



# THE Birches

**A NEWSLETTER FOR KINGSTHORN,  
MUCH BIRCH, LITTLE BIRCH & ACONBURY**

*First published 1977* **May 2019**

## NOTICE OF REFERENDUM

### Little Birch & Aconbury Neighbourhood Plan

#### Referendum on the adoption of the Little Birch & Aconbury Neighbourhood Plan

1. A referendum will be held on **Thursday, 30th May 2019** to decide on the question below:  
  
'Do you want Herefordshire Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Little Birch & Aconbury to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?'
2. Applications to be included on the register of electors for this referendum must be received no later than **Monday, 13th May 2019**.
3. New applications, amendments or cancellations of postal votes and amendments or cancellations for existing proxy votes must reach the Electoral Registration Officer at Electoral Services, Town Hall, St Owen Street, Hereford, HR1 2PJ by 5pm on **Tuesday, 14th May 2019**
4. New applications to vote by proxy at this referendum must reach the Electoral Registration Officer at Electoral Services, Town Hall, St Owen Street, Hereford, HR1 2PJ by 5pm on **Tuesday, 21st May 2019**
5. Applications to vote by proxy at this referendum applied for on grounds of physical incapacity, where that physical incapacity occurred after 5pm on **Tuesday, 21st May 2019** must reach the Electoral Registration Officer at Electoral Services, Town Hall, St Owen Street, Hereford, HR1 2PJ by 5pm on **Thursday, 30th May 2019**

Dated: **Tuesday, 23rd April 2019**

**Alistair Neill**  
Counting Officer

## Diary Dates

### April 2019

**30th** Flicks in the Sticks MBCH

### May 2019

**2nd** Steering Group meeting MBCH 7.30  
**8th** Duchy Walk LBVH 5.15pm  
**9th** MB Parish Council MBCH 7.30pm  
**13th** LB Parish Council Meeting LBVH 7.30  
**14th** Whist Drive LBVH 7.30pm  
**15th** Table Tennis LBVH 7.30pm  
**17th** Quiz Night MBCH 7pm  
**18th** Community Café MBCH 10.00am  
**18th** Book Exchange Methodist Hall 10am  
**23rd** Flicks in the Sticks MBCH  
**29th** Gardening Club LBVH 7.30pm  
**30th** NDP Plan Referendum/Voting LBVH

## Church Services May/June 2019

Sunday 5th May - 3rd Sunday of Easter  
11.00 a.m. Little Birch Holy Communion

Sunday 12th May - 4th Sunday of Easter  
9.15 a.m. Much Birch Family Communion  
11.00 a.m. Little Birch Morning Worship

Sunday 19th May - 5th Sunday of Easter  
9.15 a.m. Much Birch Holy Communion  
11.00 a.m. Little Birch BCP Holy Communion

Sunday 26th May - 6th Sunday of Easter  
9.15 a.m. Much Birch -  
Breakfast with Hymns and Prayers in the Hall

Sunday 2nd June - 7th Sunday of Easter  
11.00 a.m. Little Birch Communion

Sunday 9th June - Pentecost  
9.15 a.m. Much Birch Family Communion  
11.00 a.m. Little Birch Morning Worship

Every Thursday at 9.30 a.m. Much Birch Church - Holy Communion.



## Duchy Walk

Geraint Richards from the Duchy of Cornwall, and his team, have kindly agreed to take us on a walk again this year. The walk will be on **Wednesday May 8<sup>th</sup>**. This time it will be through Rough Hill Wood, an extension of Athelstan's Wood – the part which the public are asked not to walk in. Part of the walk will include the new timber-haulage road, which has been created through the wood. This leads to the Little Dewchurch road where there is a loading bay and it is there where we are asked to gather to meet up with Geraint.

We ask that anyone coming on the walk to meet at the Village Hall no later than 5.15pm where we can arrange car share and lifts to transport people to the starting point to be there by 5.30. The walk will be a circular walk and slightly longer than usual. It will take about 2 hours. Parts of the walk may be rather damp.

