

Your Parish Councillors - Contact Details ([R] = Romsley Councillor)

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Environmental Matters: A New Rationale for Managing Communal "Green Spaces" Within Our Village.

One of the duties of all Parish Councils is to have a regard to the protection of biodiversity in carrying out their functions. We, as councillors, are becoming increasingly aware of the importance of using the particular character of our parish to create a number of diverse habitats to enhance wildlife.

This precious 'biodiversity' is in great need of careful protection and constant management. The numbers of even once common species of butterflies and meadow plants like Lady's Smock and Cowslips have declined dramatically over recent years. If our children are to have the same chances to enjoy the natural world as we have, we must take action to stop these declines and promote biodiversity.

There has been an assumption made by local decision-makers in the past that all green areas within our village should be neat and tidy. This has entailed a mowing regime throughout the growing season where anything remotely resembling nature is "manicured" out of existence.

Any plan for biodiversity needs to be accompanied by a certain amount of explanation and re-educating some members of the parish to understand that the failure to mow all areas to establish a "lawn-style" appearance is not equivalent to poor local governance. Some simple changes in management might include:

1. Creation of nectar "service stations" throughout corners of greenery by enhancing [certain plants which are "bee friendly"](#)
2. Varying the mowing regime on patches of mown grass verges to [encourage wild flowers](#) to flower and set seed.
3. Letting patches of grass to grow wild around the base of trees.
4. Leaving small piles of wood around out of the way corners to encourage small mammals and invertebrates.



Creating wild-flower mini-meadows is not a simple quick-fix process. This example has been produced by not mowing early in the year until the Spring flowering plants have set seed and the seeds then stamped into the earth. Mowing from then can then be resumed until the end of the growing season.

This stretch of former "lawn" now abounds with Cowslips and narrow-leaved plantains developed by a slightly different pattern of mowing.

One of the important things to remember is to try and reduce the fertility of the soil so that vigorous grasses like "Rye" grass do not take over and shade out the variety of wild flowers. All subsequent mowing must include removing the grass cuttings.



Rethink what we mean by the term "weed"
A tidy environment is often "nature unfriendly"
Learn to respect all insects – they're vital



["Bee Friendly" plants don't have to be exotic or difficult to grow. This stand of purple toadflax has just grown from seed and has "parked" itself in some gravel...it may be a "weed" to some people....but it is crawling with honey bees, bumbles and hoverflies - all using the simple flowers to get nectar.](#)

Other nectar sources include foxgloves, mint, dandelions, buttercups, clover, parsley, and herbs like thyme and oregano. Many garden plants which are highly cultivated have too complex flower forms for insects to access easily. Hoverflies have sponge-like mouth parts that can't profit from tubular flowers like honeysuckle.



Combating Rural Crime

The Parish Council is concerned about the increase in rural crime across the West Mercia area and is working with the South Shropshire Safer Neighbourhood Team to make our communities as safe and secure as possible.

We have had a recent update from the Police on 'Smartwater' security; it has clearly reduced property theft in nearby towns and villages and we want to avoid travelling criminals moving into this area. The latest scheme would involve no cost to individual households but would need the majority of households to get involved. What do you think?

We are also looking at the possibility of CCTV in some parts of Alveley. The Safer Neighbourhood Team will be coming to our next Parish Council meeting on 1st October to talk about this. We are aware that there are some controversial aspects of CCTV and, again, would welcome your views.

Planning Our Future

Shropshire Council has eighteen place plans. Alveley and Romsley is

covered by the Bridgnorth and Surrounding Area Place Plan. Place Plans focus on infrastructure needs such as roads, and other facilities including transport, flood defence, schools and education, medical, recreational, sporting and open spaces. Shropshire Council is reviewing and updating its Place Plans.

The Parish Council has therefore carried out an initial review of current issues and priorities, and has made a new submission. This can be found on the website in the Parish Council/Policies and Procedures folder. We would welcome the views of all residents on this issue and will be consulting formally on our proposals as part of our aspiration to develop a new

Parish Plan. Such a plan, if it is based on genuine community engagement, will be invaluable if and when the proposal to designate Alveley as a community hub, is confirmed.

So, please get engaged and let us have your views - by email, letter or text. Thanks.

A message From Your Shropshire Councillor—Tina Woodward.

It has been a good growing season and the hedges and trees appear to have put on considerable growth. Therefore, I am receiving an increase in the number of concerns regarding hedges which are encroaching on our village footways. There are also concerns with overhanging tree branches. It would be really welcomed if hedges could be maintained to avoid encroaching on the footways and overhanging trees branches reduced accordingly.

The other main issue is once again parking on the footways, I am not in any way condoning it. Would drivers please leave enough space to the side of their vehicles to allow footway users access to pass parked vehicles. It makes it so much easier and safer in my opinion.

Please could those collecting children from school not park opposite the school near to the junction (the road to the shops) as it makes it very difficult for other road users and pedestrians alike. The same goes for people parking by the Medical Practice: please try not to park either side of the access to the Practice, as it is causing concerns regarding visibility for drivers. Thank you.

