

CUSOP PARISH NEWSLETTER

July 2016

Newport Street housing development

There will be a public meeting at the Village Hall at **6pm on Wednesday 20th July** at which the developers of 26 new houses opposite Hay and Brecon Farmers will give a presentation of their latest scheme for the site and answer questions from residents. It will also be a chance for residents to discuss the scheme and offer their views about it. This will be followed at 7pm by a meeting of Cusop Parish Council which will decide what it will say to Herefordshire Council about the scheme.

Some residents will recall that there was an initial discussion of this development at the Annual Parish Meeting in April, but the developers were unable to give a presentation because they were already revising their original proposals. What will be presented on 20th July is their final scheme which has gone forward to Herefordshire Council for approval. This is Cusop's chance to express a view on it. But bear in mind that the principle of developing the site for housing has already been approved. All that is at stake now is the layout, appearance, design and landscaping of the scheme.

Cusop Parish Development Plan

The draft Cusop Plan is now ready and will go out to public consultation towards the end of this month. Its content is closely based on consultation with residents over the last few years. Copies will be delivered to every household in the parish as well as being placed on the cusop.net website. Other interested parties such as local businesses, neighbouring councils and public bodies will also be consulted. Keep an eye open for it coming through your letterbox.

Hay Town Plan

At the same time Hay Town Council has also been producing a plan and this too is out for consultation. It is a more general affair: Cusop's Plan is strictly about planning policies; Hay's aims to develop initiatives over a wide range of matters such as public services, employment and tourism. Anyone is entitled to comment on it. You can find the plan on the Brecon Beacons National Park website www.beacons-npa.gov.uk - go to Planning - Strategy & Policy - Consultations. The consultation ends on 18th August.

The Battle of Agincourt, re-fought in Cusop

Cusop History Group and Hay Theatre Company are celebrating Shakespeare's 400-year Anniversary with an adaptation of Henry V and an audience-participation version of The Battle of Agincourt on **Saturday 16th July** at Cusop Church, repeated on **Sunday 17th July**. Suitable for everyone. Starts 10.30am with Theatrical Sword-Fighting workshops run by a BBC actor, followed by Shakespearean insults galore, activities for all ages and longbow-making demonstration. Refreshments and soldier's lunch available. A performance of Henry V written by William Shakespeare and adapted by his dear friend Wilhemena Sharpspeare starts at 2pm in the Cusop Churchyard. You will be led up the garden path (literally) into the beautiful church to meet the bishops scheming for war with France. You will be taken on a journey across the sea to France, then from the beach of Harfleur to the breach "Once more unto the breach dear friends, once more", and then march onwards to the field of Agincourt (Cusop Castle). Weather? What weather? Agincourt was fought in the pouring rain, but then our sponge swords might go a bit limp. If it's really bad, and it won't be, the whole event will be in the church. Tickets £7 from Sue Hodgetts (822523). Don't miss it. Be there! In costume a bonus.

Report from St Mary's Church

Please do support our forthcoming village events which include the Mothers' Union Coffee Morning at Cusop Village Hall on **Saturday 16th July** between 10am and 12 noon. Our next Caring for God's Acre Taskforce Day is on **Friday 22nd July**, 10am to 3pm. New volunteers are very welcome! On **Friday 5th August** at the Church we have a "Music Extravaganza" at 7pm with Stephen Gilling and Friends. This concert will be followed by wine and nibbles and promises to be an extraordinary and very special evening! For further details of these events, please contact Celia Cundale (820396).

A Cusop charity?

The last newsletter reported that the Parish Council had been thinking about ways of helping people in the parish and wondered there was a case for a new charity just for Cusop residents to supplement charities like the North Weir Trust which serve a wider area. There was only one positive response to the idea, so the Council now proposes to put it to rest – unless it hears from more people soon. Any further comments, contact the Clerk or speak to one of our Councillors.

Parking

The Parish Council considered the problem of obstructive parking at its May meeting. Examples were parking on one side of Hardwicke Road which effectively reduces the road to a single lane or parking too close to junctions such as Nantyglassdwr Lane / Newport Street. Getting Herefordshire Council to introduce yellow lines is one option, but these have to be enforced by traffic wardens and, since they are based in Hereford, in practice the chances of getting yellow lines regularly enforced are very low. However, if parking is really dangerous or obstructive – for example, parking too close to a junction – it can be enforced by the police who are much more likely to respond. The Council concluded that this was the best approach. So, if you come across dangerous or obstructive parking, do not hesitate to call the local police team (07779 141232).

Where are the new street lights?

Some of you may remember that over a year ago this newsletter said that all the street lights in Cusop would be refitted with white LEDs sometime during 2015. Obviously it hasn't happened. Most of the lights in Cusop are mounted on wooden poles and Herefordshire Council discovered that fitting LEDs to these was not straightforward and put it to the bottom of their list. They say they still intend to do it and are investigating suitable new fittings, but it may take some months.

Lastly, litter bins

Some residents have complained that the yellow street litter bins are often overflowing. Herefordshire Council recently changed their contract for emptying them and the new contractor may have a different schedule or be missing some. But this is not the whole story: increasingly visitors, and sometimes perhaps residents, seem to be using the bins to dispose of large bagfuls of rubbish. The bins were never intended to cope with this. So the Parish Council will consider at its next meeting whether the best solution is to remove the bins completely and let people take home their rubbish instead.