would like your email address to be included in such a database then please send the clerk an email ([lydburycouncil@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:lydburycouncil@tiscali.co.uk)) titled "database" and you will be added.

You can also find out about the work of the parish council, including reading minutes from recent meetings and future agendas by visiting the website at [www.lydburynorth.net](http://www.lydburynorth.net).

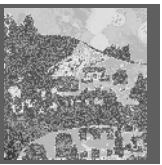
## Emergency Planning

Our area has been particularly affected by flooding in the last few years but there are also other emergencies that could affect our community such as influenza outbreaks or disruption to mains water. Three councillors, Judith Bowen, James Collin and Ian Kidd have attended a meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> January to find out how the parish council can help in such an eventuality.

## Last but not least –

Parish Councillors are very pleased to report that both the Post Office and the Primary School have more secure futures following the hard work by community members which eventually paid off. We must never be complacent though as services in rural areas are always under threat. The best way we can protect these vital establishments for the future is to use them: send your children to the primary school (if you have any doubts just read the recent superb Ofsted report, few schools in our area have achieved such high praise), use the post office as much as you can and don't limit your support to just these two, remember also the part our church, shop, pub and village hall play in the life blood of our community, without regular use they won't be with us forever.

# Lydbury North



## Parish Council Newsletter

January 2009

### Welcome to the first Parish Council Newsletter.

We hope you find the following information useful. We would particularly welcome any feedback from you. To be a successful council that serves the community we rely on communication from the parish. Please use the Clerk's contact details overleaf or speak to us in person. For those of you not familiar with us, in this issue we introduce ourselves.

### Parish Council News

Meeting dates for 2009 – 25<sup>th</sup> February, 18<sup>th</sup> March, 29<sup>th</sup> April and AGM on 13<sup>th</sup> May.

Members of the public are invited to attend these meetings which are usually held in the Village Hall Committee room, meetings start at 7.30pm.

### Road Closure

The B4370 in between Plowden and Marshbrook (The Cwm Head road) will be closed from Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2009 for 4 weeks. This closure is essential to allow patching and drainage works to be carried out and diversion signs will be in place via The Grove.

### Speed Limit in Lydbury North

A new speed limit through the village of 30 mph has been agreed and 40 mph signs will be replaced in March.

### Streetlights

The street lights in the village of Lydbury North have all seen better days and are reaching the end of their lives. Over the period of four years the Parish Council has increased the precept by a small amount each year to cover the cost of street light replacements. The total cost is in the region of £6,500.00 and work will begin in early 2009. If you have any comments to make on the existing arrangement of lights, or suggestions for areas of the village that would benefit from more lighting, now is the ideal time to mention your ideas to the clerk.

### Complaints Process

We always hope there is never any cause to complain about a member of LN Parish Council but if you do have cause for concern regarding the behaviour or conduct of a councillor the address to write to has changed to:-

Chairman of The Standards Committee, South Shropshire District Council, Stone House Corve Street, Ludlow, Shropshire SY8 1DG.

Parish Councillors will be attending Code of Conduct training on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2009

### Heartstart Training

South Shropshire Voluntary Action will be running a Heartstart Training Course on 17<sup>th</sup>

March 2009 in Clunton Village Hall at a cost of £2 per person. Co-ordinated by the British Heart Federation to teach members of the public simple life saving skills.

# Lydbury North Parish Councillors



**Cllr Roger Plowden**

(CHAIR)

Chairman with effect from May 2007 and member of Parish Council since May 1999. Age 55. Married with one daughter. Landowner, farmer and qualified Rural Surveyor. I enjoy country sports and riding around the lanes early

in the morning with my dog. My family has been in these parts since the Crusades!



**Cllr Andy Horrocks** (vice chair)

I have lived in Brockton for 20 yrs and in this area for 34 yrs. I've been involved in public transport for 37 yrs and have run my own business with my wife Lee for 20 yrs. I have 4 children. A member of the Parish Council since 2003, I was involved in producing the

Parish Plan from its inception. I am a trustee of the Village Hall and Lydbury North Poores' Charity. In my time on the PC I have seen it change dramatically to a more active, informal and eminently approachable Council.



**Cllr Tony Harris**

I have lived in Lydbury North Parish for 34 years. I work in the local area as a carpenter and joiner.

I was a member of the Parish Plan Steering Group and I am also on the Village Hall Committee.

I am a bell ringer at the local church.

I live at Lower Down with my partner, Caz and dog, Billy.



**Cllr Judith Bowen**

Born on Anglesey in 1942, the daughter of a farmer; we moved to Lydbury North 8 years ago. I was one of the first volunteers in the Community Shop and acted as Secretary to the Parish Plan Steering Group.

Being very committed to local democracy (preferably without the politics) I believe that the Parish Council is important. Before we came here I worked as a Social Worker, latterly inspecting care homes. Now, with my daughter Rachel, I run the Art & Design bookshop in Bishop's Castle.



**Cllr Jim Collin**

Born in N.E England 61 yrs ago. I spent 20 yrs as an Engineering Officer in the Merchant Navy. In 1988 my wife and I started our own company providing Consultancy and Design to a range of industries. My interests include cycling, reading, gardening and walking. We moved

to Brockton in 1999. I am interested in supporting new developments that are sustainable, do not retract from the local amenities and are not prejudicial to the environment.



**Cllr Robin Beaumont**

I have lived in Lydbury North all my life. I have been self employed since 1979.

I have worked throughout the country, now working in and around Lydbury North on a wide variety of electrical, maintenance and engineering projects. I am a bell ringer

and a member of the local air rifle club. I enjoy country sports.



**Cllr Jackie Williams**

Lived at Lower Down for 45 years. I have 3 sons who went to LN School, my grand daughter Emily also attends. I have a retail needlework business in Shrewsbury. I became your district councillor 6

years go (Kemp Valley) which ends in March 2009 when Shropshire goes Unitary. Hopefully this experience will help in my role as a Parish Cllr. As a District Cllr and also volunteering in the local shop I know many local people by name. I value all things rural.



**Cllr Shona Bluhm**

I joined the council in 2007, I made and update our village website [www.lydburynorth.net](http://www.lydburynorth.net) and helped produce the Parish Plan. I am secretary of the school PTA and the Living Lydbury Group. I also volunteer in the

Community Shop. I am a member of the Village Hall Committee and a bell ringer at the Church. I live in Lydbury, with my husband Lawrence and our 2 children who attend BCCC.



**Cllr Ian Kidd**

Shirley and I came to the village in February 2006 and have 2 grown up children, 1 grandson, 1 child at the village school and 1 at BCCC. I helped the Living Lydbury Group fight the closure of the School and was involved in the Speedwatch Surveys. I became a

Councillor in Nov 2008 and feel that we need to fight strongly for our Community facilities.

Mrs Nikki Pugh CLERK to the Parish Council  
Gravenor House, Lydbury North 01588 680 449  
email at: [lydburycouncil@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:lydburycouncil@tiscali.co.uk)