



Dates for the Diary:

- 7th January 2022: Bishopswood Community Project meeting
- 12th January 2022: Full Council Meeting
- 2nd February 2022: Finance Committee
- 16th February 2022: Full Council Meeting
- 16th March 2022: Full Council Meeting
- 6th April 2022: Finance Committee
- 20th April 2022: Full Council Meeting

Nativity Service

Walford Church: 24th December at 4pm

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Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) Update

Herefordshire Core Strategy, prepared by Herefordshire Council, requires parishes with villages to accommodate new housing.

Walford Parish Council (WPC) and the NDP Steering Group have worked hard over the last 2½ years to produce a draft NDP to try to accommodate the housing target set by Herefordshire Council in such a way that meets the concerns of the community while providing Herefordshire Council with the certainty it requires that the houses will come forward. Without this draft NDP which has been prepared by community representatives, WPC would have to rely upon developers putting forward their own proposals to meet and potentially exceed the Core Strategy targets. Currently the draft Plan proposes:

- Defining Settlement Boundaries.
- Three small housing sites within the settlements which together with windfall developments should enable the required housing target to be met.
- A number of other policies reflecting concerns expressed by the community.

Consultation on the Draft Plan

Now that the draft NDP has been agreed by WPC it is ready for consultation with Parishioners. WPC is seeking feedback on three documents which form the Plan, namely:

- the draft NDP,
- a Strategic Environmental Assessment, and
- a Habitats Regulations Assessment.

The last two documents are reports, prepared by Herefordshire Council, about the environmental factors for consideration in making an NDP for the parish.

This consultation is the **first of four regulated inspections** which are open to comments and feedback to ensure that the final NDP meets the needs of the parish, the county and is in line with relevant planning policies and laws.

In this first consultation, which will last for eight weeks, your views will be taken into account and any necessary changes will be made to the NDP before the second consultation begins.

WPC is also consulting with a range of local and national stakeholders as well as with all the landowners who submitted sites to the plan.

Statutory notices will be posted on parish noticeboards as well as the WPC and NDP websites. These notices will detail access to the process. You will be able to view electronic, physical and loan copies at various locations and you will be able to comment via physical forms and /or emails.

At the end of the consultation the draft NDP will be amended, reviewed/approved by WPC and then submitted for detailed formal assessment by Herefordshire Council to ensure that it is appropriate, consistent with county-wide policies and meets the relevant planning laws.

The NDP draft details how WPC plans to meet its target of 91 houses (see table below) by 2031 with the Parish negotiating a potential contingency with Ross Town Council to allocate some of the Ross over achievement of housing in the case that Walford cannot meet its target as planned.

TARGET	91
Dwellings Built	14
Planning Permissions to April 2021	39
Planning Permissions after April 2021	9
TOTAL	62
REMAINING	29

Have your say!

You are invited to comment on the Plan which can be viewed online under 'Neighbourhood Plan' at:

<https://walford-ndp.co.uk/project-documents/the-neighbourhood-plan/> or <https://www.walford-pc.org.uk/planning/ndp/>

Physical copies will also be available for inspection at Ross Library, The Inn on the Wye and The Mill Race or may be borrowed by emailing clerk@walford-pc.org.uk.

Open for comments from 4th January 2022—16th February 2022.

A Better Bishopswood - Restoring Balance

The popularity of outdoor activities in the UK has grown significantly over the past few years, with the Wye Valley and River a major attraction. The stretch of river from Ross-on-wye to Symonds Yat is a particularly popular destination for canoeists, stand up paddleboarders and wild swimmers. But uncontrolled demand is already damaging the very things that make the area such a draw, and with this comes increased environmental and local community pressures.

In addressing this concern a group of like-minded parishioners have drawn up several ideas aimed at restoring and managing a balance between tourism, community, and environment to ensure that each has a long-term sustainable future.

An outline of those ideas has been presented to the Parish Council, who have indicated their support. Clearly the involvement and agreement of stakeholders such as the canoe companies, the launch management company, Parish and Herefordshire councils, AONB, Natural England etc. will be required as a more concrete plan emerges.

But first, we want parishioners' input and are therefore holding a public meeting to discuss current issues, possible mitigations and begin building a robust plan for future action. The meeting will be held on **Friday 7th January 2022**, at **7:30pm** at **Bishopswood Village Hall**. Please come along and give us your thoughts and together we can build a better Bishopswood.



Conceptual Image: Bishopswood Hall



Parking congestion at Kerne Bridge Canoe Launch site



Have your say on proposed EA flood plans

The Environment Agency (EA), in partnership with lead local flood authorities across the country, has produced draft flood risk management plans, which set out how flood risk will be managed in those areas identified as being at risk of flooding.

The agency invites you to have your say and help shape the final plans for the period 2022 to 2027. Your responses will help find different and more ambitious ways of protecting people, the natural world and precious water assets.

The consultation closes on **Friday 21st January 2022**.

To find out more and have your say, visit the [Draft Flood Risk Management Plans - Environment Agency - Citizen Space \(environment-agency.gov.uk\)](https://environment-agency.gov.uk)

Sandbags

The Council has a supply of 500 sandbags available to local residents in an emergency situation. Please contact Councillor Simeon Cole on: 07931 161 641.

