

Bishop's Castle, Chirbury and Worthen and Clun Local Joint Committee Community Action Officers Report October 2011

Walking for Health Group in Bishop's Castle

Walking for Health is a scheme to encourage people to take up short walks to improve their overall health and wellbeing. Each walk is led by a trained leader and lasts for between 20 minutes to an hour, with different levels of walk available. A new scheme has been established in Bishop's Castle and the Walking for Health Co-ordinator for the area, Ian Pearmain is looking to recruit walk leaders in Bishop's Castle.

The Bishop's Castle walks are due to start in late autumn, starting with one from the Grange sheltered housing scheme in the first week of October. One volunteer has already been lined up for training as a walk leader and they have helped design some suitable routes in the town. However more walk leaders are needed.

Ian will be running a training course for walk leaders in Ludlow on Tuesday 27th September and Shrewsbury on Friday 7th October, and further courses can be run if there is demand in Bishop's Castle. So if you would like to volunteer as a walk leader or know of anyone else who would be interested, please get in touch with Ian.

By the way, as an extra incentive to the warm feeling inside of volunteering, active walk leaders qualify for a 15% discount card for Millets and Blacks.

Ian Pearmain - Walking for Health Co-ordinator (South Shropshire)

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Private Water Supplies – Changes in regulations

Recently a number of landowners in the LJC are have received letters from the Council regarding changes in regulations to water supplies. These new policies have created some confusion, so the following information from Chris Moss at the Council has been included to try to answer questions raised about this issue

The new Private Water Supplies Regulations 2009 have replaced the 1991 Regulations.

Private Water Supplies are now classified as "Large" or "Small".

A "Large" supply is one where water usage is greater than 10 cubic metres/day (10,000 litres), or where there is commercial activity taking place (B&B, Holiday Let etc).

A "Small" supply is one where there is more than property served by the supply, total water usage is less than 10 cubic metres/day and there is no commercial activity.

Local Authority duties under the new Regulations include the requirement to carry out a risk assessment of all Private Water Supplies every five years. Ideally, the requirements to sample from a supply (both in frequency and level of parameters sampled for) are dependent on the results of the Risk Assessment.

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The new Regulations also detailed the maximum amounts which Local Authorities can charge the owners of Private Water Supplies for carrying out these duties.

Cabinet agreed the scale of charges several months ago, adopting the maximum allowable charge in all cases with the exception of Risk Assessments where a sliding scale was adopted, mainly dependent on time-taken.

We (the Specialist Pollution Team at Shropshire Council, who handle Private Water Supplies) wrote to owners/relevant persons of our "Large" supplies some months ago.

We subsequently wrote to owners of "Small" supplies in August.

Both letters have, and are, provoking reaction since people on Private Water Supplies will now have to pay to have their supplies Risk-Assessed every five years, and will also see the cost of a sampling visit doubled.

A supply to a single property, where there is no commercial activity, falls outside the requirements of the Regulations. Local Authorities have a general duty to be aware of such supplies, but have no statutory duty to inspect. We will, however, do so on request and, of course, charge for doing so.

The intention is that we will shortly be writing similarly to the owners of supplies which serve a single domestic property and where there is no commercial undertaking. These supplies are not required by the Regulations to be statutorily monitored, but sampling and Risk Assessment is a service which we will provide on request.

In this way we hope to reach all owners of Private Water Supplies.

Please note that a Private Water Supply is a supply of water not from a Water Undertaker (such as Severn Trent), and is therefore not exclusively a bore-hole. We have many supplies which come from springs and wells. We even have a few which are stream abstractions and rain-water catchments.

As always, I'm happy to talk to anyone who has any queries about Private Water Supplies. Further queries on Septic Tanks should go to Grania Miller, Team Leader for Neighbourhood Pollution.

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Changes to NHS services in Shropshire

At the Local Joint Committee earlier in the year Shropshire PCT and NHS services outlined proposed changes to health care in Shropshire, particularly changes to some clinics and medical care available through Shrewsbury and Telford hospitals. These changes will have a significant impact on people living in the LJC area due to the distances they have to travel.

Consultation on the proposed changes has been taking place during the summer, and the PCT and NHS are keen to update members of the public on the latest plans. A special meeting will be arranged for South Shropshire in mid to late November, and details of the date and venue of this meeting will be circulated to the LJC Committee as soon as they are available.

A presentation on the subject will also be given at the Shrewsbury area Local Joint Committee on Thursday 10th November at the Guildhall in Shrewsbury. People from this LJC area are invited to attend this meeting. The meeting starts at 7pm with the NHS presentation likely to take place at approximately 8pm

Community Games 2011 and 2012

The Community Games project aims to bring the inspiration of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic to the West Midlands through a series of "Community Games". Across the West Midlands they aim to run 500 events and involve 100,000 people. The project in Shropshire is being run by Energise Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin.

The aim in Shropshire is to hold 88 events across the county, and involve 21,000 participants in a wide range of activities. These could be linked to sports clubs, but also the organisers are keen to get communities across Shropshire to think about what "community games" they can run in 2012 to mark the Olympic games. The only real stipulation for a group to take part is that they must hold an opening and closing ceremony. Some ideas of events are:

- Taster sessions run by existing sports or arts groups to offer people a chance to try new sports or activities.
- Photography or arts competitions within a sheltered housing scheme
- "Its a Knockout" style events on a village green.
- "Battle of the Bands" involving youth groups
- Events celebrating local food such as a cake baking competition and

They are particularly keen to involve groups who don't normally take part in these events, and to work with community groups and community facilities, to bring long term benefits as a result of the games.

If you are interested in holding a community games event in your community please contact Alison Evans for more details.

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