

# ROMSLEY NEWS

Your Update from Romsley Parish Council

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# INTRODUCTION AND UPDATE



Welcome to our final Newsletter for 2021. I would like to thank **Beams Hill Plastering Services** who by sponsoring this newsletter have helped us to offset the costs of production.

I would also like to thank **Taron Curtis** for supplying the stunning cover photograph for this issue.

This quarter, I would like to welcome Ray Carr to Romsley Parish Council as he joins as a councillor. Ray was co-opted onto the council in our meeting in November to fill one of our vacancies. We are all looking forward to working with Ray on our team as we move forward into 2022.



We have however lost a valuable member of the team following Richard Arrowsmith's resignation from the council in September. The role of a councillor is volunteer-based and Richard felt that he could not devote the time required alongside an increasing professional workload.

On behalf of the council, I would like to express my gratitude for Richard's service to our community over the previous six years. As previous Chairman his dedication to the role was greatly appreciated and it was fantastic to have him as part of our team.

Romsley Parish Council would like to send our very best wishes to Richard and his family for the future.

In this issue, we will update you on initiatives that we discussed in the previous newsletter such as the Wellington Memorial and Uffmoor Bridge as well as an update on our plans for a new Defibrillator in the village at St Kenelm's C of E Primary School. I am also excited to unveil plans to improve the facilities in Romsley Playing Fields where we hope to construct a circular path to aid accessibility to this space for all residents in the parish.

We also have fantastic news that Openreach has agreed to move the Romsley Fibre project into the delivery phase. We are extremely grateful to councillors John Shaw and Jack Strain for working long hours on this project to reach this successful conclusion, meaning that parts of the Parish will soon benefit from the option of gigabit-capable fibre broadband.

Apologies that this issue has dropped through your letterboxes a bit later than we wanted this quarter. However, it does allow us to wish you and your families a wonderful holiday period and all the best for a happy, healthy and prosperous 2022. Should you wish to contact us about anything in this newsletter our details are on the back page.

Our next newsletter should be circulated in February 2022 where I will look to include further updates along with the details of next years Parish Budget. In the meantime, it would be great to see you at our meetings (see back page). Otherwise please follow our social media or check our website for the latest news.

Sending my Best Regards and Merry Christmas

David Powell

**Chairman – Romsley Parish Council**

## New Defibrillator

We are still working on installing a defibrillator at St Kenelm's CE Primary School located by the school gates. As well as being available for use by the school, this will also cover the south of the village area.

The new machine is purchased, however, we are awaiting the delivery and installation of a fixing post. This has been delayed by events out of our control, however, we are hopeful that this will be resolved and the defibrillator in place by spring 2022.



## New Year Parish Walk

**10 am on Saturday 8th January 2022**

Starting from the Walton Hill car park, Walton Hill Road, a 3.75-mile circular walk along the footpaths and bridleways of the Clent Hills. Two stiles, two longish uphill sections and one short stretch almost certain to be muddy. With good views of the surrounding countryside at several points along the walk.

Dogs under control welcome, suitable clothes and footwear advised. The walk should end back at the car park by 12noon or shortly after.



# Events Update



Following the recent cancellations of Romstock in 2020 and 2021, we are pleased to announce that the much-loved event will return on **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2022**. The lineup is still under review, however, we can promise the return of some old favourites as well as some fantastic new acts.

We are also pleased to announce a new partnership with “Social Eats Events” which will be providing the food and drink for the event. You will see on the plan above that we are looking to replan the layout of the event to include some fairground rides along with a dedicated “Food Circle” area. In this food area, we are looking to provide quality “street food” and beverages.

However, to meet the conditions of our alcohol licence and in direct response to the recent pandemic, we have had to make the following amendments to our working practices for 2022.