Felled Timber for Sale

Following essential maintenance work at Kerne Bridge the Parish Council would like to offer for sale a quantity of unseasoned felled native woodland timber (approximately 3 tons in weight). **All enquiries should be directed to the Clerk (clerk@walford-pc.org).**



Fly Tipping

There has been an unfortunate increase in fly tipping in the Parish, particularly so on Howle Hill, Bulls Hill and Leys Hill. All incidents of fly tipping should be reported directly to Herefordshire Council via their website: <https://myaccount.herefordshire.gov.uk/report-fly-tipping>

Walford Community Support Scheme (WCSS)

What a wonderful year it has been for the WCSS! In the context of the lighter-touch we had to take last year, we have been positively buzzing with good news, activities and ideas for our members during 2021. *The Hub* is our new base at Walford Village Hall, and thanks to two hard-working volunteers, the room that had been used by the pre-school group has been given a new lease of life and was officially opened by Baroness Pitkeathley and David Emerson CBE in July.

This indoor-outdoor space has since been used for fish 'n' chip socials, bingo, coffee mornings, a bird of prey session and seated exercise classes. The future programme includes a crochet workshop, an anti-scam talk, and a trip to the pantomime in Hereford. We

have also taken on the Bishopswood monthly lunch club which continues to thrive.

Our wonderful coordinator, Be Mackintosh, has been very successful in securing grant funding which we plan to use to improve the outdoor space and provide an even wider range of outings and activities. Our volunteers continue to provide services such as befriending, shopping and transport to members.

Volunteers Needed!

We are very much in need of new volunteers who can offer as much or as little time as they are able. Please contact Be at community@walford-pc.org.uk to get involved in this incredibly rewarding scheme.



L-R: Be Mackintosh, Baroness Pitkeathley, David Emerson CBE, Councillor Karen Chinn; Service Users enjoying recent WCSS activities at The Hub.

Get in touch with
**Walford
Community
Support:**

community@walford-pc.org.uk

Tel: 07493 171
430.

Parish Defibrillators

We are pleased to announce the purchase of two additional defibrillators to be installed shortly. Further details to follow...

Please enjoy the Parish Calendar prepared in support of the WCSS with artwork by local children

Grant funding available for Projects that tackle Climate Change

Businesses, community groups and organisations are being encouraged to apply for grant funding to support projects that help tackle climate change and / or enhance the natural environment.

Community Climate and Nature Grant

Non-profit groups or organisations based in Herefordshire (or a Herefordshire Parish Council) can apply for funding of up to £15,000 for new projects which will deliver carbon reduction and/or ecological enhancement in the community, based around four themes.

- Community Buildings – for example, energy conservation or efficiency measures.
- Sustainable Transport – for example, community cycle parking or electric vehicle charging points.
- Nature – this could include tree planting, community allotment projects, or the creation or enhancement of a community nature area.
- Other Projects – such as waste reduction projects, or community initiatives that promote sustainable lifestyle choices.

The deadline for applications is the **15th December 2021**. For more information and to apply online, please visit:

www.herefordshire.gov.uk/climategrant

Farming in Protected Landscapes

This DEFRA funded programme offers support for farmers and land managers in the Wye Valley AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty), to carry out projects which support nature recovery and mitigate the impacts of climate change, such as flooding.

The funding is for one-off projects which cover these areas of work, along with projects which provide opportunities for people to discover, enjoy and understand the landscape and cultural heritage or support nature-friendly sustainable farm businesses.

The deadline for applications is **Monday 31st January 2022**, but funding will be awarded to successful applicants throughout the application window, so apply today! Find out more at www.wyevalleyaonb.org.uk/farming-in-protected-landscapes.

Working towards a safer Walford!

"We want to educate our communities to make sure they are best placed to look after themselves and look after each other"

<https://wedontbuycrime.co.uk>



We are delighted to announce that the Parish Council has secured grant funding from the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner, John Campion, under the 'We Don't Buy Crime' initiative. This scheme provides funding towards the cost of a 'SmartWater' kit for every household within the Walford Parish.



What is SmartWater?

SmartWater is a sophisticated security system that protects property, deters thieves and helps the police to convict criminals. It can be directly applied to valuables or it can be used to spray criminals committing a crime. SmartWater contains a unique forensic code that is registered to an address or location. Anything marked can be traced back to where it came from, allowing the police to identify stolen property and link criminals to crime scenes. SmartWater is almost invisible in natural light but glows brightly under ultraviolet (UV) light.

Where is SmartWater used?

Anyone can use SmartWater to protect their valuables. It can be used within the home as well as for exterior use protecting anything from electrical goods to jewellery, IT equipment to furniture, vehicles and even gardening and farming equipment.

Why do Criminals avoid SmartWater?

If a criminal is marked with SmartWater or

caught with SmartWater-marked property, they face an increased risk of prosecution. SmartWater has helped to convict thousands of criminals and has a 100% conviction rate. Police Forces nationwide, along with many second-hand dealers, scrap merchants and recyclers are all looking for SmartWater.

A launch event will be held early in the New Year but in the meantime please register your interest with the Clerk (clerk@walford-pc.org).



July 2021 marked the launch of **Neighbourhood Matters**, a new messaging service that allows Police to send alerts relevant to you and where you live, offering crime prevention advice, appealing for witnesses and letting you know what the Police are doing in your area. Please sign up at:

www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk



It has been reported that UK consumers have been defrauded out of more than £2.3Bn in just 12 months following a surge in scams during the pandemic. Unfortunately, this picture is no different in Herefordshire with a number of scams currently in circulation.

Walford Parish wants to help reduce the risk and impact of scams and fraud by raising awareness and encouraging people to take action. If you'd like to learn a little more and understand how you can protect yourself why not attend our short talk (Act on Scams) which will be held early in the New Year.

To reserve a spot **please register your interest with the Clerk (clerk@walford-pc.org).**

Sign up to
Neighbourhood Matters:

<http://www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk>

Report scams and suspected scams to **Action Fraud:**

Tel: 0300 123 2040

<https://www.actionfraud.police.uk>