

## Parish Of Alfrick And Lulsley Appendix - a Minutes of the Meeting of the Council 19/9/06.

### 4. Reports.

Cllr C Smith reported;

The final stages of the report of the Rural Regeneration operation were in hand and it was expected that the report, after acceptance by WCC, would go to the Regional Government Office of the West Midlands later in the year. Currently this office has some £20m of unspent grants and he would appreciate assistance in possible allocations of this fund.

Cllr Mrs S Young reported;

Malvern Hills Young Peoples council.

I have taken this from the Executive Committee Agenda 29<sup>th</sup> August. I want to share this with you because these young people are our future. The Young Peoples' Council was formed in December 2003 with the aim of involving young people in the decision making of MHDC and partners. There were 16 members in 2004/05 with reps from each High School. They were involved with many activities, including visiting the Houses of Parliament and speaking to MPs, and taking part in a play about how destructive drugs are. In 2005/06 elections were encouraged to be held in 8 Secondary Schools, a new group joined but from only 4 schools. Still 16 young people incl. 8 new members. During the year numbers dropped over the last 6 months to only 2 attending the final meeting of the year. There is now discussion over the future. Cllr. Serena Croad is the Council's Champion for Children and Young People.

As part of Democracy Week it is proposed to repeat "Speed Dating" event held in Schools to enable young people to ask local Councillors questions. The following schools will be invited to take part: Tenbury High School Chantry High School Hanley Castle High School. The events depend on the local councillors support. Funding needs to be identified.

Houses in Multiple Occupation.

The new mandatory licensing scheme for Houses in Multiple Occupation came into operation on 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2006, under the provisions of the Housing Act 2004. The licensing function has been delegated to Worcester City Council with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> August. Statutory responsibility for the issue of enforcement, and legal action remains with Malvern Hills district council.

Licensing.

More responsibility for Licensing comes with the forthcoming Animal Welfare Act. Today's laws to protect animals have barely changed for nearly 100 years and the RSPCA has long called for better laws to protect animals. New welfare offences would for the first time protect thousands of animals from enduring on going, neglect each year, by legally obliging owner to care for their pets properly. Under current law, pet owners can only be prosecuted for cruelty once suffering has occurred, and when it is often too late to save the animal from death or lasting injury

Cllr J Guise noted that the MHDC publication 'View from the Hills' would be distributed in the next few days. He would appreciate comments on its content and format.

Cllr G Lowe - Footpaths Warden reported;

This autumn should see work starting on necessary work to some of the paths mainly in Lulsley. One of the main jobs is to replace steps leading in and out of a footbridge, crossing over a small stream behind the Fox & Hounds. This small water course then passes under the old railway line. A number of sign posts are missing or fallen over and some new way-mark posts are being installed to help walkers keep to the correct path. A step is also to be replaced on a path leaving Green Street going towards Alfrick Court. This work is part of a partnership scheme between the Parish Council and the Rights of Way Dept. of Worcester County Council

If local walkers come across any difficulties while out walking our splendid network of paths, please contact me. A fallen tree on a footpath near Broad Dingle and another on a bridle path near Old Storridge, that were recently reported, have been passed to the owners of the land, as needing attention.

Stiles are the responsibility of the land owners, but if they need replacing, new ones can be obtained freely, providing that it was an original stile in situ, when the definitive map was drawn up. In the case of a recently reported derelict stile, the records showed it was originally a five barred gate. A new self-closing gate is now to be provided for the land owner to install. This is on a footpath at the top of Old Storridge.

David Fowler - Parish Tree Warden had sent the following report;

Worcestershire was once depicted as a 'forest of fruit trees,' but in recent years most of our traditional orchards have been destroyed. It is estimated that we have lost up to 85% of the traditional orchards over the last 50 years.

This October, Worcestershire County Council will again be running its popular fruit tree scheme, selling specially grown traditional varieties to help restore some of the mixed orchards and encourage the planting of fruit varieties particularly associated with Worcestershire in either gardens or orchards.

This is a great opportunity for people to grow their own little bit of Worcestershire heritage, a tree would also make a great and unusual present.

The trees are £15 each and there is a choice of apples, pears and plums. More information and an order form, can be obtained from Kate Mustard by calling 01905 766491.