



# Lilleshall, Donnington and Muxton Parish Council *Newsletter*

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## **Re-organisation of Parish Council**

As from 1st April 2015, as a result of the latest Community Governance Review, this will be the last newsletter from what is currently Lilleshall, Donnington and Muxton Parish Council due to Lilleshall becoming a Parish Council in its own right. Due to a re-organisation of its budgets for 2015/2016 the next newsletter for the residual Council, known as Donnington and Muxton Parish Council, will only be available on its website with a few printed copies being available from the Parish Council office.

As the elections are not until May the current Council will continue to oversee events in Lilleshall until its elected Councillors have officially taken post on 18th May.

Lilleshall Parish Council is to have seven Councillors whilst Donnington and Muxton Parish Council will have thirteen. This is made up of 5 for Donnington West, 1 for Donnington East, 5 for Muxton and 2 from The Humbers.

All Council meetings are open to the public and there is usually a public session at which members of the public can raise concerns and ask questions. There is also an annual meeting which all parishioners are invited to attend. All meetings are advertised on the council notice boards, website and Facebook where applicable. At the meetings residents can bring to the attention of the parish council anything that concerns them, either directly or through the clerk. If matters raised are not the responsibility of the council, the clerk can bring them to the attention of the proper authority.

If you wish to become a Parish Councillor then please see page two of this newsletter which highlights what a Parish Council is/does and how to become a Councillor. If you have any further queries regarding this then please contact the clerk via email at [clerk@ldmpc.org](mailto:clerk@ldmpc.org) or by phone 01952 608001.

## **Elections**

On May 7<sup>th</sup> 2015 elections will be held to select Members of Parliament, Borough Councillors and Town and Parish Councillors. **For this you need to be registered in order to vote.**

### **But I Thought I was Already Registered to Vote**

If you have registered yourself at your current address since 10 June 2014 in England and Wales or 19 September 2014 in Scotland – and you have not moved home since – you will be registered to vote under the new system. You will also be registered to vote if you received information at your current address telling you that you are registered under the new system. If you are unsure whether you are registered under the new system, contact your local electoral registration staff.

## **About Voter Registration**

You need to register in order to be able to vote in elections and referendums. The way you register to vote has changed in 2014. The new system means:

- You can now register online.
- Everyone has become responsible for registering themselves. Under the old system the 'head of every household' could register everyone who lived at their address.
- You need to provide a few more details to register – including your National Insurance number and date of birth. This is to make the electoral register more secure.

## **How Do I Register?**

Registering to vote is straightforward:

1. Go to [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote)
2. Fill in your name, address, date of birth and a few other details. You'll also need your National Insurance number, which can be found on your National Insurance card, or in official paperwork such as payslips, or letters about benefits or tax credits.
3. Look out for confirmation from your local electoral registration staff to say you're registered.

If you don't have access to the internet or can't use it, your local electoral registration staff will be able to help you to register.

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# Parish Council Elections 7th May 2015

**Have you ever wondered what a Parish Council is/does? Have you ever thought about becoming a Parish Councillor?**

## **What is a Parish Council?**

A parish council is a local authority that makes decisions on behalf of the people in the parish. It is the level of government closest to the community, with the district authority (Telford & Wrekin Council) above it in the hierarchy. As it is the authority closest to the people, parish councils are invariably the first place people will go with concerns or ideas. For this reason they are a vital part of any community.

## **Why become a Parish Councillor?**

By becoming a parish councillor you become someone your community will look to for help, guidance and support, a community leader with the power to influence decisions for the benefit of the people you serve. Seeing your community change for the better, as a result of decisions you have helped make, is something that can give you a sense of achievement and pride.

## **What decisions do Parish Councils make?**

Parish councils make all kinds of decisions on issues that affect the local community. Probably the most common topics that parish councils get involved with are planning matters (they are statutory consultees), crime prevention, managing open spaces and campaigning for and delivering better services and facilities. They have the ability to negotiate with, and the power to influence, those other organisations that do make the final decisions (such as the borough council, health authorities, police etc). In this respect parish councils are extremely powerful. The organisations that make the final decisions know that a parish council gives the best reflection of how a community feels about something, and its views will be taken seriously.

