

Speeding at The Sheet

You will have noticed the new VAS (Vehicle Activated Sign) installed along the Sheet. This was installed following a very successful campaign by local residents and the subsequent grant application to the Police Crime Commissioner which was fully supported and part-funded by Ludford Parish Council. Residents confirm that there has been a sharp decline in the speeds at which vehicles are travelling along The Sheet, although more could still be done. Unfortunately, data collection has been reduced over the last six months due to Covid restrictions, but it is hoped that this will resume later in the year. Details will be posted on the Parish website.

The Parish Council would like to say a big thank you to the Police Crime Commissioner and local dedicated residents who made this happen.



COVID-19

Work, Skills & Money Guide

Shropshire Council have developed a guide which aims to support residents in Shropshire. The guide covers the whole cycle of job loss, financial support, housing and upskilling for people looking for work. The guide can be found at

www.shropshire.gov.uk/coronavirus/information-for-the-public/work-skills-and-money-guide/

Shropshire Council Covid 19 Helpline

0345 678 9028

www.shropshire.gov.uk/coronavirus

Rapid Lateral Flow testing kits are available for those that need them

www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests

Parish Council costs – From page 1

Following discussions with Shropshire Council, the automated speed sign on the A4117 at Rocks Green was repaired and is now working. All this involves co-ordination and management, so we also pay the salary of a part-time Clerk.

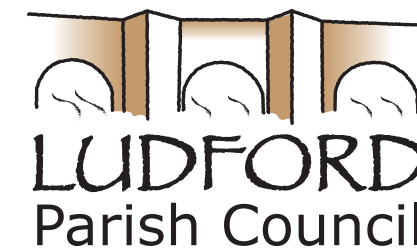
With work commencing on the long-planned areas of residential development on three sites and the completion of the Sainsbury's supermarket at Rocks Green the responsibilities of the parish council will increase. The precept has been increased in anticipation of these developments.

For a Band D property the level of the precept set for Ludford during this financial year is £32.78, which is broadly in line with

neighbouring rural parishes. For a Band D property in Bromfield the precept is £32.34 or 44p per year less, whereas Ashford Carbonell is set at £45 or £12.22p more for the same band.

All residents pay for wider ranging services through county and national taxation. Employment opportunities at the Eco Park, Lower Barns Business Park, the businesses on the Squirrel/Sheet Road development, three public houses and range of bed and breakfast providers and the self employed currently provide over 600 jobs within Ludford. With the Sainsbury's store opening this will increase to over 800.

**Summer
2021**



BULLETIN

LUDFORD PARISH has come under unprecedented pressure to provide land for new development of shops and housing for the greater Ludlow area. In the face of the lockdowns and other difficulties posed by Covid-19, Ludford Parish Council has continued to meet via Zoom to consider all the issues that arise when large greenfield areas in the parish are earmarked for significant new building projects.

This issue of the Bulletin provides a snapshot of the Parish Council's activities and majors on what is happening in the east of Ludford parish where the greatest developments are under way.

For ongoing information on Parish Council matters, the central port of call is our website, www.ludfordshropshire.org.uk, where details of meetings, agendas and minutes will be found. The parish noticeboards at Ludford Bridge, on The Sheet Eco Park and near the Nelson at Rocks Green will also be updated with some of that information.



What the Parish Council costs and provides for you

The precept or local tax raised by Ludford Parish Council is detailed on your Council Tax bill. You may have wondered why it has risen for this year. Ludford Parish Council has a duty to provide services similar to all other councils, be they parish or town. Services include street lighting, maintaining green spaces and verges, and providing access to county services or national information via noticeboards, printed material or the website.

These services underpin our responsibility with regard to local planning applications and the implementation and impact of county and national planning policies protecting the unique nature of the parish in relation to the immediate area. In short, Ludford Parish Council is the tier of local government that is closest to local residents in delivering services and community rights. All residents of the parish have access through public meetings or by written communications.

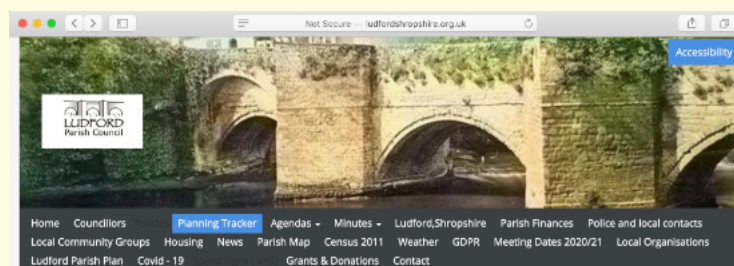
Evidence of this can be seen through the installation of the Vehicle Activated Sign installed at The Sheet. In 2020/21 the parish council granted £1000 towards the installation, in line with West Mercia Police grant application process.

Continued on back page

Need any help?

Ludford Parish Council has a small community fund from which it can allocate grants of up to £100 to help local projects which will benefit people living in our parish.

