

CUSOP PARISH NEWSLETTER

September 2017

Cusop Neighbourhood Plan - Referendum

Cusop's Neighbourhood Plan has now reached the last stage on the road to its adoption – a referendum of the electors of Cusop. The draft Plan, prepared after consultation with the community, was submitted to an independent expert examiner in May. The examiner's job was to assess whether the Plan was in conformity with Government and Herefordshire planning policy and met certain legal requirements. Happily, the examiner confirmed that it was, with just three small technical amendments. (By way of comparison many plans face substantial modifications, and some even get rejected outright.) The law requires that the final amended Plan must now be submitted to a local referendum and can be adopted only if supported by 50% + 1 of those who vote in it. **This referendum will take place on THURSDAY 19TH OCTOBER.**

The question on the voting paper will be *“Do you want Herefordshire Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Cusop to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?”*

The referendum will be run by Herefordshire Council in the same way as an election. Everyone on the Cusop electoral roll will be able to vote. Each elector will receive a poll card in advance. The voting will take place at Cusop Village Hall between 7am and 10pm. Electors may instead vote by post or by proxy. Key dates are:

- Applications to be included on the register of electors for this referendum must be received no later than Tuesday 3rd October.
- New applications, amendments or cancellations of postal votes and amendments or cancellations for existing proxy votes must reach the Electoral Registration Officer at Electoral Services, Town Hall, St Owen Street, Hereford, HR1 2PJ by 5pm on Wednesday 4th October.
- New applications to vote by proxy at this referendum must reach the Electoral Registration Officer at Electoral Services, Town Hall, St Owen Street, Hereford, HR1 2PJ by 5pm on Wednesday 11th October.
- Applications to vote by proxy at this referendum applied for on grounds of physical incapacity, where that physical incapacity occurred after 5pm on Wednesday 11th October must reach the Electoral Registration Officer at Electoral Services, Town Hall, St Owen Street, Hereford, HR1 2PJ by 5pm on Thursday 19th October.

You can download copies of the Cusop Neighbourhood Plan and other key documents from the Cusop website (go to Neighbourhood Plan/Referendum) or from the Herefordshire Council website (go to the Forthcoming Elections page). Or you can read printed copies at Hay-on-Wye or Hereford Libraries or at the Hereford Archive and Records Centre.

The referendum will be decided by those who actually vote: there is no requirement for a minimum turnout for the vote to be valid. So, if you want to be sure of a representative outcome, please make the effort to vote on 19th October.

Footpaths Officer

There is a vacancy for a volunteer Parish Footpaths Officer, following the resignation of Paul Graves. If you enjoy walking in our countryside and would like to help keep our paths accessible for residents and visitors, please consider this. The role mainly consists of regularly walking all the paths in the parish to check that they are clear, liaising with landowners and the parish clerk over works that need to be done, keeping the walks noticeboard up to date, and generally promoting our network of walks. One interesting possible task is helping to research forgotten rights of way for inclusion in the definitive list before a deadline of 2026. If you might be interested, contact a councillor or the clerk for more information (details at end of newsletter).

New user-friendly footpath gates

One outstanding example of work by our retiring Footpaths Officer Paul Graves was arranging the funding and installation of four new gates on the paths network. These self-closing steel gates - one at St Mary's Church and three on the Wye Valley Walk - replace old wooden stiles or kissing gates and mean that these routes are now accessible to people in wheelchairs and others who find stiles too difficult to use. They were the idea of Cusop resident Josie Pearson who of course is herself a wheelchair-user. Most of the funding came from generous donations by resident Ainsleigh Rice and local businesses Hay and Brecon Farmers and IAF Design. St Mary's Church paid for the installation of the churchyard gate. Our lengthsman Idris Illingsworth did most of the work supported by volunteers Jim Wesley, Mark Hainge, John Wilks, and Paul himself.

Cusop History Group Events

Friday 20th October, 7pm at Cusop Village Hall: Senior Archivist Rhys Griffiths from Hereford Archive and Records Centre will give an illustrated talk and answer questions on research (£3 incl refreshments).

Saturday 11th November, 4pm at Cusop Village Hall: History of Cider in Herefordshire (with cider tasting) - Penny Platts.

Saturday 9th December, 4pm Cusop Village Hall: Christmas Social - films, wine and nibbles.

Thursday 4th January: visit behind the scenes at the Ashmolean Museum JAMEEL Centre for the Study of Eastern Art with our own Denise Derbyshire showing / handling rare objects and paintings from the 13th to 18th centuries. In the afternoon there is an opportunity to visit the exhibition 'Imagining the Divine' and attend the public talk given by Denise. Space on the trip will be limited, so please get in touch if you would like to come.

Visit our website at <http://cusophistory.wix> or facebook page Cusop History-Group to see the latest information and photos of historical Cusop. Email cusophistory@gmail.com or call Sue on 01497 822523 for more info or to share your photos/artefacts.

Report from St Mary's Church

On Sunday 2nd July we said goodbye and thank you to Revd Anand Sodadasi and his wife Shaila at our special service with the Royal British Legion. The previous Sunday we hosted a very successful Community Picnic in our beautiful Churchyard.

During the Interregnum church services will continue as previously, with three services a month taking place. Revd Jane Rogers is the current (non-stipendiary) Priest-in-Charge. Since June, there have been three funerals and two burials of ashes.

Due to finances, changes are now inevitable, so the Church Warden and PCC members have attended numerous meetings regarding the re-organisation of the Deanery.

We are grateful to the Friends of St Mary's who hosted Mark Carey's one-man-show "Into the Breach" and held a very successful Tombola in Hay Market.

"Caring for God's Acre" had two very productive Taskforce Days in June and August when there were seventeen local volunteers. Our next Taskforce Day is on Friday 13th October. Thank you to all our volunteers.

Our Community Harvest Supper held on 15th September was a huge success! Our Harvest Festival was also a well-attended and happy occasion; the collection has been donated to St Peter's Night Shelter, Hereford.

There will be three carol services leading up to Christmas and we hope you will be able to join us in our Christmas celebrations.