



Clerk News

February 2023

It's good to Communicate.

WHY Not

Email, Text or Talk.



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

Following a meeting of the Parish Council in November, where it agreed on a draft budget for 2023/24 also including the proposed Parish Council Precept. The Parish Council then proceeded to go out to consultation with the residents of Cradley & Storrige, this was done in several ways, 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 have always strived to have full engagement with the residents of Cradley & Storrige, without the thoughts, ideas, and comments from the local residents the job of the Parish Council, becomes more difficult, after all they work voluntarily to better the Parish.

With regards to the draft budget consultation, out of the 837 households within the Parish, the Council only received 5 verified comments, a little disappointing to say the least as the Parish Council's would very much welcome more engagement with the residents and value their input on all matters concerning our lovely Parish.

At the Parish Council meeting on the 7th February, they agreed to adopt the Draft budget which required 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 Device, some minor Highway repairs, PROW and other projects.



The Councillors were very mindful of the present economic situation within the Country and lengthy debate took place with the pros and cons of any increase. The Parish Council has not increased the Precept for 4 year's keeping it at £45k, in part this has been due to the restrictions from Covid but now we can plan ahead and catch up on work that had to be postponed. On a positive note, this has enabled the Parish Council to build up reserves which will 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% relief, if they meet the criteria.

The Parish Council feels that one of its roles is to help local community groups in these testing times via their grants or small donation program. These groups play an important role within the community.

The Parish Council would like to hear from all the residents, on every matter, big or small or even if you just want to have a moan. Everything which is communicated to the Clerk will be in the **strictest confidence** unless you say otherwise.

Other news, the Parish Council had the pleasure in supporting 2 locally well used community buildings within the Parish. The Storridge Village Hall and the Cradley Village Hall both receiving grants one of £2k and the other 3½k 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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