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# VILLAGE VOICE

Serving Isombridge, Longdon upon Tern, Marsh Green  
Rodington Heath, Rodington, Sugden and Somerwood

## A time of change...

The last six months has seen a period of change within the Parish Council. The previous Clerk, Connor Furnival, completed a comprehensive handover with the incoming Clerk, and the Parish Council would like to extend its thanks to Connor for his excellent service over the years. Connor continues to work as a Clerk for other Councils and has also begun to offer internal auditing services for Parish Councils. He is still very much a member of the Rodington Community and continues to check on the defibrillators on behalf of the Council.

We have sadly had to say goodbye to two of our Councillors, Teresa Hayek and Richard Lent, who have resigned from the Parish Council and will be much missed. At the Full Parish Council meeting on Wednesday 31st July, Councillors Keith Smith, Helen Tilston and Sue Hodgskin were co-opted onto the Parish Council, and are looking forward to getting stuck in!

There are challenges facing the Parish of Rodington and the surrounding areas, such as the upcoming Local Plan, and the Highways proposals in the village. There are also some exciting events ahead including plans for Christmas celebrations in the village. Please contact your local Councillors for more details.

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- D-Day celebrations
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# Contact your Councillors



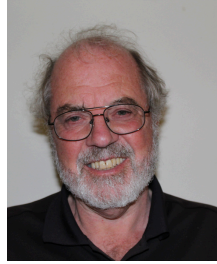
**Cllr Martin Holyoake**  
**Chairman**

[cllr.holyoake.rpc@gmail.com](mailto:cllr.holyoake.rpc@gmail.com)  
01952 770449



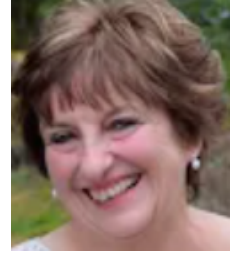
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**Vice Chair**

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**Cllr Sue McGavin**

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07870 189082



**Cllr Keith Smith**

[keithsmith@btinternet.com](mailto:keithsmith@btinternet.com)  
01952 770629

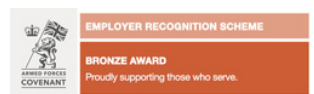


**Cllr Gareth Thomas**  
**Ward Member**

[gareth.thomas@telford.gov.uk](mailto:gareth.thomas@telford.gov.uk)

**Rodington Parish Council**  
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[www.rodingtonpc.org.uk](http://www.rodingtonpc.org.uk)

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*Carols by  
the Tree*

*Village Christmas Fayre*

FRIDAY 22ND NOVEMBER

6:30 PM - 8:00 PM



Rodington Village Hall



## Rodington Parish hedging its bets for a brighter wildlife future!

A lot of residents in the parish will have noticed a new line of hedgerow plants on the southern edge of Rodington Playing Field. This was planted thanks to generous funding from CPRE Shropshire's Hedgerow Heroes project boosted by a fantastic turnout of volunteers from all around the parish as well as further afield.



16 volunteers joined together on a sunny day in late February to plant more than 800 mixed native broadleaf tree saplings. The Rodington Parish Climate & Nature Group will now look after these plants, including removing the plastic guards once they are no longer needed, ensuring that one day that edge of the field will feature a nice bushy hedgerow.



Hedgerows provide a crucial resource for birds, small mammals and insects to feed, breed and shelter as well as allowing them to navigate through the countryside more easily. More than 20 of the UK's butterfly species, including Holly Blue and Brimstone, breed in hedgerows and they are also important for pollinators including bumblebees. Bird species strongly associated with hedges include Yellowhammer and Dunnock, and farmland bird species like Grey Partridge use the base of hedges for nesting. Hedgerows can also provide a vital resource to farmland by providing habitat for pest predators that can help to naturally combat some of the issues facing crop farming (and therefore help to reduce the need for chemical pesticides).

