

Wigmore Group Parish Council News

Welcome to the new
seasonal update on
Wigmore, Leinthall
Starkes, Elton and Pipe
Aston Parish matters:

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...and the Roads.



Bury Lane Community and Playing Field, Wigmore.

Our recently established Volunteers Group has been busy improving the environment around the Playing Field. You may have seen a new hedge has been planted to replace the one recently destroyed during ditching work (supplied at no cost by The Woodland Trust) and a safety fence put up to prevent small children or dogs accessing the steeply sided ditch.

A Memorial Tree Line has also been started to create an avenue with the southern boundary tree line. This new line of trees is started and finished by a Black Poplar (a once-common tree which has declined greatly in number over the last hundred years) but will be made up of Chestnuts and Limes. These trees should be well-suited to conditions on the field. If you would like to plant a tree to commemorate a loved-one (particularly poignant as we emerge from Covid) please contact the Council.

New playground equipment, including a double swing, a children's wooden agility and fitness trail, a 'Four in a Row' game and a picnic bench, has also been installed. What's next? The next phase is being planned - please contact us with your suggestions for play and/or leisure equipment. We are keen to know what you think! Contact the Clerk - 07398 222 310 clerk@wigmoregrouppc.co.uk.

Planning – There have been several concerns raised about an imminent planning application for approximately 25 dwellings (in the first instance) at Perry's Field, Wigmore, and some residents have also received unsolicited mail from the architects inviting comment. Please be assured that any application must go through the proper channels and will be rigorously scrutinized by the Parish Council.

Dog fouling – A new bin for dog poo has been placed on School Lane, Wigmore. The Parish Council is responsible for this and arranges for it to be emptied.

Road surfaces and potholes – The Parish Council is as exasperated as you are about the state of our roads and continues to report problems on the Herefordshire Council website. We encourage you to do likewise.

The future of St. James, Wigmore.

WGPC has been deeply concerned at the potential full closure of the Church, due to its historic and amenity value to residents and visitors, for some time. Therefore, it was greatly heartened to hear that, in something of a reversal by the PCC, it is to be reopened after over 2 years, and services are to be held there once again, albeit irregularly. If it is to be closed, WGPC hopes The Churches Conservation Trust will be approached to take over responsibility of the building. The Parish Council continues to request updates from the Diocese.

Fran Rhodes is keen to build on this and is looking for volunteers to help her make St. James look its best for visitors. Can you spare a couple of hours a week to be part of the team on a Rota basis? Already a group of residents have thoroughly cleaned the building in time for the summer. However, with no congregation and no income St James now needs:

Someone to open and close the door (daily)

Cleaners - for dusting, polishing, hoovering (twice weekly)

Part-time flower providers (high days and holidays)

All cleaning materials will be supplied. If you are unable to offer practical help, the team would really appreciate a gift of a can of Pledge Polish for Wood. Apply to: Fran Rhodes
fran@rhodesg3xjp.plus.com or phone 01568 770150



Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Celebrations and Green Canopy Project

The first weekend in June will have two bank holidays (Thursday and Friday preceding) to allow communities throughout the UK to take part in celebrations. In Wigmore a group of residents are organising a village picnic to take place on Sunday 5th June. This will be a ‘bring your own food’ picnic on the junior school playing field followed by games and fancy-dress prizes. Flyers will be sent out soon to inform residents of the details, should they wish to get involved.

In Leinthall Starks there are plans for a Jubilee BBQ on Friday 3rd June and should Pipe Aston and Elton wish to organise something, they are always welcome to get in touch with WGPC for support.

In addition, the Council and individual residents have been busy contributing to the Queen’s Green Canopy tree-planting program to mark the Jubilee. When the Council heard that after years of research an Elm Tree, resistant to Dutch Elm disease, has been developed and that saplings were available through the Herefordshire Tree network, they jumped at the chance. Our first resistant Elm sapling now stands in the field behind Castle Garage, Wigmore, in full view of Broad St. Planted by local children, we hope this goes on to be a familiar site for generations to come.

Many thanks Steve Mundy for helping this to happen.