After the walk we will return to the hall and hope you will join us for refreshments for which a fee of £2.50 will be made. (Profits to the hall)



# Little Birch Village Hall Committee

Newsletter notices for May 2019

## Whist Drive

We guarantee a warm welcome and a fun evening with good company at our monthly whist drive whatever your ability. Excellent prizes and refreshments too.

Our next **Whist Drive** will be on **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May** at Little Birch Village Hall. We start at **7.30 pm** and the entrance fee is just **£2.00**.

## Community Book Exchange/Lending Library

The next Book Exchange will be on the morning of **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May** at the former Methodist Chapel opposite the Village Hall **10am – 12noon**.

All members of the community are invited to join us for this enjoyable monthly event which offers not only a wide range of books and DVDs (to suit all ages and interests) but also an opportunity to meet others and exchange recommendations for a good read.

There is a charge of just **£1** per adult towards the cost of the hire and refreshments.

## Table Tennis Sessions

The next table tennis session will be on **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May** at Little Birch Village Hall **between 7.30pm and 9pm**. All abilities are welcome as the idea is to have a bit of fun and exercise. Equipment is supplied. Sessions will be once a month, but this could be more frequent if there is enough demand. Similarly, if there is sufficient interest, we may also be able to manage a day session. Tea and coffee will be available. **£2.00** per session to cover cost of refreshments and heating.

If you are interested and would like more information call Angela Middleton on 01981 540377 or Peter Rees on 01981 541356

## Art and Craft Space

The Art and Craft Space is proving popular and it has been decided to continue weekly sessions **every Thursday from 3pm – 5pm** at Little Birch Village Hall. Sessions will be self-directed: drawing, painting, creative writing, knitting, quilting or any other crafts which people are interested in. Bring your own materials and join the group to have a chat and do some craft work. All are welcome – contact Margaret for further details (01981-540374) or just turn up.

## Other events in May

- 2<sup>nd</sup> May - Local Elections. Hall in use as Polling Station from 6.30am – 10.30pm.
- 8<sup>th</sup> May – Duchy walk. Meet at LBVH at 5.30pm, to Athelstan's Wood and back to hall for refreshments.
- 13<sup>th</sup> May – LBPC annual meeting 7.30pm
- 29<sup>th</sup> May – Gardening Club 7.30pm
- 30<sup>th</sup> May – NDP referendum.

## Horse/pony/animal help available -

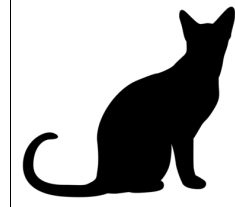
**Very helpful, young, teenage, girls are looking to help on a local yard in exchange for a ride (or help with other animals for some pocket money)**



**07866 006582**

## An Appeal

Many years ago, in 2006/7, I came to stay with my mum in Eden Lane off Barrack Hill with my black cat called Luther. Unfortunately Luther got out after only one day of being in Little Birch and we've never see him since.



We scoured the lanes but nothing. So I am asking if anyone back then anyone recalls a wandering cat . I'm hoping he went off and has become someone's family pet. The not knowing isn't nice and it's been playing on my mind. Luther was a friendly cat and would have been friendly.

If anyone has any information from back then I'd really appreciate it

Regards Hannah Lerego


07527517118

**Monday 13th May, 2019 Longtown & District Historical Society at 7.30pm, Longtown Village Hall, HR2 0LD. Matthew Engel: "Legacy to the world: hidden history of Britain's Railways; exploring their ingenuity, incompetence and absurdity (and the place of our ill-fated Golden Valley line)". Members free; guests £3. For information, go to [www.lhsarchive.org.uk](http://www.lhsarchive.org.uk)**

## **Little Birch Annual Quiz**

A good time was had by all on March 29<sup>th</sup> when heads were put together to recall those elusive answers. It was a shame there were not more teams but those present did very well and there was a tie for first place so there had to be a tie-breaker question from which a clear winner emerged.

Please look out for the date next year and make up teams to challenge this year's winner. There will also be good refreshments!