Once they have grown up and thickened after the first 5 years or so, CPRE asks that the hedgerows planted using their funding are cut less frequently to allow natural growth and development. By cutting less often, insects that use the hedge have 'rest' years when their life cycles are not disturbed whilst fruits in the hedge are allowed to remain over winter when they can provide a vital food source for birds and small mammals.

### **Would you like a hedge on your land or do you have a hedge you would like laid?**

CPRE Shropshire has secured another year of funding (their fourth) for the Hedgerow Heroes project! The Rodington Parish Climate & Nature Group is therefore looking for more sites that we can put forward for this winter's programme. If you are a landowner in the parish who would like free hedgerow trees and a volunteer resource to plant them, please get in touch with Cllr Tom Currie on [cllr.currie.rpc@gmail.com](mailto:cllr.currie.rpc@gmail.com). CPRE Shropshire is also looking for established hedges where they can hold hedge laying courses, so please do also let us know if you would be interested.

# Update on the Local Plan

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On 11 January 2018 the Telford & Wrekin Council made the formal decision to adopt the Local Plan as a development plan document. The Plan is the overarching planning policy document for the Borough and forms the basis for decision making process in relation to all planning applications looking forward to 2031.

For more information on the Local Plan please see the Telford and Wrekin website:

<https://www.telfordandwrekinlocalplan.co.uk/>

If you encounter any problems downloading the documents from the Telford and Wrekin Council website please contact the Environment and Planning Policy team on 01952 384241 or [localplan@telford.gov.uk](mailto:localplan@telford.gov.uk).

Paper copies of the Adopted Local Plan (2018) are available to purchase at the Wellington Civic Offices. Please enquire by calling 01952 384241 or email [localplan@telford.gov.uk](mailto:localplan@telford.gov.uk)

Rodington Parish Council and Rodington Parish Climate & Nature Steering Group have submitted a response to the Local Plan which can be seen on the Parish Council website under the 'Local Plan' tab.

To sign up for a newsletter to get updates on the Local Plan, please go to the link below:

[https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKTW/subscriber/new?topic\\_id=UKTW\\_625](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKTW/subscriber/new?topic_id=UKTW_625)

# Update on local rights of way in Rodington and Longdon on Tern

Rodington Parish Pathways Partnership (RP3) will soon be publishing leaflets showing circular walks in the area. These will be made available free of charge and will also be available to download from Rodington Parish Council website. They will also be available online as a booklet. We are currently putting the final touches to these after devising, checking the details and adding the appropriate photos. Many thanks to John Seales who has taken on editorial responsibility for this initiative.

We continue to work in partnership with Rodington Parish Council and Telford and Wrekin Council to install gates, stiles and signposts to the many beautiful walks around the Parish to make them more accessible. The partnership obtained a legal diversion of the right of way (R16 shown on Rodington Parish website) situated adjacent to the Old Smithy in Longdon-upon-Tern which had become inaccessible.

There are several more plans such as the installation of wooden steps and a gate to the right of way opposite Longdon-upon-Tern Village Hall and the eventual creation of a (permissive) circular walk round the canal in Rodington. Encroaching undergrowth constantly makes access difficult, so our volunteers walk our rights of way and try to maintain them to a good standard.

We would really welcome any offers of help either on specific projects or as part of our team of volunteers. especially in Longdon-Upon-Tern. If you wish to help, please contact the RP3 Secretary on [cllr.gaskin@rpc.org](mailto:cllr.gaskin@rpc.org) or phone 01952 770861.



# Rodington Parish Council Transport Working Group



On Thursday 20th June, Rodington Parish Council held a drop in at Longdon Village Hall to offer residents the opportunity to comment on the Telford and Wrekin Council's response to the proposals put forward to increase road safety and resident satisfaction by controlling speeding vehicles and aggressive driving, particularly through Longdon upon Tern, although this affects other areas of the parish too.

The Tern Lane traffic report was also available at the meeting which on the whole residents agreed with although there were suggestions of more resident action in relation to the issues raised.

Many thanks to Cllr Sue McGavin who organised the session and to Cllrs Currie and Gaskin who attended and supported the event.