## **How much time does it take up?**

Councils usually meet once a month for the council meeting, to which members of the public are also invited. Meetings may last two or three hours, depending on the agenda set for the meeting to discuss. Some councils have committees to deal with specific subjects, such as environmental issues. In addition to the regular meetings, councillors are required to attend other meeting representing the council, for example acting as a representative on an outside body, community activities or helping develop a new project for the community. Such meetings won't happen every day, so it's not going to take over your life.

## **How long does a parish councillor serve for?**

Once elected, parish councillors sit on the council for a maximum of four years. If they then want to stay in the post they can stand for re-election.

## **Am I eligible to be a Parish Councillor?**

To stand for election on a parish council, you must:

- be a UK or commonwealth citizen, or;
- be a citizen of the Republic of Ireland, or;
- be a citizen of another Member state of the European Union;
- be at least 18 years old.

To be eligible to stand for an election for a particular parish, you must:

- be an elector of the parish, or;
- for the whole of the previous 12 months have occupied (as owner or tenant) land or other premises in the parish, or;
- during the previous 12 months have worked in the parish (as your principal or only place of work), or;
- for the whole of the previous 12 months lived in the parish or within three miles of the parish boundary.

**You don't have to be connected to a political party.**

## **What powers do parish councils have?**

They have a wide range of powers which essentially related to local matters, such as looking after community buildings, open space, allotments, play areas, street lighting, bus shelters, car parks and much more. The council also has the power to raise money through taxation, the precept. The precept is the parish council's share of the council tax. The precept demand goes to the billing authority, the district council, which collects the tax for the parish council.

## **Don't take our word for it!**

The best way to find out what it's like to be a parish councillor is to talk to someone who's doing it now. Come along to a parish council meeting, or speak to one of our councillors and find out what they think of the job.

## Youth Panel, Youth Clubs

### DONNINGTON YOUTH PANEL

The Youth Innovation Team (Telford & Wrekin Council) and The Donnington and Trench Safer Neighbourhood Team worked closely with the Donnington Partnership Charitable Trust to develop a Youth Panel in the Donnington area back in January 2014. The young people originally from the Sutherland Co-operative Academy and Wrockwardine Wood Arts Academy have been encouraged to help become a voice for young people in their area.



The panel have participated in a number of activities including consultation work with other young people in the area in the form of a questionnaire, and these findings were included in an 'Awards for All' lottery bid the Donnington Partnership submitted earlier this year. The successful bid has helped fund a series of sports and arts activities for young people and development and training opportunities for the community of Donnington. They have also gained young peoples views around their feelings on the area of Donnington and what they would do to improve it. These findings were fed into the Pride in Your Community project.

As part of the lottery bid the panel were also required to do some fund raising themselves and recruited other young people from secondary and primary schools in the area to help out. They all took part in a bag pack at ASDA Donnington back in April and raised almost £600 to put towards activities for young people in Donnington. The young people involved have helped promote some of these workshops over the school holidays and will continue to do this throughout 2015. The young people have given up evenings and weekends to be part of the panel and have dedicated time and energy towards helping young people in their area by helping to provide extra activities and giving them a voice. They are also working towards their ASDAN activities award and their Youth Voice Award.

In 2015 the Donnington Youth Panel have been working on helping to 'bridge the gap' between older and younger people' in Donnington. The issue came up as part of discussions in the Donnington Local Engagement Board meetings that were held in the summer of 2014 and the panel were keen to get on board. The panel decided to create a questionnaire to ask young people their views on the relationships between the young and the elderly and gained responses from various groups of young people aged between 10 and 16. Lots of suggestions were made about how we could bring the two generations together including, giving a helping hand, fundraising for both generations and community events. As a result the Youth Panel have come up with an idea of organising a summer tea dance for the older generation in the area. It is very much still in the planning stages and we are currently looking at funding to support them with this.

