

Communication



Improving communication

Information about events happening in Shawbury is circulated in a number of ways that are effective, but low key and mainly face to face. The “Shawbury News” is delivered to most households within the Parish and contains information about social and community events. There is a notice board at Baker House and at the Village Hall, but these tend to be for Parish Council matters and Village Hall events. A number of shops in the village display posters and there is a local website for Shawbury that tends to cover events in the area. The use of ‘flyers’ through letter boxes is very rarely used to promote local events.

A new “Customer First” point (Telly Talk) has been created in Shawbury Library. It lets you access Shropshire Council’s services and information at the touch of a button. One can either drop in or make an appointment for things such as concessionary travel passes, blue badge applications, certificate copies, highways enquiries, etc.



It is difficult to know how to improve communication further or, indeed, whether any perceived problems are a failure to convey information or a failure to be aware of what is being put out.

Welcome pack for new residents

Moving to a new location is always a daunting experience. A welcome pack would provide more information about clubs, organisations and facilities. This would not only provide useful information, but also serve the purpose of assuring new residents that they are valued members of the community. Typical information might include a map, bus timetable, information about refuse/recycling, schools, churches, medical surgery and businesses, as well as any local events.

Further investigations indicate that a welcome pack used to be produced, but we believe it is rarely distributed – Perhaps more awareness of this is needed. It may also be beneficial if this could be downloaded from the Parish Council's website.

Shawbury News

<h1>SHAWBURY NEWS</h1> <p>Articles in this Newsletter may NOT be reproduced without the prior permission of the editor.</p> <p>July 2009 Issue 07/09</p> <p>See us on the Internet at:- www.shawbury.mc.uk</p>		 <p>July Notable Dates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Canada Day 4 American Independence Day 12 Battle of the Boyne 15 St. Swythun's Day
<p>SHAWBURY SUMMER FÊTE & CAR BOOT SALE</p> <p>CAR BOOT SALE Car Booters to be held by 1.15pm at the latest please.</p> <p>Saturday July 11th 2pm—4pm on the Playing Fields and in the Village Hall</p> <p>USUAL STALLS ATTRACTIONS ACTIVITIES GAZES BAR-B-Q</p>	<p>SHAWBURY VILLAGE PLAYERS Present</p> <p>Blithe Spirit <i>by Noel Coward</i></p> <p>A Country House Production inside Acton Reynald Hall (SY4 4DX off the A49 near Hadnall)</p> <p>Wednesday 1st July 2009 - 7.30 p.m. Thursday, 2nd July 2009 - 7.30 p.m. Friday, 3rd July 2009 - 7.30 p.m. Saturday, 4th July 2009 - 7.30 p.m.</p> <p>Grounds open at 6.30 p.m. for picnics</p> <p>Tickets available at Shawbury Post Office Theatre Severn Box Office Or call (01939) 250070</p>	<p>SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL</p> <p>Shropshire Council can be contacted on 0845 6789000, online at www.shropshire.gov.uk or, during Library opening hours, via the Customer First Point facility in Shawbury Library.</p>
<p>SHAWBURY PARISH COUNCIL</p> <p>SHAWBURY PARISH COUNCIL will be providing newsletters every 3 months giving details of Council activities and decisions. The first of these accompanies this month's Shawbury News and with it being the first edition it is twice the size it will normally be. Please read it, note any forthcoming dates and retain it for future reference.</p>	<p>RAF SHAWBURY</p> <p>Sunday 5 July - Veterans Day celebrations at the Assault Glider Trust. Open to all. Transport will be running from the Car park opposite the main gate from 0930-1600. Includes a parade of standards, the Band of the Royal Irish Regiment and aircraft displays.</p> <p>Friday 17 July—Station Officers Mess Summer Ball. Some loud noise may be heard. A firework display will be held at approximately 2245 for about 10 minutes</p> <p>Saturday 18 July/Sunday 19 July - Vigilant Gliders operating from the Airfield.</p> <p>Friday 24 July - Station Families Day including a display by the Red Arrows at approx 1530.</p> <p>Friday 31 July - Warrant Officers and Sergeants Mess Summer Ball. Some loud noise may be heard.</p> <p>For any further information please contact Squadron Leader Neil Hope, the Community Relations Officer on 01939 250351 Ext 7572.</p>	<p>CHILDREN'S DRAWING COMPETITION FOR THE PARISH PLAN</p> <p>The Year 1&2 winner was Jessica Williamson with a lovely bright picture of the bonfire and fireworks. There were no entries in Years 3,4,5 or 6.</p>
<p>ANNUAL PARADE</p> <p>The British legion Annual Parade will process from Poynton Road to the Church on Sunday July 12th from 6pm to 6.30pm. After the service, lasting approx one hour, the parade will process from the Church up to the junction of Church Close and Poynton Road and will then return to the Village Hall.</p> <p>The appropriate roads will be closed for these short intervals.</p>	<p>BLOOD DONOR SESSION</p> <p>Friday July 10th in the Village Hall 12.45pm to 3.30pm or 4.30pm to 7.30pm.</p> <p>New donors would be particularly welcome as current stocks of blood are low.</p> <p>If preferred, appointments can be arranged by calling 0845 7711711 www.blood.co.uk</p>	<p>SHAWBURY VILLAGE HALL</p> <p>To Book Phone: 01939 250024</p>