- We can now **not** allow Alcoholic Drinks to be brought onto the site. **All Alcohol consumed must be purchased on site.** This is a mandatory requirement under conditions of our licence.
- All tickets will be sold online via a dedicated website. **We will not be taking sales on the day.** This is to simplify our event administration, give us a detailed view of the number of tickets sold and increase security by preventing us from holding cash on the day.
- We will not allow personal Gazebos on site. This is to comply with HSE Fire Regulations and to prevent trip and obstruction hazards. This will also help to ensure that all patrons have a clear view of the show. We will provide cover in the case of heavy rain forecast. Camping chairs, picnic blankets etc are acceptable.

I trust you will understand that these changes to the process have been brought in for everyone's convenience and safety. They are also necessary to ensure that the event continues to operate under its current licence.

Further information on Romstock will be communicated in due course. Please follow us on social media to hear the latest news.

# Events Update

## Carol Concert 2021 (Cancelled)

Unfortunately due to the uncertainty regarding the recently discovered Omicron COVID variant and operational challenges in maintaining social distancing in the venue, the Carol Service planned for December 8th at the Church Hall has been cancelled.

We hope to review this event and return for next year.



## St Kenelm's Day 2022



We are planning to hold our St Kenelm's day celebrations next year on

16<sup>th</sup> July 2022

We are pleased to announce that Stourport Brass Band will be returning along with the Bluebird Belles.

We will release further information on this event in due course.

Beams Hill  
PLASTERING SERVICES

Lee Hadley

Telephone: 07722 796 612  
Email: hadley.lee13@gmail.com



# Romsley Playing Fields – Circular Path

For a while now we have been looking to review the area of the playing field in Romsley to ensure that this has adequate facilities and is accessible to all in our parish.

The first phase of this review and improvement is the construction of a pathway that will run around the perimeter of the playing fields. This will be wide enough to accommodate pushchairs etc and will ensure that all will be available to enjoy this space whatever the weather.

The work has been put to tender and quotations from 3 separate companies were reviewed. Following this review, we have awarded the contract for works to Gill Civil.

We are anticipating that works will commence in early December (although this is weather dependent). This is expected to take approximately 2 weeks.

Unfortunately, the works involved will temporarily create trip and fall hazards on site. There will also be the presence of heavy machinery for the duration of the construction of the path. ***As a result, we will be closing access to the playing fields, children's park and skateboard ramps for the duration of the works.*** Access to the public right of way from St Kenelm's road through the Playing Fields behind the Scout Centre will be diverted via the car park and along the existing Playing Fields pathway.

As part of the construction of the pathway, we will be depositing any soil excavated on the raised area to the right of the park. This area has already been cleared in preparation and as well as being the best environmental solution, this also saves significant cost in the build of the pathway.

The final plans for this raised area are under review and we will be consulting with residents on the best use for this area. **No decision has currently been taken on what this will look like.**

We will endeavour to give adequate notice when the works are scheduled and give an indication of when and how long the Playing Field area will be closed. Please note that this work is weather dependant, therefore, there may be delays to this which is out of our control.