**FLICKS  
IN THE  
STICKS**

## at Much Birch Community Hall

**Last screening until we return in September...**

**Thursday 23rd May - THE WIFE 15**

After nearly forty years of marriage, Joan and Joe are complements. Joe enjoys his very public role as a Great American Novelist, the devoted Joan pours her considerable intellect, charm, and diplomacy into the private role of Great Man's Wife. Joe is about to be awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature. Joan is about to drop a bombshell. It's a pleasure simply to watch Glenn Close (Golden Globe winning and Oscar nominated) and Jonathan Pryce at their considerable best. Also starring Max Irons an Christian Slater.

**Tickets £4.50 (£3.50 under 16s)**

*Tickets available in advance or on the door - for further info or to book tickets [muchbirchflicks@hotmail.com](mailto:muchbirchflicks@hotmail.com) or 01981 540097*

*For further information about films and screenings visit [www.artsalive.co.uk](http://www.artsalive.co.uk) (online booking available!)*

A talented team of Hospice supporters preparing for a spectacular flower festival to mark 35 years of St Michael's Hospice.



A decade ago, the same team created the hugely successful 'A Cornucopia of Silver', followed three years later by 'Precious Time'.

Now, Carola Kean, Stephen Rabbitts, Jacqueline Flack and Joan Davies are reuniting once again for a floral gallery of Transformation and Peace.

More than 40 arrangers and groups from across Herefordshire and adjoining counties are supporting the event which takes place at Lyde Arundel from 13<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> September.

The festival will not only touch the heart of all its visitors, giving them the opportunity to remember loved ones, but it will also be an enjoyable event, which will include a Preview Evening and Floral Entertainment Evening.

For more information, visit [st-michaels-hospice.org.uk](http://st-michaels-hospice.org.uk), contact Paddy Nugent on 01432 852 641, or email [pnugent@smhospicehereford.org](mailto:pnugent@smhospicehereford.org)

Performing at the flower festival will be the St Michael's Hospice Community Choir.

The group features Hospice volunteers and staff members, plus those from the community who enjoy singing.

The Choir, which performs at various events throughout the year, would love to welcome more men, particularly bass or tenor.

If you're interested in joining, or for more information, call Denise Bishop at St Michael's on 01432 852 656.

#### Paul Broome

Communications Officer, St Michael's Hospice

Tel 01432 852 643

Fax 01432 851 022

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Hereford Gilbert and Sullivan Society present a 1940's Tribute Concert.

Friday 7 June 7.30 pm at St John's Methodist Church, Hereford.

With songs popularised by Dame Vera Lynn and the Andrews Sisters, some Gilbert and Sullivan and some music from one of the earliest technicolor films, The Wizard of Oz, on its 80th anniversary.

Why not join us for a trip down memory lane.

Tickets on the door £10. Or call Lucy on 01432 507483.

#### Parish Walk

Sunday 12 May at 10 am

Meet at Little Birch Village Hall for a walk to see the bluebells in Aconbury Woods and Athelstan's Wood. The walk will be about 4.5 miles and we hope to catch the bluebells at their peak in both woods. A moderate walk with a few stiles through woods, lanes and fields.

All welcome!

Angela Middleton—Volunteer Footpath Officer



Little Birch &  
Aconbury  
NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

## Little Birch & Aconbury Joint Neighbourhood Development Plan Referendum

Following a successful Public Examination, Herefordshire Council has put the **Little Birch & Aconbury Joint Neighbourhood Development Plan to Referendum**. This is the final key stage in the process and will be undertaken in a similar way to those for local elections.

The Referendum will ask: **'Do you want Herefordshire Council to use the Neighbourhood Development Plan for Little Birch and Aconbury to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?'**

The Ballot Paper asks you to mark a cross (X) in the box next to your choice – **Yes or No**.

Just to remind residents of the two parishes in September 2016 a Residents' Questionnaire was returned by well over 75%. It was that questionnaire that was the basis of the Development Plan. This was produced by the Steering Group made up by residents of the two parishes - with the considerable help from our consultant, David Nicholson – a planning expert.