For more information, see the website, ludfordshropshire.org.uk



Contact Ludford Parish Council through the Parish Clerk:
Email clerk@ludfordshropshire.org.uk; tel 03330 062010;
post Mrs Penny Brasenell, Ludford Parish Clerk, 13
Rorrington, Chirbury, Montgomery SY15 6BX.

New faces on the council are always welcome. If you are interested in helping shape the development of our parish, please contact the Clerk for details.



If it is not possible for Ludford Parish Council to have a face-to-face meeting at the Bishop Mascall Centre because of Covid restrictions, you can join via Zoom.

Visit the Council website before the meeting and click on the Zoom invitation there. You will be there as a guest, so will not be able to speak in the formal Council session. Details of all meetings will appear on the website, ludfordshropshire.org.uk

Ludford undergoing major growth

Ludford parish is essential to the Shropshire county development plan for the south of the county. Significant growth is taking place on greenfield sites in the east of our parish to accommodate county targets for more housing in and around neighbouring Ludlow.

Ludford Parish Council has pressed extensively to try to ensure developments are as sympathetic as possible to our parish and to Ludlow while meeting the need for more housing.

Rocks Green hosts Sainsbury's and housing

Rocks Green is undergoing huge housing and retail development with consequent heavy numbers of construction vehicles and disruption.

The current expansion stems back to 2006, when Shropshire Council complied with government regulations to produce a local plan, SAMdev, which identified areas suitable for housebuilding. After lengthy consultations with parish councils and the public several sites were selected. The site for Rocks Green is now being developed by Pickstock Homes. The final total of some 200 houses will take several years to complete.

Last autumn Sainsbury's submitted plans for a supermarket and filling station on the Dun Cow farm site. Previously, the site was given planning permission for a hotel which was probably superseded by the Travel Lodge and Squirrel development at Foldgate Lane. The timetable is to open the supermarket by December 2021, providing Rocks Green residents with retail facilities and our parish and Ludlow with employment opportunities. The new developments mean Rocks Green should provide increasing benefits for the local community.

Since the publication of the Ludford Village Plan in 2004 Ludford Parish Council has taken every opportunity to press for the provision of a footbridge across the A49 to ensure that residents have safe and easy access into Ludlow. The parish council will continue with these efforts.

A bit of history

The current level of upheaval around Rocks Green is unprecedented. For many years, little changed in the area. Most of the early settlement lies to the south of the A4117 which takes traffic from Cleve Hill to the A49 Ludlow bypass or through into Ludlow. Prior to the bypass and the junction roundabout opening in 1977, the A4117 ran straight through Rocks Green into East Hamlet, down New Road bank and under the railway bridge to join the A49 at the bottom of Corve Street.

Records are limited but according to the 1891 Census, Rocks Green appears to have formed a small hamlet that provided housing for agricultural workers, wheelwrights, domestic servants, railway workers or shop workers. As there was no school or church, East Hamlet would have been nearest for these facilities. The only public building was The Nelson Inn, a self-proclaimed "beer house" opened in the 18th century with Thomas and Sarah Kendal as licensees in 1891. Long may this distinctive pub continue!

Rocks Green lies between the estates of Henley Hall and Stanton Lacey House, now called Fishmore Hall; both could have provided employment for the inhabitants.

Many of the changes relating to Rocks Green were associated with local government reforms. In the 1920s, Ludlow Borough Council had four wards each represented by an Alderman and 3 Councillors. One was East Hamlet which included Rocks Green. In the 1901 Census, Rocks Green was part of the parish of Stanton Lacy.

In 1967 Ludlow lost its borough status and became Ludlow Rural District Council. In 1974 South Shropshire District Council was formed and Ludlow became a town council, retaining its mayor but with just parish council status. The final change came in 1987 when all of Rocks Green was incorporated into Ludford Parish Council.

The most significant change prior to today for Rocks Green was the opening of the Ludlow bypass in 1977. The increasing amounts of traffic gaining access to the A49

have further isolated Rocks Green from its natural link with Ludlow.

Developments 1990 to 2000

Since 1987, Ludford Parish Council has responsibility for responding to planning applications. The first major application came in 1992 for a development of 92 houses at Dun Cow Farm. South Shropshire Housing Association was assisted in this endeavour by local farmer and landowner Jeff James. He recalled that the farmers would always try to offer accommodation to local people and agricultural workers but that current day regulations prevented this. In enabling the houses to be built he believed that he was continuing this tradition. Ludford Parish Council succeeded in naming Fearney Avenue in memory of Mr James' family farm. Since then, permission has also been granted for a three-pitch residential caravan site.

