



Clerk News

March 2023

It's good to Communicate.

why not

Email, Text or Talk. ?



The Parish Council aspires to communicate effectively with local residents in all matters, it will **help build trust, strengthen relationships, develop a sense of belonging, and help the Parish Council become more productive.**

Following a meeting of the Parish Council in November, where the draft budget was agreed for 2023/24, including the proposed Parish Council Precept. The Parish Council then proceeded to go out to consultation with the residents of Cradley & Storrige. The draft budget was printed in the Council's Reporter Newsletter which was sent to every household within the Parish. It was also added to the Parish Council's website and the OK Cradley's website.

The Parish Council has always tried to have full engagement with the residents of Cradley & Storrige, without the thoughts, ideas, and comments from the residents the job of the Parish Council, has no clear direction, as their remit is to consider the wishes of their Parishioners.

With regard, to the draft budget consultation, out of the 837 households within the Parish, the Council only received 5 verified comments, we were hoping for more.

At the Parish Council meeting on the 7th February, it was agreed to adopt the Draft Budget which requires an increase in the precept from £45k to £60k which will allow the Parish Council to do the additional jobs around the Parish including the assessment, purchase and installation of a Speed Indicator Devices, some minor Highway repairs, Public Rights of Way issues and other projects.



The Councillors were very mindful of the present economic situation for everyone, and a lengthy debate took place on the pros and cons of any increase. The Parish Council has not increased the Precept for the past four years, keeping

it at £45k. This has been due to the constraints on normal procedure due to the Covid pandemic, but now we can plan ahead and catch up on work that had previously been postponed. This situation has meant that the Parish Council has built up reserves due to the restrictions, which will now allow a further £30k to be spent in providing the additional services that are so desperately needed.

For those households within the Parish who would benefit from some extra financial help, they can apply to the Herefordshire Council for up to 100% Council Tax relief. (Contact Herefordshire Council not the Parish Council)

The Parish Council also wishes to help local community groups in these testing times via grants or the small donation program, as these groups play an important role within the community.

The Parish Council would like to hear from all the residents, on any matter, big or small. If you are not sure who to contact, then get in touch with the Parish Clerk or any of your Parish Councillors.

Other news, the Parish Council had the pleasure in supporting two well used community buildings within the Parish. The Storridge Village Hall and the Cradley Village Hall both receiving grants one of £2000 and the other £3500 respectively.

Following a complaint from the Parish Council, Belfour Beatty unblocked the drains at Kingsbridge hopefully stopping any future flooding. We are still waiting for the Storridge sign to be replaced along the A4103 and the Traffic Regulation Order in Pixiefields and Chockbury Lane to be actioned.

Why not enrol on to the Cradley & Storridge Parish Council website www.cradleyparishcouncil.gov.uk you will then get emailed all the latest Parish Council news and other useful documents.

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