The Shawbury News provides a very useful service to the local community and covers most of the Parish. Indeed, 91.8% of respondents said they received a copy and 96.2% say they actually read it. Whilst undertaking the distributing/collection of the PPQ, a few observations were received from some areas of the Parish that they don't receive the News. It has been pointed out to them that the distribution of the News was totally reliant on volunteers from the various parts of the Parish to deliver to their area, and that if they don't receive a copy it is because no-one has volunteered to do so. We are pleased to say that local arrangements have been made and that the Shawbury News is now delivered to some of these areas

previously not included in the former distribution area. The results of the survey and observations received have been forwarded to the editor of the Shawbury News.

Shawbury Parish Council



Shawbury Parish Council will have an increasingly important role to play in the community now that the second tier of local government (North Shropshire District Council) has been amalgamated in the newly renamed Shropshire Council. Members of the Parish Council meet regularly to discuss local issues and attend numerous meetings with a variety of stakeholders.

The PPQ asked a number of questions of the community about the Parish Council. As regards accessing information/minutes of meetings, etc. on the Council's notice board on Baker House, 47.3% said they looked at the notice board. Similarly, 46.9% said they did not know what the Parish Council did, but of those that did know, 85.4% said they did a good job. Finally, we asked if they knew who their Parish Councillors were – 42.3% did not.

Promoting the work and members of the Parish Council and allocating "portfolio holders" for functions/issues has therefore been included in the Parish Plan Action List. However, since the PPQ, the Parish Council has set-up its own website (www.shawbury-pc.gov.uk), where minutes, what the Parish Council does and is responsible for etc., can be viewed. They have also produced photographs of all Parish Councillors, which have been displayed throughout the village. They are also actively pursuing 'Quality Council' status, one requirement of which will be to produce a regular newsletter.



Transport and Travel

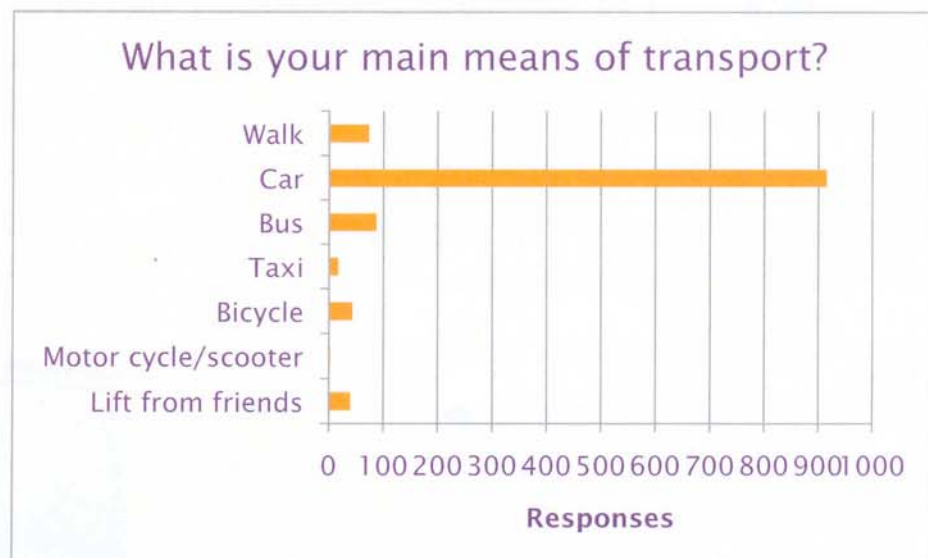
Means of transport

Shawbury is situated approximately 10 miles from Shrewsbury and 12 miles from Market Drayton and Telford. These are also the nearest shopping facilities other than the limited shops available in Shawbury, with hospitals available at Shrewsbury and Telford.

As with all villages and small town communities, travel has to be considered as part of the way of life. How do I get to work, the shop, and hospital? What happens if the car breaks down or I can't drive?

So it is no surprise that the majority of PPQ respondents had a car as their main means of transport, with bus, walking, bikes and taxis or lifts from friends being the other options.

