



CLUN DIVISION

# E-BULLETIN No 11

From Nigel Hartin

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## The Countryside Code

### Respect other people

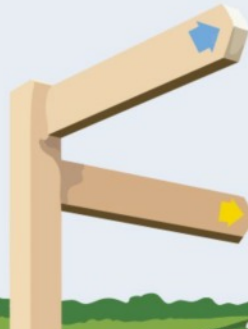
- Consider the local community and other people enjoying the outdoors
- Park carefully so access to gateways and driveways is clear
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Follow paths but give way to others where it's narrow

### Protect the natural environment

- Leave no trace of your visit, take all your litter home
- Don't have BBQs or fires
- Keep dogs under effective control
- Dog poo - bag it and bin it

### Enjoy the outdoors

- Plan ahead, check what facilities are open, be prepared
- Follow advice and local signs and obey social distancing measures



Above: Natural England do an excellent poster on the Countryside Code. To download a copy go to:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-countryside-code>

## ABUSE OF OUR COUNTRYSIDE

Nigel said: "Over recent weeks we have seen a great many people visit our area as lockdown eases. Unfortunately some people have not understood why following the countryside code is so important. I have heard of unauthorised camping, vehicles blocking gates, barbecues and litter. Not only is this anti-social but it does real damage to the environment."

### ACTION

Nigel, together with Cllrs Ruth Houghton and Heather Kidd are trying to get ALL the agencies involved in managing our countryside to work together to sort this problem. Heather has brought the issue up at the ANOB whilst Ruth has brought up enforcement up at Shropshire Council's Scrutiny Panel. Ruth said: "I have asked how the Council and partner agencies, including the NFU, National Trust, Natural England, Visit Shropshire etc., will address these issues and enforce relevant legislation". Heather Kidd is also speaking to the local police.



**Liberal Democrat Councillors in South West Shropshire have produced a new 'Eat Local' leaflet to support local restaurants, cafes and pubs.** The leaflet is designed for visitors to the area as well as for local residents and lists all the different places to eat across our area.

Nigel said: "The Hospitality and Tourism industry is vitally important to our economy. Encouraging people to eat in local pubs and restaurants not only helps these directly but also boosts some of our fantastic local produce suppliers who make everything from meat and dairy products to English wine."

## COVID UPDATE

**A new limit of six people will apply to ALL social gatherings from Monday 14th September.** It will apply both indoors and outdoors, and to all ages.

Pubs, restaurants, shops and other venues will remain open, but people can only attend in groups of up to six. All should also allow for social distancing between groups.

In Wales, children under 11 will not count towards the 6 person limit but in England they will.



## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Road works Abcott, Clungunford

Nigel met last week with the roads inspector and residents to agree urgent works to clear gullies and 'catch pits' to ensure water runoff improves. This will hopefully stop flooding to residential property in Abcott and The Rock Cafe.



### Bucknell Drainage

After a great deal of pressure from Cllr Nigel Hartin and Bucknell Parish Council, considerable work has been undertaken by Shropshire Council and Network Rail to identify blockages in the vicinity of the shop and railway station. Work to replace drainage in vicinity of railway crossing will require a road closure.

Nigel and the Parish Council invited MP Philip Dunne and Shropshire Council Leader Cllr Peter Nutting to Bucknell on 11<sup>th</sup> September to discuss the closure of Bucknell Stores as a result of Shropshire Council failing to sort out drainage problems.

The main drainage repairs in the village centre is now postponed until school holidays as work will cut off safe pedestrian access to school.

## EVENTS IN BISHOP'S CASTLE



Above: Bishop's Castle Station in Victorian Times.  
The Weighbridge site will be open on 19<sup>th</sup> September.

In September, Bishop's Castle will have a farmers' market on the 19<sup>th</sup> September and the Bishop's Castle Railway Weighbridge site will also be open as part of National Heritage Day, this will be a great opportunity to see the restoration progress that has been made.



## CORONAVIRUS STAY ALERT TO THE RISK OF INFECTION

Remember it's critical to keep washing  
your hands regularly for 20 seconds.