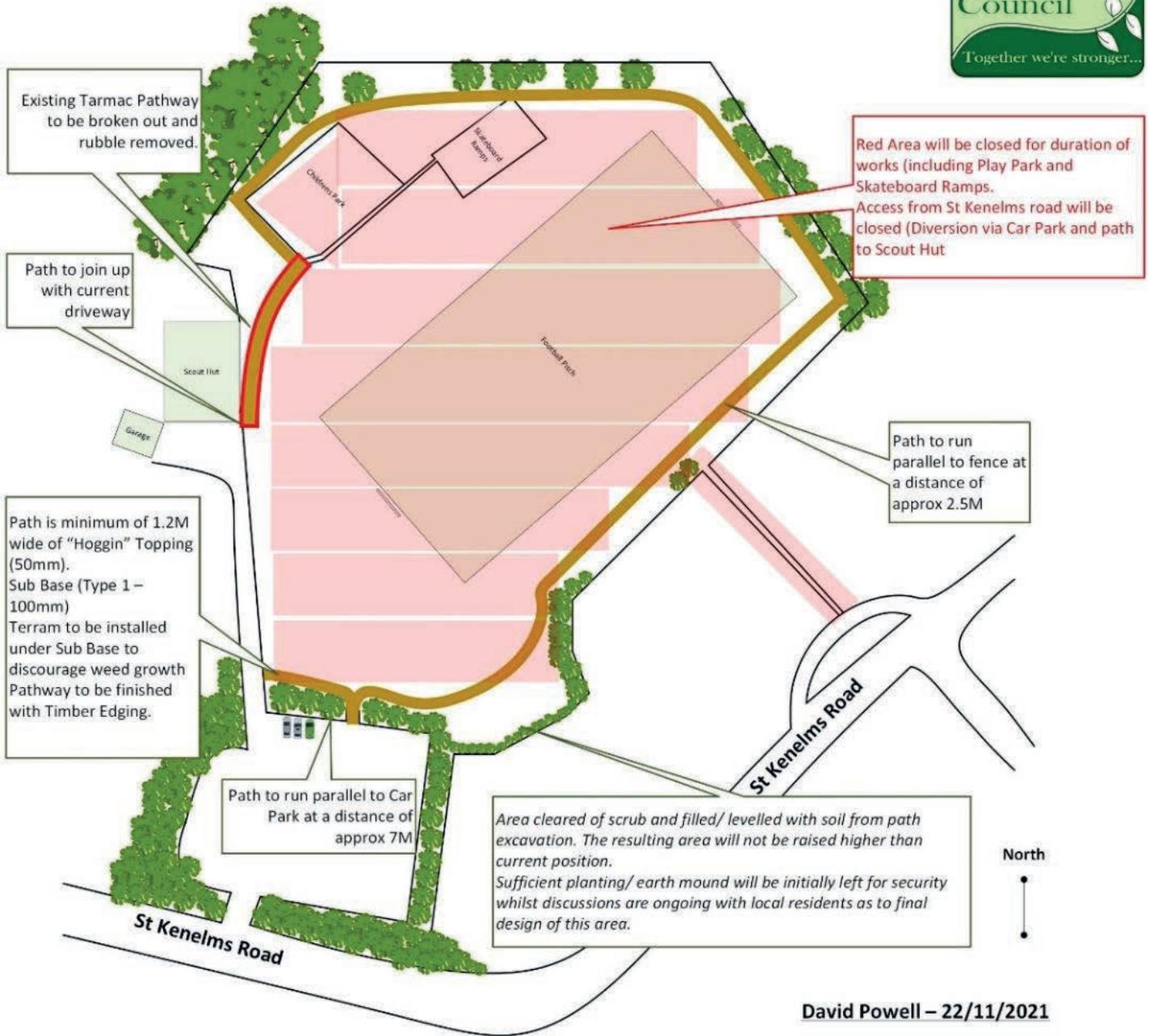
Following the completion of this pathway, there will be a further review of all facilities in the playing field area in conjunction with the feedback we have received as part of recent questionnaires or at Parish Council Meetings.

The aim is to take a strategic “long-term” view of any improvements with the whole demographic of our parish in mind.

We will include further communications on Social Media (Romsley Council and Residents Group) and also on our website. You can also contact us directly if you have any concerns (see back page).

# Romsley Playing Fields Improvements – Phase 1

## Construction of New Perimeter Pathway



## New Benches and Cherry Trees

As part of a national initiative to plant Cherry Blossom Trees as a memorial to those who lost their lives during the COVID 19 pandemic, Romsley Parish Council have received a grant, from Bromsgrove District Council, to buy trees to plant in the village and to buy three rainbow benches.



Two trees will be planted at the top of Hillcrest Road and others will be planted in a newly cleared area of the playing fields. Some of the trees planted have been sponsored by residents.

The benches will be sited on the playing fields and we are expecting delivery in February 2022.