The 2001 Census revealed car ownership in the area to be 1,574, which equates to 1.42 cars per household. However, figures show that 10.8% of households have no car, whereas the County average was higher at 16.94%. Conversely, 32.4% of households had two cars when the County figure was 28.21%. The PPQ asked people what is their main means of transport and the car is, not surprisingly in a rural community, by far the most popular (77.7%) with most people relying on a car to travel to their place of work.



Local bus services



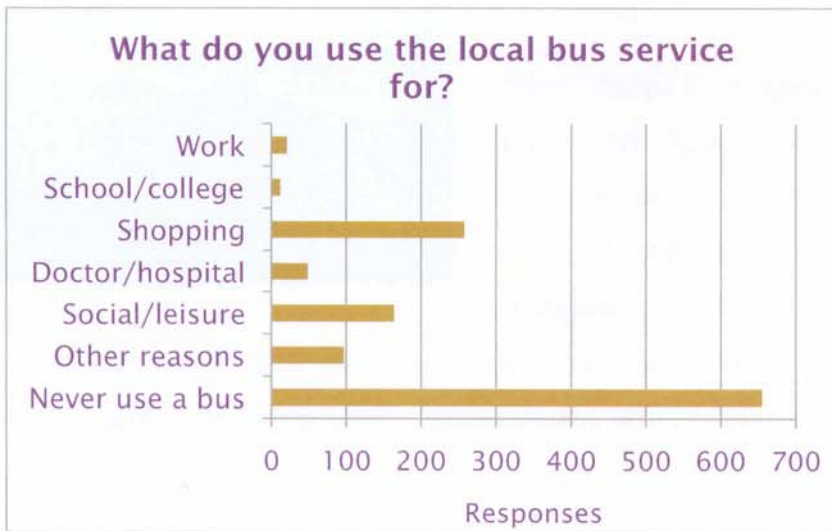
The main provision of public transport in Shawbury is the X64, which operates between Shrewsbury and Hanley and is operated by Arriva Midlands North. By and large an hourly service operates Monday to Saturday with the first bus to Shrewsbury at 8.13am and the last bus back from Shrewsbury at 6.37pm. On Sundays and Bank Holidays, the service is reduced to a two hourly service with the first bus to Shrewsbury at 10.43am and the last bus back from Shrewsbury at 7.15pm. There is a privately operated bus service to Wem every Thursday (market day).

If you have mobility difficulties, are disabled, have a short or long term illness or a pregnant “mum-to-be” etc., and haven't the use of a car and find it difficult or impossible to use public transport, then Shrewsbury Dial-a-Ride may be worth considering. Dial-a-Ride provides a door-to-door assisted service with fully accessible minibuses within a 10 mile radius of Shrewsbury town centre. They operate Monday to Friday, 8.45am – 3.45pm with bookings taken from 48 hours in advance. Passengers need to register annually as a member and journey prices are based on local bus fares. Travel tokens are accepted as payment of fare. They have priority booking service for medical appointments and wheelchair passengers who are unable to transfer. Contact enquiries on 01743-450350 for further details.

Concessionary travel was introduced in Shropshire on 1st April 2009. Everyone aged 60 or over and living within Shropshire is entitled to a National Bus Pass, which allows them to travel free at any time on local bus services starting in Shropshire. (This card can also be used anywhere in England on local bus services between 9.30 am and 11pm, Monday to Friday, and all day at weekends and Bank Holidays).



The feeling is that this initiative is being used by some members of the community for trips into Shrewsbury and elsewhere, as its saves them petrol and parking charges.



It can clearly be seen from the PPQ on use of the local bus service that 52.1% of the respondents never use the bus, with 33.6% using the bus for shopping or social activities; the rest use it for a combination of work, school and college, doctors, hospitals and other reasons.



The PPSG realised from feedback at an early stage that the level of service by public transport was an issue for some members of the community, so we asked about improvements to the service in the PPQ. 39.9% of the respondents would like to see earlier/later bus services with improved frequency,

whilst 17.4% requested bus shelters. Improvements to the bus service have therefore been included in the Parish Plan Action List.



Some concerns were expressed about the location of various bus stops, particularly the one on Shrewsbury Road in Shawbury just west of the Wem Road, which is the busiest stop in the village. This stop is located where there is limited footway width, which at peak times forces passing pedestrians into the road, its close proximity to the Wem Road traffic lights results in tail-backs through this junction, with some motorists overtaking without adequate visibility. Perhaps a review of location, safety and possible rationalisation of bus stops is needed in the village?

Cycling

53.0% of respondents wanted designated cycle routes, with suggested routes in, out and through the village, although from the written comments received nearly all the roads within the area were identified as being appropriate for cycle paths. Provision between Shawbury and Edgebolton was mentioned most. Improved road surfaces and better parking at community venues obtained 22.9% and 15.7% respectively. Only 2.7% said they felt that cycling should not be encouraged.