Who we are:

Wigmore Group Parish Council is made up of four parishes – Elton, Leinthall Starks, Pipe Aston and Wigmore. Elton and Pipe Aston have 1 councillor each Leinthall Starks 2, and Wigmore 5.

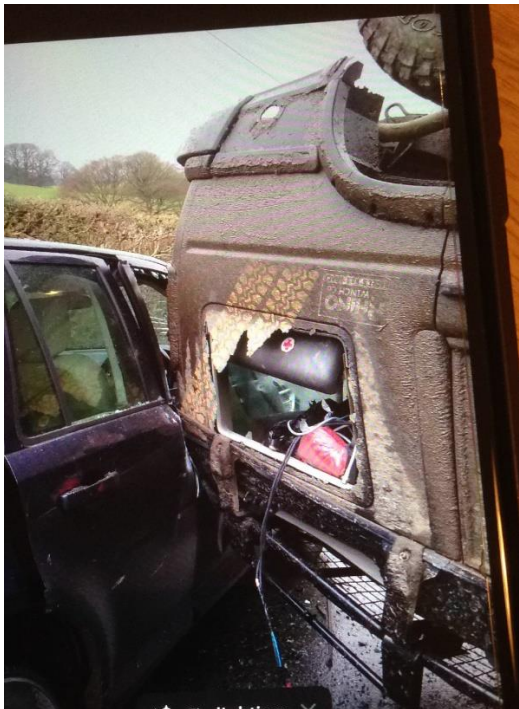
There have been several changes in the last year, with Bryan Casbourne leaving and Nick Davidson standing down as Chair. New members are Les Knight, John Williams, David Warner, and Gary Hartland. John was also elected Chair last month until the May AGM.

We can all be contacted via the Clerk on 07398 222310 or at clerk@wigmoregrouppc.co.uk.

Speeding through our village communities

Many residents are understandably worried by vehicles speeding through Pipe Aston, Elton and Leinthall Starks. Some areas have 40mph limits, which many feel is already too high and encourages poor driving. WGPC has recently written to HCC to request a reappraisal of speed limits.

Rural roads
are not
racetracks



STOP SPEEDING
ON OUR RURAL
ROAD



CARELESS AND
DANGEROUS
DRIVING RUINS
LIVES



PLEASE THINK &
SLOW DOWN

Wigmore Mobile Post Office

WGPC understands that from 31 March 2022 the Post office van will only be in Wigmore on Mondays from 11 until 12. A resident has asked the Post Office if this is a permanent or temporary change and is waiting for a response. If this is permanent, it will mark a further reduction of the service promised when Wigmore Post Office closed.

Help for Ukraine.

The appalling scenes from Ukraine have spurred many in our community to offer help and contribute supplies. The Castle Inn, Wigmore has been particularly active in this, having raised £300 already as well as a full carload of food. Bags of clothes are still being collected and another charity event is planned for 28th May 8.30pm. Well done to all involved.

Wigmore Village Hall

Several residents have raised concerns about various name changes being applied to the Village Hall recently, especially as it was built as a memorial to those who fought in the Second World War. However, this is a matter for its Trustees and not the Parish Council.

Volunteering with your Community

Would you like to get involved in a new team of volunteers to cover Wigmore, Leinthall Starkses, Elton and Pipe Aston, which carries out light work for the benefit of the whole community? It relies on residents’ support and has already been involved in erecting community road signs, hedge and tree planting, and litter-picking. Volunteer equipment (e.g., hi-vis safety vests, litter-pickers, purple bags) are available. For more details, please phone Les Knight 07483 276 322 or Phil Brown 07831 644431

And finally... *The Parish Council frequently finds itself placed between frustrated residents and County Council policy (the condition of our tarmac roads is a good, though not unique, example). We very often share residents’ frustrations and have been exasperated at HCC’s poor communications and lack of action at times. When the news broke a couple of weeks ago that the County Council will spend well over £1m on correcting shallow curbs, so recently laid down (approx. £700k), and installing planters (approx. £600k), in Hereford City Centre, while our infrastructure is in such need, we felt compelled to unanimously pass a motion of No Confidence in Herefordshire County Council. We have written to them, specifically citing our need for improvement of road networks, for speed restrictions on rural roads and in the vicinity of the school in Wigmore, and for the provision of pavements.*