All residents of Little Birch and Aconbury on Herefordshire Council's electoral register now have the opportunity to show their support for the Plan. I urge you please, to use your vote on **Thursday 30 May** - and with a **YES vote** we can help protect our communities and environment that are so important.

For the Plan to proceed, more than 50% of those voting need to cast their vote in favour. It will then be adopted by Herefordshire Council and become part of the **Statutory Development Plan** and be used to determine planning applications for both parishes.

*Mike Leigh – Chair of Aconbury Parish Meeting and part of the Steering Group.*

*Ben Roberts – Chair of Little Birch Parish Council and Steering Group Chair.*

24 April 2019

For updates and notifications please check out the website – [www.littlebirchparishcouncil.org](http://www.littlebirchparishcouncil.org).

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[editorial@birchesnews.org.uk](mailto:editorial@birchesnews.org.uk) or written contributions  
to Liz Hall at Walmere, Wrigglebrook, Kingsthorpe HR2  
8AW.

—by 18th May please.

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[Friday 14 June 6.30-8.30](#): Women Can - Fun Fitness and  
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Martin's Bowls Club, (Rear of ASDA) Belmont Avenue, Her-  
eford. Come and try this lovely game (wear flat shoes). Call  
Lucy on [01432 507483](tel:01432507483).  
Lucy Walden  
St Martin's Bowls Club

You are invited to the first  
**Community Café**  
@ Much Birch Community Hall

**Saturday 18 May 2019**

**10:00 - 12:30**

Come on your own or bring friends, family or neighbours.

Get involved or just read the paper!

It's about getting together and enjoying the company!

For more information or if you are in need of transport contact Lydia  
on 01981 540323 or socialfabric@hotmail.com



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**BOOKING ADVISABLE**

The Writing Group thought the readers of the Newsletter might like to know a little of what goes on in Little Birch Village Hall. This month features the Gardening Club – the most popular group. It has been running since 1958 when founded by D. Enoch, J. Bryant, C. Farmer and W. Rowan and has never looked back.

It has a large membership from several villages in the area and meets once a month, usually on the last Wednesday. Other than the social gathering accompanied by refreshments (non alcoholic!) there are various activities, often a speaker – paid for by members' subscriptions. When spare plants are available, 'Bring and Buy' sales provide a good way to use up surplus stock or buy something different.

In the Summer months various outings to interesting gardens or nurseries are arranged, members using their own transport or sharing cars.

Occasionally members open their own gardens for the Club. This is a good excuse to have a good tidy up!

At Christmas time a party is held for members and their partners/guests. The menu is traditionally Shepherd's Pie, followed by Apple Pie made by members of the Club. There is usually some form of light entertainment to round off the evening.

The highlight of the year is the Horticultural Show held at the beginning of September. It used to be held in a local field but the weather being so unpredictable it is now safely under cover in the Village Hall.

There was once a great deal of competition for the cups and shields, but sadly as the years have gone by a lot of the older gardeners have passed away.

New comers are very welcome to join the group or show their skills by entering the show. Non members are welcome to come on an ad hoc basis if any speakers' subjects are of interest – there is a £3 entry fee.

Membership subscription is £12 a year and reviewed at the AGM in March.

Anyone wanting more information can contact:-

Janet Gwinnett 540651, Jenny Baldwin 541198, Val Ballantyne 540424,  
Lesley Chapman 541370, Patsy Collinson 540327, Mike Leigh 540698,  
Iris Lloyd 540068, Derek Scrivens 540374.



## WHO IS THE BRAIN OF BIRCH?

**ANSWERS REVEALED AT THE**

### QUIZ NIGHT

**FRIDAY 17<sup>th</sup> May AT THE COMMUNITY HALL**

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**Shirley Dyke 07787532720**

**Sylvia Jones 01981 540980**



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## KINGS THORN and LITTLE BIRCH GARDENING CLUB

MAY 29th - this is one for the more practical - a **WILLOW WEAVING** demonstration by CLYDE of WILD WICKER, Wobage Farm Craft Centre. Clyde will be showing us all how it's done and bringing along examples of his work. He will be constructing 'something for the garden' and will be giving it to the club where it will be raffled at the club meeting. Don't forget your note books, for those of us who grow willow, and your money for a raffle ticket and the chance of winning a wonderful item for your garden.