## New Bridge Uffmoor Wood

Following collaboration with the landowners and Woodland Trust, we have been successfully able to repair the bridge which leads into Uffmoor Wood from the public pathway leading from Romsley.

Working with the Woodland Trust we were also able to provide a new bridge crossing the stream to replace the second bridge that had been destroyed.

We are pleased that we have been able to maintain access to Uffmoor Wood for our residents to ensure that this wonderful facility can be enjoyed for years to come.

The bridges were officially unveiled as part of the Woodland Trust open day in August. We will look to work with the Woodland Trust to ensure that more of our natural spaces are preserved and accessible for our residents.



# Romsley fibre

## We've done it!

Due to the support of our local community, together with the voucher top-up scheme from Worcestershire County Council and the Government Gigabit Voucher Scheme, we can announce that Openreach has agreed to move the Romsley Fibre project into the delivery phase.

This means that the project area, including Old House Lane, Dayhouse Bank, Chapmans Hill, Quantry Lane, Gannow Green Lane, Money Lane, Chadwich Lane, Chadwich Manor Estate, Malthouse Lane, Newtown Lane, Frankley Green, Gannow Green Lane, Bromsgrove Road, Quantry Lane, Chadwich Lane, Madeley Road, The Gutter and Harbours Hill will soon benefit from the option of gigabit-capable fibre broadband.

The delivery phase uses a four-stage process. Stage 1 is a survey, Stage 2 is planning, Stage 3 is building the infrastructure and Stage 4 is testing and commissioning. Once completed, orders for gigabit-capable fibre broadband can be placed with your chosen service provider.

It is expected the rollout of the network by Openreach will be completed within 12 months, regular updates will be published on the Romsley Fibre website, [www.romsleyfibre.co.uk](http://www.romsleyfibre.co.uk).

We would sincerely thank all of the residents and businesses that signed up for the project by registering on the Romsley Fibre website. Without their commitment, the project would not have been realised.

As the project was successful, registrations have now closed. If you were contacted to participate in this project but did not register, you can still benefit from access to the gigabit-capable fibre broadband once it is installed.

If you have any questions, please contact us:



John Shaw

Project Lead

Email: [jasssa45@live.co.uk](mailto:jasssa45@live.co.uk)

Mobile: 07540787629



Jack Strain

Technical Lead

Email: [jack@strain.cx](mailto:jack@strain.cx)

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# Wellington Memorial

On 22nd August 2021 Romsley Parish Council unveiled a permanent memorial commemorating the crash of aircraft Wellington X MF517 call sign KAM-N.

The memorial is sited approximately halfway on the Penny Fields Walk which is located behind the Swallows Nest in Romsley.

Tragically the aircraft crashed at approximately 0330 hours on 22nd August 1944 near this spot killing 3 crewmen.

The transcript and video of the unveiling are available on our website at <https://romsleyparishcouncil.gov.uk/council-news/penny-fields-wellington-memorial/>

The location and a map of the Penny Fields walk can be found on our website also.

Our thanks go to Stuart Smith – Parish Paths Warden for organising this memorial and to Stephanie Cotterill of the Rubery Marching Band for playing the Bugle at the unveiling.



# Roles of the Parish Council

Parish Councils are made up of volunteers and have a variety of powers and duties, all of which impact directly on the community. They are the first and most local tier of Government. Romsley is one of twenty Parish Councils within Bromsgrove District Council.

The Parish Council has a role in consultation with Bromsgrove District Council and Worcestershire County Council in certain areas and the opportunity to influence those bodies for the benefit of the parish. It is funded through the Bromsgrove District Council by the `precept` which is part of the Council Tax. The Parish Council is accountable to external audits for monies spent.

All councillors follow the Council Code of Conduct, and the Parish Council follows rules, regulations and procedures laid down – ultimately by Central Government.