A full report including the views of residents can be seen on the Parish Council website at

<http://www.rodingtonpc.org.uk/community/rodington-parish-council-15363/traffic-and-road-safety/>

## **Get involved!**

At the Parish Council meeting on 31st July, the Transport Working Group was reformed. The group will be chaired by one of our new Councillors, Sue Hodgskin, who will be supported by Sue McGavin, and consists of Councillors and volunteers who will be working together to monitor traffic in the parish, and report back to Parish Council meetings with information and ideas. If you would like to join the Transport Working Group please contact Cllr Sue Hodgskin at [cllr.hodgskin.rpc@gmail.com](mailto:cllr.hodgskin.rpc@gmail.com) or 01952 770968.



# D- Day celebrations at Rodington Village Hall



On the 6th June 2024, the UK commemorated the 80th anniversary launch of Operation Overlord.

This was without doubt the most critical turning point of the Second World War; it required meticulous planning and execution. Despite, the combined force of American, Canadian and British troops, the Royal Navy, and Air Force, much remained in the balance due to the weather.

There was a window of opportunity on that day, and the combined forces took it. This battle, on French soil, began the liberation of Europe. The fate of the world depended upon the outcome. This was the beginning of the end of the Second World War.

D-Day is a date permanently etched in our nation's memory. For those brave men and women who made this possible, for their sacrifice, for the price they paid that we should enjoy (and we do) freedom from tyranny, we salute you all.

Events took place on Thursday 6 June in both Rodington and Longdon Upon Tern as acts of commemoration, led by Tom Currie and Rev. Ian Naylor respectively. Several residents, and the Chair of Rodington Parish Council, Cllr Martin Holyoake attended to relay the wreaths at the local (Tommy) memorials, followed by prayers. Lamps of peace (RBL) were lit at 21:10 to coincide with lighting the beacons across Europe.

On Saturday 8 June there was a showing of two films, at Rodington Village Hall, depicting the D Day landings. The first of these is narrated by the Historian Dan Snow, produced by the BBC, and another from an American perspective narrated by Bruce Vilgar. Afternoon teas were served to a total of 42 people who attended, £144 was raised by donations for the Royal British Legion. Both DVDs depicted in-depth the events and experiences of the greatest sea-borne invasion in history, focusing on the personal stories of those involved including not only the men in combat but also the family and friends anxiously awaiting news of their loved ones.



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# Want to be kept in the loop?

Keep up to date with the latest and most local information on planning issues, road safety concerns, projects being led by the Parish Council and so much more, by simply visiting our website!

The Parish Council keeps its website up to date and easy to access so that all residents and interested parties can find what they're looking for when they need it.

If you take a look around other Parish Councils websites in the UK you'll quickly find that this Parish Council publishes more than the average, and we do this because we believe in absolute transparency and want you to find what you're looking for without the need to ask. Although we cannot publish everything and anything we always strive to do as much as possible.

If you are looking for information on the Telford and Wrekin Local Plan, please click on the 'Telford&Wrekin Local Plan' tab on our website to view the Parish Council response to the Local Plan. Any new developments will also be posted here.

If you would like to find out more about highway issues, please click on the 'Traffic and Road Safety' tab on the website to view the Parish Council road safety scheme proposals, and the Telford and Wrekin response to these,

For details of Council decisions, you can go to our "Meetings" page. Here you will find copies of our agendas and the meeting minutes.

There is also plenty of information about your local Councillors and how the Council is governed, information on local history and amenities, copies of all of our policy documents and our Parish Plan.

**So, for your local Parish related information please visit;**

**[www.rodingtonpc.org.uk](http://www.rodingtonpc.org.uk)**

**You can also find us on Facebook or have a look at one of our four noticeboards around the Parish.**

# A Day in the Life

## Sarah Windridge, Clerk of Rodington Parish Council



It has been a fantastic few months at Rodington Parish Council so far! I am extremely grateful to have the opportunity to work for such a forward-thinking and ambitious Parish Council, which has the best interests of its community at heart.

I have been asked to share a bit about what a Parish Clerk actually does so here goes!

