

VIEWPOINT

The Ruspidge & Soudley

Parish Newsletter

DECEMBER 2020



*Merry Christmas & a
Happy
New Year
To all our readers.*

A message from the Chairman of the Parish Council

Farewell to Helen

After many, many years (14+), our parish clerk Mrs Helen Hook has decided to call it a day and will be retiring from her post at the end of December. What can I say, Helen has always been there for us the council and the residents of our parish, always cheerful (well maybe not always) and willing to go beyond the job description to get things done. Her knowledge of all respective things relating to council business has enabled myself and fellow councillors to fulfil our roles more beneficially for the community whether it be a problem with planning applications or a matter of litter in the parish, she had the contacts. Helen will be sorely missed not just by the councillors, but I hope by the residents as well. Thank you, Helen, for all the good work you have done over the years.

This does not mean that we without a parish clerk, may I welcome Joanne Rawlings who will be replacing Helen when she retires. I'm sure you will join me in welcoming Joanne to the parish council and we all look forward to working with her.

Comment

COVID-19

And so the pandemic saga goes on - not just here but throughout Europe it seems. At the time of writing the last issue, it appeared that things were getting better. How just two months can change so much! Current statistics are not looking good for the Forest. Having been relatively clear since it began, recent indications are that infections are now rising here as well.

The latest 'Tiered' regulations come into force on Wednesday 2nd December. As you all know by now, Gloucestershire has been deemed 'High' risk and subject to Tier 2 restrictions from 3 December. For a summary of the new restriction, please see later in this issue.

Looks as if this Christmas will be far from normal! Let's make the most of what we are allowed to do

- SAFELY!

On the positive side, there is light at the end of the tunnel, It is almost certain that a vaccination program will start in late December. Of course it will take a while to vaccinate 67 million of us, but it's a start and by Easter things will look brighter - as they always do.....

Your Council Needs YOU!

Please consider joining your Parish Council. Three vacancies remain to achieve a full council. There is no deadline for applications. Council is happy to receive applications until all seats are taken.

Finally, I would like to add to Bill's, my appreciation of Helen's help in compiling the ViewPoint.

Ed





Public Consultation: A new hospital for the Forest of Dean

This Consultation sets out an overview of the services to be provided in the new hospital. It will run for eight weeks from Thursday 22 October to Thursday 17 December. Please visit website for more information <https://www.fodhealth.nhs.uk/consultation/>

Support for the clinically extremely vulnerable

People who have been identified as being clinically extremely vulnerable will be receiving a letter from the government. Those who do not receive a letter and think they have a medical condition that places them at high risk can register on the government website for coronavirus support as an extremely vulnerable person. This support can be in the form of getting food, basic needs and prescriptions delivered.

The District Council is gearing up our community resilience work to provide local support to those people who need it during the new lockdown. The Gloucestershire community hub is open and individuals needing help and support can contact the hub direct on: <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/gloucestershires-community-help-hub/>.

Gloucestershire County Council - No child will go hungry in Gloucestershire

Every child in Gloucestershire who is entitled to a free school meal, will be helped this Christmas. Parents and carers simply need to call 01452 328518 or 01452 426818, give their child's name and a food voucher code, that can be used at local shops and the big supermarkets, will be sent direct to their mobile.

Details on how to apply can be found at <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/gloucestershire-welfare-support-scheme/> Anyone who can't access the information online can call 01452 328518.

Library Services during New Lockdown – How We Can Support You

Collection services from your local library will still be available during this new Lockdown. Haven't tried our '[Off the Shelf](#)' and [Reserve & Collect](#) services before? Now's the time to go online to arrange books that can still be picked up from your local library.

And if you'd prefer to stay at home at this time, our [eBooks](#) and [eAudiobooks](#) are there for you and your family, too.

Some Gloucestershire Libraries will also be offering [PC access](#) – please go to <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/libraries/> for further information.

Neighbourhood Watch

Neighbourhood Watch supports individuals and groups to create safer, stronger and active communities. There is currently no scheme running in Ruspidge and to get one running we need a volunteer coordinator. The coordinator acts as a point of contact with residents, police and other coordinators. Would you be willing to coordinate for Ruspidge and keep our community spirit alive? More information on being a neighbourhood watch coordinator is available at: www.ourwatch.org.uk/ If you are interested please contact the Parish Clerk,

Website

The Parish has a new Website. Unfortunately, we are unable to publish it on the WWW at present due to a very slow response to our request to the Government Digital Service, who are responsible for the allocation of .gov domains. We hope that this will be released soon, but have no control over timescale. As soon as it is available, we will publicise the go-live as widely as we are able. For those interested, it is worth checking every few days for the URL below - hopefully, it won't be long. **The address will be; www.ruspidgesoudly-pc.gov.uk**

Play Areas (As reported in the August edition)

The long-delayed final quotation has been received. However, owing to COVID-19 restrictions, the sub-committee has been unable to meet. We hope to be able to set out a plan for refurbishment to begin early in the new year.

Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council

Planning Schedule for the November, 2020 meeting

Recent planning applications awaiting decision by the District Council:	Parish comment
P0110/20/DISCON Land South Of (Site Compound), Edmunds Way, Cinderford, Glos. Discharge of condition 03 (Bat and Bird boxes) of planning appeal APP/P1615/W/20/3251097.	No Obj
Withdrawn Application	
P1299/20/FUL 43 Buckshaft Road, Ruspidge, Cinderford, Gloucestershire. Erection of a detached bungalow with associated parking and works. Demolition of existing garage.	Obj

Tier 2 COVID-19 restrictions

In summary, the new restrictions are;

- ◆ Shops, gyms and personal care services can reopen
- ◆ Collective worship, weddings and outdoor sports can resume
- ◆ You can meet people in public places but you must stick to the rule of six
- ◆ Pubs can only open if they serve substantial meals. Alcohol can be served with that meal
- ◆ Spectators can attend organised sports events with 50% of capacity or 2,000 spectators, whichever is smaller
- ◆ Non-essential foreign travel is allowed, subject to quarantine rules
- ◆ Meeting inside will still not be allowed under any circumstances, other than for those in a support bubble.

There is time limit attached to these restriction. The Government has announced that, from 16th December, they will be reviewed fortnightly . Where appropriate, areas may go down (or up!) the Tiers. For full detail, see this link;

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-restriction-tiers-what-you-need-to-know#high-alert>



Ruspidge Memorial Hall

Hello everyone.

I hope you are all keeping well and managing to hold it together during lockdown 2!

The hall is once again sadly quiet. However we have been busy making improvements ready for when both halls can once more be hired out by the public.

The main hall floor has been given it's gloss coat of polish and now looks amazing! Improvements have been made in the table and chair storage area and a new drop leaf table has been put in the kitchen, giving flexible extra 'work top' space should this be needed.



The lower, smaller hall has a new floor, this has greatly improved the look of the space and has, strangely made the hall look larger.

It is a great space to hold small gatherings (Ah, remember them? Seems like a world away!!!)

There are chairs, tables, a simple kitchen in which to prepare drinks with lots of radiators to make the hall snug and warm. It also opens out on a paved and grassy area overlooking the back of the Ruspidge play area.

All this for £5.00 per hour!

The main hall is also available for hire at a very reasonable £10.00 per hour. (There is a reduced rate for regular bookings)

continued.....



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With best wishes to all for Christmas (In whatever form that is taking in these strange times) and here's to a New Year which will hopefully see things return to something like normal. Fingers firmly crossed.

So, when lockdown has finished and social gatherings are once more permitted.....

Ruspidge Memorial Hall 200 Club

The Hall Committee thanks all members, especially those who haven't won, for supporting the Hall. We now have 200 members. All members should receive an online or a delivered copy of the Viewpoint. If you are not, please contact John Powell at powjohn@btinternet.com, or Sally Graham on 01594 781449 Half the money raised goes straight to Ruspidge Memorial Hall fund, the other half is given out as prize

<u>200 Club Winners</u>		
 £30 Prize - Winner	<u>£20 Two Prizes</u>	<u>£15 Two Prizes</u>
<u>October</u>	14 - Beryl Ayland	136 Steve Robins
130 Charlie Underhill	28 - Caroline Ralph	118 Lesley Powell
<u>November</u>	183 Christine Hill	135 Sally Rogers
170 - Marg Entwistle	194 Kay Wood	22 Mary Wilkes
<u>December</u>	166 Huw Jones	9 Steve Jackson
191 - Brenda Jeffery	65 Brenda Evans	127 Robin Dalziel



Forest of Dean District Local Plan 2021-2041

Preferred Option

We are asking for your views on the Preferred Option during the extended consultation period between Thursday 22 October 2020 and Friday 29 January 2021

Anyone can comment to help shape the Local Plan. Comments are especially welcome which:

- Support or seek to modify the strategy
- Propose alternative sites for major or minor development
- Suggest any changes to the strategy showing how the plan's needs can be met in another way
- Provide more information about sites which the council is already aware of (such as through the SHLAA process)

The final decision will not be made until the plan is examined by an independent Inspector, and in the meantime there will be at least two further opportunities to engage with the Council about how it should be framed. These are in addition to this Preferred Option consultation.

The Preferred Option document can be viewed

Online at www.fdean.gov.uk

Comments must be submitted in writing to:

Online: www.fdean.gov.uk/LocalPlanPreferredOption

Email: localplans@fdean.gov.uk

Post: Local Plans, Forest of Dean District Council, Council Offices, High Street, Coleford, Glos, GL16 8HG





Forest of Dean District Local Plan 2021-2041

Preferred Option

Comment by Nicky Packer, District Councillor Newnham ward

Thousands of sites for new houses must be found

The District Council need to update their Local Plan every few years, to accommodate the sites that the Government say must be found for thousands of new dwellings.

The Local Plan is important – if a site is allocated for development in the Local Plan then it becomes almost impossible to oppose that development later on. It is Central Government that **dictate how many new dwellings the Local Plan must accommodate**, not the District Council. The work done by the Council shows that it is going to be tough to find enough sites for all the houses required.