In certain areas of activity, the Parish Council may act alone. However, this must be under the local Government Plans and within the legal powers imposed by Acts of Parliament.

The following are all under the remit of local councils. The list below is not exhaustive and is pertinent to Romsley parish:

- Allotments
- Bus Shelters
- Bye-laws – the power to make bye-laws concerning baths and washhouses (swimming pools), cycle parks, mortuaries, and pleasure grounds
- Community Centres, Conference Centres, Halls, Public Buildings
- Drainage – of ditches and ponds
- Entertainment and the Arts
- Footpaths
- General Spending – parish councils can spend a limited amount of money on anything they deem of benefit to the community that is not covered by the other specific responsibilities described in this list
- Gifts – parish councils may accept gifts
- Highways – lighting, parking places, right to enter discussions about new roads and road widening, consent of parish council required for diversion or discontinuation of highway, traffic signs and other notices, tree planting and verge maintenance
- Land – acquisition and sale of
- Legal proceedings – the power to prosecute and defend any legal proceedings in the interests of the community, power to take part in any public enquiry
- Litter – provision of litter bins and support for any anti-litter campaigns
- Planning – parish councils must be notified of, and display for residents, any planning applications for the area.
- Any comments submitted to the planning authority by the parish council must be considered
- Postal and Telecommunication Facilities – the power to pay a public telecommunications operator any loss sustained in providing services in that area
- Recreation – provision of recreation grounds, public walkways, pleasure grounds, open spaces, village greens, gymnasiums, playing fields, holiday camps and boating ponds
- Rights of Way – footpath and bridleway maintenance
- Seats (public)
- Signs – danger signs, place names and bus stops signs
- Tourism – financial contributions to any local tourist organisations allowed
- Traffic Calming
- War Memorials

# Meet Your Parish Council

## Dave Powell — Chairman

Dave lives in Waverley Crescent. He is a Consultant Project Manager working to deliver projects across a variety of industries



## Shaun Bolar — Vice-Chairman

Shaun Lives in Dark Lane. He is a Cost Consultant and Project Manager, working within the construction industry.



## Lesley Gray — Councillor

Lesley lives in Dark Lane. She is a retired teacher and spent most of her career in a school for children with special educational needs



## John Shaw — Councillor

John lives on Dayhouse Bank. He is a retired Automotive engineer and the facilities director at Stourbridge RFC.



## Jack Strain — Councillor

Jack is currently a university student studying Computing and lives towards Dayhouse Bank.



## Ray Carr — Councillor

Ray is a semi-retired financial adviser and lives in The Hedgerows.



## Parish Council Meetings

Our forthcoming meetings are scheduled as detailed below.

All will be held at St Kenelms Church Hall on Bromsgrove Road, 7.30pm.

4th January

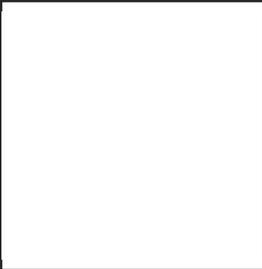
1st March

3rd May

The meetings are open to all and open with a public forum in which any matters can be raised with the Council before moving onto the main Council meeting.

We would be extremely glad to see you there.

## Vacancy — Councillor



## Contact the Parish Council

### Ruth Mullett - Clerk to the Council

Address: 167 Bromsgrove Rd., Hunnington,  
West Midlands B62 0JU

Tel - **01562 712050**

[clerk@romsleyparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@romsleyparishcouncil.gov.uk)

## Ed Sheppard — Lengthsman

Ed is our Lengthsman responsible for highway tasks and clearance/ drainage



## Nigel Williamson — Maintenance

Nigel lives in Dark Lane and is responsible for maintenance activities across our Parish.



## Ruth Mullett — Parish Clerk

Ruth lives in Hunnington and brings a wealth of experience and local knowledge serving as Parish Clerk for Romsley and Hunnington



[romsleyparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://romsleyparishcouncil.gov.uk)