National Cycle Route No.45 from Salisbury to Chester passes right through the Parish using country lanes via Bings Heath, Poynton Grange, Little Wytheford and using Poynton Road, Church Street and Wem Road through Shawbury. Cyclists do need to be wary when

negotiating the Church Street/Shrewsbury Road/Wem Road junction.

Appropriate facilities for cyclists depend on their ability and age, perhaps discouraging young children from cycling on busy roads. From the electronic POD voting undertaken at the Primary Schools, the children seemed very positive about cycling and there may be some merit in pursuing a north-south route through Shawbury village (using the Recreation Ground, Moat field, River Gardens and Bridgeway) to link to the schools. This could also be incorporated into Route 45, as it would move cyclists away from the Wem Road junction to a crossing point on Drayton Road where there is good visibility.

There are a few cycle stands within the village but these are not immediately obvious and are the old narrow gauge type. It is therefore suggested that a review be undertaken around the Parish of current facilities at public establishments/spaces, shops, businesses, schools etc. The development of cycle routes and provision of cycle parking in the Parish has been included in the Parish Plan Action List.

Royal Air Force Shawbury



The Base

Flying training started in Shawbury during 1917, using a variety of aircraft, in the days of the Royal Flying Corps. The RAF was not formed until April 1918. Everything closed down in 1920 and the buildings were cleared away, but further expansion of the RAF in 1938 led to Shawbury being selected for No. 11 Flying Training School. Shawbury was to become the “home” of navigation taking on the additional task of Aircraft Control in 1950.

A series of record breaking long-range flights, known as the “Aries Flights”, has secured RAF Shawbury a place of distinction in aviation history. The most famous was in October 1944 when a Lancaster, named Aries 1, took off from Shawbury on the first round the world trip by a British aircraft. (Acknowledgements: ‘Shropshire Airfields’ Toby Neal)

Royal Air Force Shawbury has been a part of Shawbury village life for many years, indeed, many ex-servicemen and women have taken Shawbury to their hearts and are now part of the local community; even those who have moved away have fond memories of their time here.

The military training that takes place at RAF Shawbury involves training UK military personnel in Air Traffic Control activities, Flight Operations and Aircrew Training using helicopters, which by their nature are noisy machines. They are used for a wide range of techniques from initial helicopter flying up to multi engine helicopter techniques, all of which include both low and night flying.



RAF Shawbury not only provides employment but has also had a big part in the growth, facilities and sustainability of the village. From PPQ feedback, a number of negative and positive comments were received about the RAF base. The former tended to relate to access, use of sports facilities, inclusion in events and lack of interaction with the community. On a positive point, people felt



that the RAF base was “a military base contributing to the prosperity of the area”, “a good neighbour for many years”, “helicopters & air traffic - great to watch” and “an active community benefiting from the presence of the RAF community with its incoming people”.

RAF Shawbury was considered by the community to be the eighth (joint) best feature in the Parish.

Information and community access

The interaction between the village and the Royal Air Force is very good with many military personnel living within the parish boundary. Despite this close interaction 62.6% of the respondents felt that RAF Shawbury should do more to inform the Parish across a range of



topics from flying times to social events and appropriate community access to their facilities.

One of the members of the Parish Plan Steering Group is a member of RAF Shawbury and had also been the RAF representative at the Parish Council meetings. The RAF is keen to engage the local community and had arranged for young people to attend an organised event at the sports hanger – One would hope that this could become a regular arrangement. We believe the RAF base is also seeking to open up its facilities to the community.

It should also be recognised that RAF Shawbury has been very supportive and helpful throughout the Parish Plan process.

Helicopter noise

When asked about helicopter noise, 89.1% of the respondents said that this did not concern them, however 10.9% (120 residents) were concerned. The RAF has designated flight paths avoiding built-up areas and there are limitations as to height, which is usually 1,000 feet, but lower if the cloud base is below 1,000 feet.



Should you feel that a helicopter is not complying with the flights paths and/or is too low, please record the time/date and register your concern with the RAF Base (The Duty Instructor can be contacted on 01939 250351 Ext. 7232 or the Community Relations Officer on Ext. 7572 the following morning) or, give this information to your Parish Councillor who can raise it at the Parish Council meeting which is attended by a representative from RAF Shawbury. Issues regarding flights from Shawbury can also be raised with the RAF Shawbury Noise Liaison Group.

Whilst RAF Shawbury does have a website where one can access some information, this is not available to all, and as such it would be useful if the RAF could update the local community about events etc., through the Shawbury Newsletter. The results of the survey and observations received have been forwarded to RAF Shawbury.