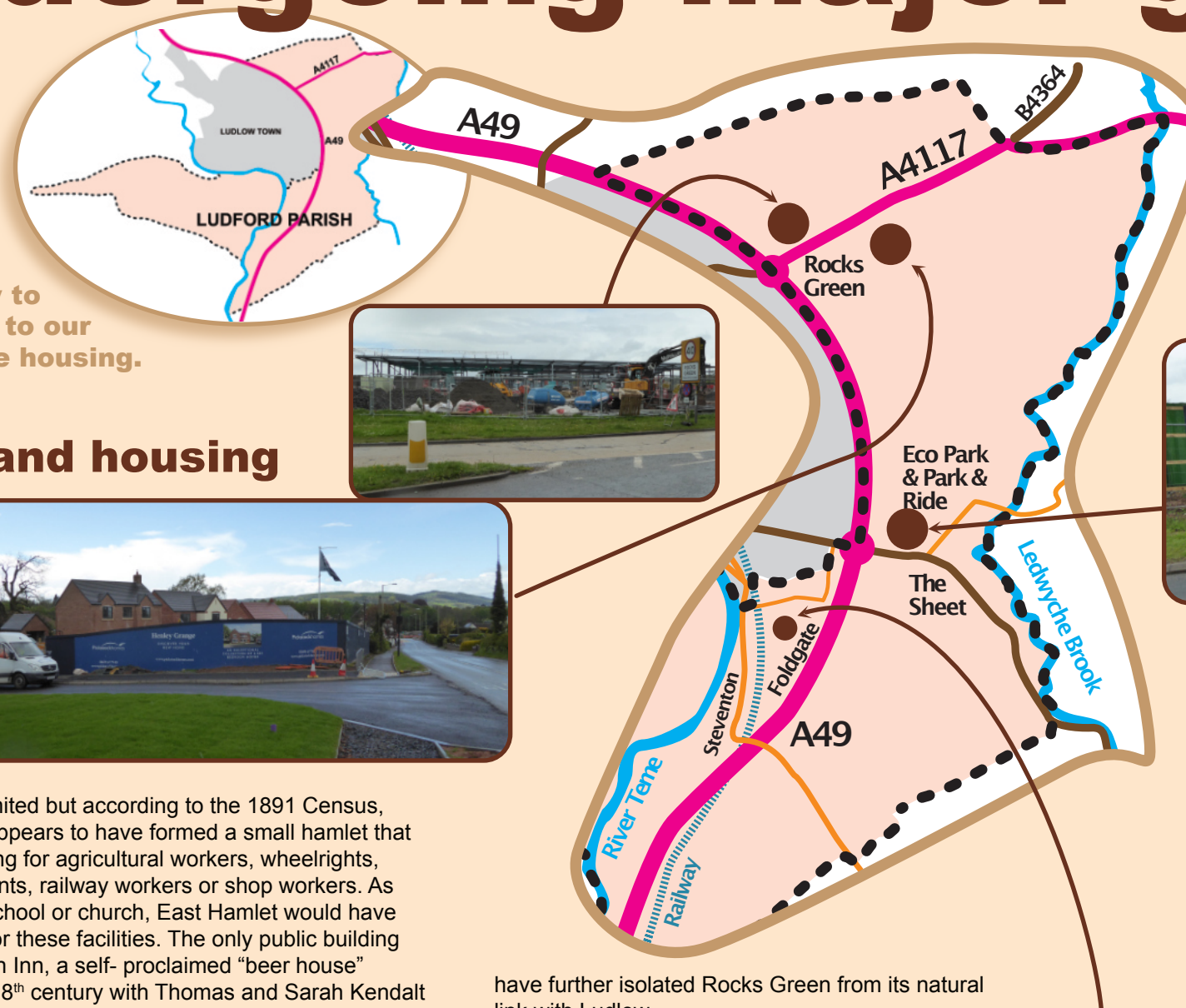
In 2018/19 Western Power Distribution successfully applied for permission to provide a battery storage facility at Rock Farm, to increase the electricity supply into the National Grid within the locality.

Foldgate development

Since the 1990s Ludford Parish Council has dealt with some 80 separate applications for the Foldgate area.

Foldgate Farmhouse was renovated and developed from 2001 with applications from 2019 for five houses in the orchard and change of use for one unit as a house. From 2006 to 2010 most applications revolved around the Squirrel, Tuffins (Co-op) and Hagley Place development – everything from a flagpole to a jet wash.

Refusals for residential planning around 2014 resulted in a Planning Appeal being lodged in 2015. Both Ludford Parish and Shropshire Councils strongly opposed this as it was outside the planned development area. Parish Councillor Imogen Liddle attended the full four days of the hearing. The appeal was eventually granted in 2016 and since then the parish council has dealt with well over 30 applications for Foldgate and held meetings and site meetings with agents and developers. Site access from the A49 was due to have been started in February 2021 and 137 units are to be built.



The Sheet development under way

Ludford Parish Council expressed serious concerns about the increased traffic that would be generated by the Shropshire Homes proposal for around 70 houses on land adjoining the existing Eco Park and Park and Ride scheme.

In particular the Council highlighted the danger of Squirrel Lane, a narrow and tortuous road, becoming a rat-run for motorists wishing to connect to the A4117 towards Cleve Hill.