If you would like to know more about joining the Donnington Youth Panel or would like to help or support any of the activities mentioned please contact:

**Emma Brown (Youth Innovation Worker) – 01952 385169 or 07528 969493 [emma.brown@telford.gov.uk](mailto:emma.brown@telford.gov.uk)**  
PCSO Amanda Hall - 01743 261884

### Donnington & St Georges Youth Clubs

#### Donnington Junior Youth Club

Young people in year 6 of primary school  
up to yr 8 of secondary school

**Mondays 5.15pm to 6:45pm**

Donnington Methodist Church, Wrekin Drive

#### Donnington Senior Youth Club

Young people aged 13-19

**Mondays 7pm to 9pm**

Donnington Methodist Church, Wrekin Drive

#### Donnington Senior Youth Club

Young people aged 11-16

**Wednesdays 5.45pm to 7:45pm**

Donnington Wood Lifelong Learning Centre

#### St Georges Youth Club

Young people aged 11-19

**Fridays 6pm -8pm**

Priorslee & St Georges Scout hut, Snedshill Way

**For more information please contact  
Emma Brown:**

**01952 385169 or 07528 969493**

**[emma.brown@telford.gov.uk](mailto:emma.brown@telford.gov.uk)**

## Lilleshall Ward

Andrew Baker  
Carol Baker  
Pam Millard

## **Parish Councillors**

### Donnington Ward

Elizabeth Clare  
Brian Green  
Pat Green  
James Lavery  
Clive Mason  
John Thompson

### Muxton Ward

Veronica Brown  
Lisa Dugmore  
Nigel Dugmore  
Jeremy Haigh  
Adrian Lawrence  
Phil Norton

## Chairman 2014/2015



Councillor Adrian Lawrence was elected Chairman to the Parish Council at the Annual Council Meeting held on 12th May 2014. Adrian is a resident of Muxton and also a Borough Councillor for that area.

## Dates of Council Meetings.

9th March 2015  
13th April 2015  
18th May 2015 Annual Public Meeting  
18th May 2015 Annual Council Meeting

**N.B. All meetings will take place at Turreff Hall commencing at 7pm unless otherwise stated and are open to the public and press.**  
Planning Meetings are notified separately.

The next **Muxton** Police and Communities Together (PACT) Meeting will be on Tuesday **17th March 2015** commencing at 7pm and will take place at Muxton Primary School.

## Office Opening Times

The Parish Council offices will be open at the following times:  
Monday 9am–4pm  
Tuesday 9am–4pm  
Wednesday 9am–4pm  
Thursday 9am–1pm  
Friday 9am–3pm.  
The office will be closed on week-ends.

## Parish Council Website

Information about the Parish Council can be found on its website [www.ldmpc.org](http://www.ldmpc.org)



## Have a say on your community— Residents Panel

We are looking for residents who would like to come together to have their say on what matters to them and to help improve the area they live in and to make a difference to the community.  
If you are interested or would like to find out more please contact:  
PSCO A Hall – 01743 261884  
Sandra Boyd – 01952 382201  
Samantha Middleton – 01952 382202  
Ralph Morgan (Parish Clerk) – 01952 608001

**The NHS Future Fit Programme** aims to make sure local health services continue to meet the needs of everyone living and working in Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin and Mid-Wales. Local patients, doctors, nurses and other health professionals are working together to develop a way of delivering high-quality care, using modern medicines and technologies to ensure services are fit for the future. The NHS Future Fit programme aims to shape healthcare to meet the needs of the local population for the next 20 years. A representative will be giving a presentation to the Council on Monday 9th March 2015 at Turreff Hall, Donnington commencing at 7pm.



The Parish Council is pleased to announce that the Clerk has recently gained the Bachelor of Arts (BA) Honours Degree in Community Engagement and Governance with the University of Gloucestershire. The Clerk attended the Graduation Ceremony in November 2014. This Council would like to congratulate the Clerk on his achievement.

**Disclaimer:** The opinions expressed by the various contributors are not necessarily those of Lilleshall, Donnington and Muxton Parish Council. The inclusion of an article in this publication does not necessarily imply a recommendation of its aims, policies or methods. Every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of information in this publication; however, no liability can be accepted for loss or inconvenience caused as a result of error or omission.