

Sellack Parish Council Newsletter

Hello from your Parish Council.

We are your closest tier of local government and all five of us live in the parish and carry out the role of Parish Councillor on a voluntary basis.

So what do we do? Well apart from meeting every other month to make decisions, we can also be spotted walking the footpaths of the parish and reporting any defects, mowing the grass at Backney Bridge Picnic Site (now owned by the Parish Council), commenting on local planning applications and more (take a peek inside this newsletter)! We are assisted by a part time Parish Clerk, who administers the work of the Parish Council and is also our Finance Officer.

We have printed and hand delivered this newsletter to update you on what we are up to but to also ask you to follow us on Facebook and/or sign up to future updates from us via our website at www.sellackparishcouncil.gov.uk

Please do like, follow and support us and please come along to a future Parish Council meeting and have your say on local matters.

Pictured from L-R are Parish Councillor Nick Washington, Ward Councillor Elissa Swinglehurst and Parish Councillors Paul Franklin, Mark Robinson, Mark Whittal and Sarah Aitken.



Turn the page for...



- Queen's Green Canopy tree planting
- Backney Bridge Picnic Site Working Day
- Improving our footpaths for all
- Drainage works
- Your council tax – how it gets spent
- Stay in touch and have your say

Heralding in the Queen's Jubilee



Thank you to everyone who joined us at the planting of the parish Rowan tree in March, as part of the Queen's Green Canopy, The Platinum Jubilee 2022 at Sellack Marsh.

It was a beautiful, sunny day and it was wonderful to see so many local residents come out and join us. We have also now added a plaque to the tree to show that it was planted on behalf of the parish. If you haven't seen it yet, it sits close to the Millennium Oak and bench.

Pictured: Parish Chairman Councillor Mark Whittal planting our lovely Rowan tree

Backney Bridge Picnic Site Working Day



Thank you to everyone who joined us on our first volunteer working day of the year on Saturday 14th May. Seven local volunteers joined our parish councillors in clearing the brambles and overhanging branches from the side footpath, clearing a path through to the bench on the lower

picnic site, painting benches and litter picking.

We are keen for local residents to get involved with the site and planning for its future so please do consider joining our working group, which is currently looking into developing a Friends group for the site. Do you use the picnic site? Share your ideas and help us to protect it for ours and future generations. Contact our clerk to find out more (details on back page).

*Pictured: Top - Councillor Sarah Aitken.
Right - local volunteers Steve and Josh.*



Improving our Public Rights of Way for all



Our Parish Footpath Officer, Mark Robinson is regularly out and about, checking on the local footpath access. Most recently, we have purchased three gates to replace stiles along the Herefordshire Trail. Usually, when we have work to undertake on footpaths, we ask our lengthsman to carry it out (he also leads on our drainage and maintenance work too). However, as these gate replacements are along the Herefordshire Trail, and the Ramblers are doing lots of good work to update the trail this year, they have supported us in carrying out the replacement work on two of the stiles, free of charge. Please do get in touch if you notice any issues along any of the footpaths within the parish.

Pictured: Parish Councillor Mark Robinson with one of the new gates, purchased by the Parish Council and fitted by The Ramblers.

Drainage works

We have received a grant from Herefordshire Council to carry out a range of drainage works and improvements over the last year. Have you noticed the ditch along the road leading to the picnic site? This is just one of 17 drainage improvements made across the parish – from jetting out and clearing culverts to clearing ditches of silt. We have submitted a list of works for this year too and will be focussing on maintaining the drainage works and improvements made as well as replacing a collapsed pipe near Whitehouse Cottage in Baysham and replacing a connecting pipe at the junction near Corner House in Sellack Marsh. We would welcome your thoughts on the drainage works and would also welcome your feedback on areas you think would benefit from cleaning and/or clearing. Please do get in touch.

Your council tax – how it gets spent

The Parish Council receives a small percentage of your Council Tax each year. On average, Parish Councils receive approximately 3.5% of a households Council Tax, with the majority going to Herefordshire

Council and with a portion going to Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue and West Mercia Police. This year we set our precept at £11,000. The precept is the total annual sum we believe the Parish Council requires in order to fulfil all of its commitments and ambitions for the year. This includes funding the activities in this newsletter, our lengthsman scheme to maintain our drains and footpaths, our insurance and data protection fees, membership to Herefordshire Association of Local Councils, venue hire, maintenance of our Council assets (including Backney Bridge Picnic Site and village hall defib) and our Clerk's salary. We are always keen to keep our precept as low as possible, whilst being able to meet our basic financial commitments.

Stay in touch

We hope you have found this update useful. Please stay in touch, get involved and have your say. We will be sharing these newsletter updates via our website subscription in the future so please do subscribe.



Follow us on Facebook (search for Sellack Parish Council)



Subscribe to free updates on our new website at www.sellackparishcouncil.gov.uk (please be sure to follow the gov.uk site and not the old co.uk site)



Come along to one of our Parish Council meetings - we always include a public speaking item on the agenda or simply come along and listen to what we are up to (details on our website)



Email the Parish Clerk, Claire Vaughan with any queries or comments at clerk@sellackparishcouncil.gov.uk or call 07856960664

**If you would like this newsletter in large print,
please contact our clerk at
clerk@sellackparishcouncil.gov.uk or call
07856960664**