I currently work 8.5 hours per week for Rodington Parish Council and I also work for two other Parish Councils in the Shropshire area. Life as a Clerk is very varied and no two days are the same. As the Proper Officer of the Council my main role is to ensure that Parish Council decisions are lawful, and to provide advice and recommendations regarding how decisions are made. This part of the job enables me to use knowledge I gained whilst studying Law at University and I really enjoy the legal side of the role.

As well as advising the Council, I am also the main point of contact for the Council. I spend a lot of my time responding to emails from residents, Parish Councillors, County Councillors, local businesses, and the Shropshire Association of Local Councils. Having been a primary school teacher previously I am utterly passionate about the importance of engaging with local communities and hope to find ways to do this as much as possible in all of the Councils I work for.

I am also the Responsible Financial Officer for the Parish Council which, for me, is the scariest part of the job! I reconcile the bank each month, pay invoices, prepare payments to be authorised, work with Councillors to monitor the yearly budget, and generally ensure that the Council is spending the yearly precept responsibly and transparently. The end of the financial year is the most stressful time for a Parish Clerk as yearly accounts have to be completed and an internal auditor checks all of the Council's financial records.

Being a Parish Clerk is interesting and varied, and it is certainly not without its challenges. However it really is a wonderful opportunity to be able to work with Councillors and residents who love their local area and are always looking for ways to improve it. The Councillors at Rodington work tirelessly in their community in so many different ways, and it is a joy to see and be part of.

Although I grew up in Essex, I consider Shropshire to be my home and feel blessed to live in such a beautiful part of the world. I like to embrace everything this area has to offer, and I am often to be found running, hiking or wild swimming in all parts of the county, enjoying the stunning natural beauty that makes Shropshire so special.

# Local contacts and service information

## Rubbish and recycling team - bins

Email: [waste@telford.gov.uk](mailto:waste@telford.gov.uk)

Telephone: 01952 384384

## Planning and Development

Email: [planning.control@telford.gov.uk](mailto:planning.control@telford.gov.uk)

Telephone: 01952 380380

## Housing Solutions team

Telephone: 01952 381925

## Births, deaths and marriages

Email: [register@telford.gov.uk](mailto:register@telford.gov.uk)

Telephone: 01952 382444

## Abandoned rubbish, Neighbourhood services

Email: [waste@telford.gov.uk](mailto:waste@telford.gov.uk)

Telephone: 01952 383384 (office hrs)

or 03451 559995 (out of hours)

## Child sexual exploitation

Telephone: 01952 385385

## Village Halls Bookings

Longdon upon Tern Village Hall

Telephone: 01952 770677

Rodington Village Hall

Telephone: 01952 771147

## Neighbourhood Enforcement

Email: [envmaintcs@telford.gov.uk](mailto:envmaintcs@telford.gov.uk)

Telephone: 01952 383384 (office hrs)

or 03451 559995 (out of hours)

## Roads and Highways

Email: [highways@telford.gov.uk](mailto:highways@telford.gov.uk)

Telephone: 01952 384000

## Noise - Public Protection team

Email: [environmental.health@telford.gov.uk](mailto:environmental.health@telford.gov.uk)

Telephone: 01952 381818

## Pest Control

Email: [envmaintcs@telford.gov.uk](mailto:envmaintcs@telford.gov.uk)

Telephone: 01952 383384

## Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline

Telephone: 0808 2231133

## Wellington Library

Email: [wellingtonleisure@telford.gov.uk](mailto:wellingtonleisure@telford.gov.uk)

Telephone: 01952 382720

## Safer Neighbourhood Team - Police

Email:

[wellingtonwest.snt@westmercia.police.uk](mailto:wellingtonwest.snt@westmercia.police.uk)

Telephone: 01952 214869 (non-emergency)



We are continuing to remind residents to sign up to Neighbourhood Matters. This is your way of receiving direct updates on police matters in your area.

Please visit [www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk](http://www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk) to sign up today or speak to one of your parish Councillors for a sign up slip.