For more ways to stay safe go to [gov.uk/coronavirus](https://gov.uk/coronavirus)

## NEW GRANT FOR HARDEST HIT

A new grant is available through Shropshire Council for people hit hardest by the Covid 19 crisis and who are struggling to afford food and other basic essentials. Shropshire Council has been allocated £311k from the £63 million emergency assistance funding, this will be used to build on the work of the council's community response and recovery fund which includes support for individuals most in need. Anyone needing this support can apply by contacting the Council's welfare team on 0345 678 9078.

<https://newsroom.shropshire.gov.uk/2020/09/coronavirus-grant-food-essentials/>

## Wildlife Crime

Wildlife crime includes activities such as killing or capturing or destroying the habitat of any protected species, egg theft, taking protected plants, trade in endangered species, hare coursing, poaching, the persecution of badgers, birds and bats and the poisoning and shooting of birds.

### Hare Coursing

It causes pain and suffering to animals and can push species closer to extinction as well as being linked to possible firearms offences and organised crime. Unfortunately, at this time of year hare coursing on fields of stubble is not uncommon and there have already been reports of "fox cubbing" in the local area. The land owner "giving permission" does not make the activity legal. Suspected wildlife crime should be reported to the local police using 101 or if you witness wild life crime by dialling 999. Further information can be found at <https://www.westmercia.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/wc/wildlife-crime/>





## Postal Voting

Anyone can apply to have their ballot papers sent to them by post, instead of going to vote in person at a polling station. By completing and submitting a postal vote application form, you can choose to vote by post:

**Contact: Electoral Services at Shropshire Council:**  
elections@shropshire.gov.uk or 0345 678 9015

## Road Safety Trust

Road Safety Trust, a charity dedicated to making our roads safer, will reopen its [Small Grants Plus programme](#) for applications on 15 September for five weeks. The main aim of the programme is to improve road safety at a local level. The total value of the fund is £300,000 with each project being awarded between £20,000 and £50,000.



Congratulations to Ed Davey (Above next to Heather Kidd) for his recent election as Leader of the Lib Dems. Ed was last in Shropshire just before the lockdown when he visited areas affected by the March flooding. He was the only party leader to do so.

**Road Closure:** Llwyn Road, Clun

**Start Date:** 12th -13<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Carriageway Resurfacing

Monday (12<sup>th</sup>) - Tuesday (13<sup>th</sup>) 09:30 - 16:00

## Cllr Nigel Hartin E-Bulletin No 11

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# Government Housing Development Shock



Secretary of State for Housing, Robert Jenrick (left), has come under severe criticism for his 'Planning for the Future' white paper published recently for giving carte blanche to developers whilst ignoring the crying need for genuinely affordable homes.

Alan Jones, President of the Royal Institute of British Architects said:

"While there's no doubt the planning system needs reform, these shameful proposals do almost nothing to guarantee the delivery of affordable, well-designed and sustainable homes."



## Developers' Charter

Nigel Hartin added: "What is particularly bad about this plan is that it seems to give developers a free hand to build on any 'allocated land' without needing planning permission. In Shropshire this could mean that the allocated sites now being consulted on could be built on **without the need for planning permission**. What is worse, there does not seem to be any requirement to reflect the needs of local people. Houses would simply be built for developers' profit."

## Fewer Affordable Homes

Affordable Housing delivery has tailed off dramatically during this government - in the financial year to April 2019 only 6,287 new social rent homes were delivered across the country - whilst 23,740 were sold off under right to buy or demolished,

## 11 Times the Average Wage

Ruth Houghton, Shropshire Councillor for Bishop's Castle said: "It's also clear that there is no desire on the part of the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to deliver more affordable housing. Simply saying that the reforms will introduce a simpler levy will not magically ensure that developers will magically deliver more affordable homes.

"We need many more affordable homes for local families to buy or rent in our area. This proposal, if enacted, makes this much more difficult. Houses in Bishop's Castle already cost around 11 times the average wage: these proposals make it even harder for local people to afford a home here"