A shortfall in housing sites is serious, because then the plan won't be accepted by a Government inspector. This would lead to a 'free-for-all', with developers being able to build wherever they like. Because many of the sites already allocated for development have not yet been built out, (particularly brownfield sites), it gives the illusion that these are available for allocation, whereas the new dwellings quota is actually in addition to these already allocated sites, which are presently lying dormant.

A recent planning appeal found in favour of allowing 50 new dwellings to be built on open countryside close to Newent, because the Government Inspector decided that the Council hasn't 'delivered' sufficient new dwellings. By this he meant that not enough of the sites that have been given planning permission have been built out. Even though it is not in the Council's control to make developers start building on the land that they own and that has planning permission in place, the Government Inspector finds in favour of the developer.

The public consultation on this stage of the local plan closes on **Friday 29th January 2021**. See the Council website or phone the Council if you want to participate.

The Preferred Option document can be viewed Online at www.fdean.gov.uk

Nicky Packer, 16th November 2020



REGULAR EVENTS

1st Monday	Craft Group	2pm	to	4pm	Ruspidge Lower Hall
2nd Monday	Book Club	7pm	to	8pm	Ruspidge Lower Hall
Every Tuesday	Art Club	10am	to	12noon	Soudley Village Hall
Every Tuesday	Golden Oldies	2:15pm	to	4:15pm	Ruspidge Hall
1st Tuesday	Ladies Group	7pm	to	9pm	Ruspidge Hall
2nd Tuesday	Gardening Club	7:15pm	to	9pm	More info at ruspidgegardeningclub.net
2nd Tuesday	Parish Council Meetings	7pm	to	9pm	Alternate between Ruspidge & Soudley Halls. Check Council website for next venue.
Every Wednesday	Fitness Class	2pm	to	3pm	Ruspidge Hall
Every Wednesday	Line Dancing	3:30pm	to	4:30pm	Ruspidge Hall
Every Wednesday	LVC Dance Fitness	7pm	to	8pm	Ruspidge Hall
1st & 3rd Wednesday	Said Eucharist	10am			St Stephen's, Cinderford
3rd Wednesday	Hall Committee Meeting	7pm	to	8:30pm	Ruspidge Lower Hall
5th Wednesday	Said Eucharist	10am			St John's Cinderford
Every Thursday	Walking for Health	2pm			Blakeney Surgery
Every Thursday*	*Brownies	6pm	to	7:30pm	Ruspidge Hall
Every Sunday	Parish Eucharist	9:30am			St John's Cinderford
Every Sunday	Canine College	10am	to	12noon	Ruspidge Lower Hall
Every Sunday	Under 4s & 5s Football	10am	to	11am	Contact Rich Wilkins Cinderford Town FC
Every Sunday	Fitness Club	10am			Soudley Rec Ground
Every Sunday	Shaolin Kung Fu	6:30pm	to	8:30pm	Ruspidge Hall

Note. From 2nd December, both Ruspidge and Soudley Halls are OPEN FOR BOOKINGS.

Both Hall Committee are abiding by current COVID-19 rules imposed by the Government, including the Rule of Six that applies to most activities.



USEFUL CONTACTS

For Ruspidge & Soudley Parishioners

PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE/CLERK

Helen Hook / Jo Rawlings 01594 825343

email: info@clerkrspc.plus

VILLAGE HALL & GROUP CONTACTS

For Soudley;

Jane Scott 07961405803

For Ruspidge;

Jenny East, Bookings 01594 823620

Sally Graham, 200 Club 01594 781449

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Mark Harper 01594 823482
harperm@parliament.uk

COUNTY COUNCILLORS

For Ruspidge and Buckshaft;

Graham Morgan 01594 829349

graham.morgan@gloucestershire.gov.uk

For Soudley;

Richard Boyles 07979 755101
richard.boyles@gloucestershire.gov.uk

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Bernie O'Neill (Ruspidge) 01594 827586

Richard Boyles (Soudley) 07979 755101

Nicky Packer (Soudley) 01594 827516

PARISH COUNCILLORS

William Acland (Chair), Bernadette Wood (Vice Chair),

Tony Matthews, Helen Medcraft, Chris Richardson,

Norman Snell.



Other useful Telephone numbers;

BIFFA	01594 825803
Cinderford Town Council	01594 822599
Citizen Advice Bureau	0300 330 9006
CAB Existing Clients	01594 823937
Dog/Street Warden	01594 810000
FOD District Council	01594 810000
Forestry Commission	03000 674800
FVAF	01594 822073
Highways	08000 514514
Health advice (NHS Direct)	111
Police	101
Report/updates on Power Cuts	105
Shire Hall Reception	01452 425000
Street Lighting	08000 514514
Two Rivers Housing	08003 160897 01594 546222

If you find any text difficult to read, please contact the Parish Clerk on 01594 825343

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Next issue of ViewPoint will be 1st February. Last date for receipt of copy will be Monday, 25th January.