JUNE 25th - **FLOWER ARRANGING WORKSHOP** by Sandra Snell. Sandra is a well known local floral designer, RHS judge and winner of many awards from Chelsea and Malvern RHS shows. She is going to demonstrate arrangements that will be in the Village Summer Show so we are hopeful that this will encourage some wonderful exhibits in this section of the summer show. Sandra is a very experienced demonstrator and will enthusiastically entertain us and no doubt impart some useful hints and tips. Arrangements will be raffled for club funds.

On JULY 24th we have a visit planned to **VEDDW HOUSE GARDENS** - this is a fascinating garden which pays homage to the local landscape and encompasses modern touches like reflective black water pools and sinuous hedges.

We hope this has wetted your appetite to come along and join our club and become a member which is for 12 months commencing in April. You will be made most welcome and your support is really valued and ensures the continuity of the society. You are of course also welcome as a visitor to any meeting where a visitors fee applies and paid on the door. Meetings are at the LBVH and start at 7.30 pm.

Hope to see you at one or all of our meetings, Jenny Baldwin - Programme Secretary

## Much Birch Community Hall 100 Club

Results of the 100 club draw which took place on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2019 in the Community Hall are as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> prize – No.1 2<sup>nd</sup> prize - No. 2 3<sup>rd</sup> prize - No 80

Mrs. M. Hines Mrs. S. Reid Mrs. J. Sharpe  
Much Birch Hereford Little Birch

The next draw will take place on 12th May 2019 at 10.30am in Much Birch Community Hall.

John Jones - Promoter

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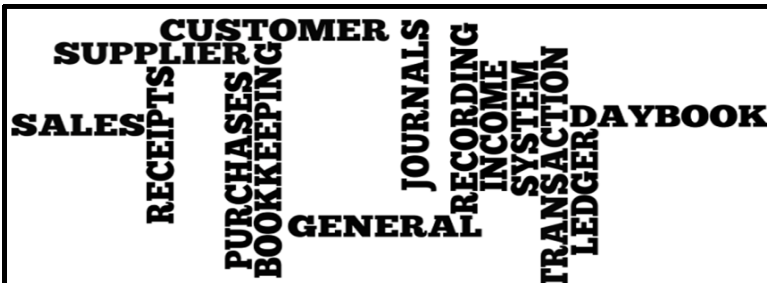
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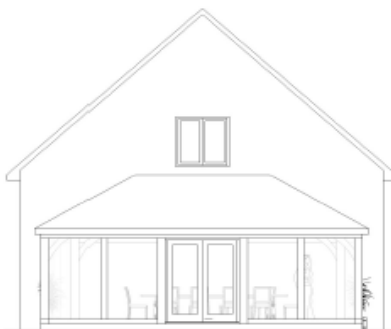
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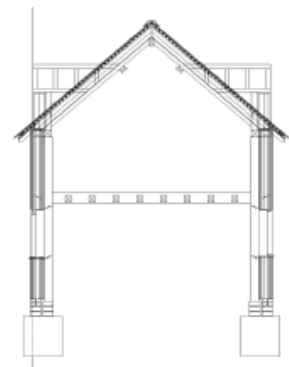
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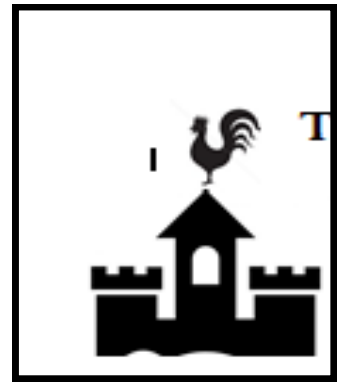
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## Little Birch Parish Council

For updates and notifications of future meetings please check out the website – [www.littlebirchparishcouncil.org](http://www.littlebirchparishcouncil.org).

Your Little Birch Parish Council Councillors are:-

CLlr Ben Roberts	Chairman	07702 760789	b3nroberts@gmail.com
CLlr Peter Rees		01981 541356	panddrees@gmail.com
CLlr Mike Morley		01981 541027	morley04@globalnet.co.uk
CLlr Annette Wissler		Contact through the clerk	
CLlr Janet Gwinnett		01981 540651	janetgwinnett@hotmail.com
Angela Middleton	Volunteer Foot Paths Officer	01981 540377	ajbmiddleton@hotmail.co.uk
Sophie Glover	PC Clerk	01432 617306	lbpcclerk@gmail.com

Parish Council meetings usually happen at 7.30pm on the first Wednesday of the month and all parishioners are very welcome to attend. Agendas are posted on the Parish notice board at least three days in advance and are also on our web site.

Thank you.

Mrs Sophie Glover, Little Birch Parish Clerk, [lbpcclerk@gmail.com](mailto:lbpcclerk@gmail.com)

Website: [www.littlebirchparishcouncil.org](http://www.littlebirchparishcouncil.org)

### Little Birch Parish Facebook Group



Find the latest news, events and business listings all in one place.

You are welcome to promote your local business, advertise a local event or post news or information of interest to the village and surrounding area.

Search for *Little Birch Parish Group* on Facebook

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Tel. 01981 250860: Email: [muchbirchclerk@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:muchbirchclerk@hotmail.co.uk)

10th April 2019

**PARISH MEETING** - at the Parish Council Meeting held on the 4<sup>th</sup> April 2019 at the Much Birch Community Hall.  
The Parish Council received an update on the Neighbourhood Plan Open Day Consultation, held on 16<sup>th</sup> March. There had not been a large number of visitors to the event but those that had come had participated in finding out information and exchanging ideas. Overall it had been a productive day and the comments received would now be used to inform the process going forward. Future Steering Group Meetings are coming up.

Full details of the Parish Council and Ward Member May 2019 Elections may be found on the Parish Web site.

Please see below for future Steering Group Meeting dates:

**Dates of Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Meetings for 2019**  
**All to be held at Much Birch Community Hall from 7.30pm**

2<sup>nd</sup> May, 30<sup>th</sup> May, 27<sup>th</sup> June, 29<sup>th</sup> August, 26<sup>th</sup> September, 31<sup>st</sup> October, 28<sup>th</sup> November.

A reminder that the dates for the 2019 Parish Council Meetings are as follows: May 9<sup>th</sup>, June 6<sup>th</sup>, July 4<sup>th</sup>, September 5<sup>th</sup>, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, November 7<sup>th</sup> and December 5<sup>th</sup>.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2019 from 7.30pm** - at The Much Birch Community Hall. This will be the Annual Parish Meeting followed by the Annual Statutory Meeting. All are welcome to attend for either or both meetings.

Please see notice boards and website for agendas. As always the public and press are more than welcome to attend and will have the opportunity to speak directly to their representatives.

A reminder that:-

**Your Much Birch Parish Councillors are:-**

**Cllr Alison Cook** (Chair) Jasmine Cottage, Wrigglebrook Lane, Kingsthorpe, Hereford, HR2 8AW, e mail [thecooks@wyenet.co.uk](mailto:thecooks@wyenet.co.uk) Tel. 01981 540703  
**Cllr Steve Turner** (Vice Chair) The Underhills, Hollybush Lane, Much Birch, Hereford, HR2 8HX, e mail [turnersofcrossways@btinternet.com](mailto:turnersofcrossways@btinternet.com) and Tel. 01981 540090  
**Cllr Andrew Crum** Anfield House, Barrack Hill, Kingsthorpe, Hereford, HR2 8AX, e mail [a.crum@btinternet.com](mailto:a.crum@btinternet.com)  
Tel. 01981 540002  
**Cllr Roisin Burge** The Old Hall, Barrack Hill, Little Birch, Herefordshire, HR2 8AX [roisinburge@hotmail.com](mailto:roisinburge@hotmail.com) Tel. 01981 540724  
**Cllr David Baldwin** The Granary, Much Birch, Herefordshire, HR2 8HS [baldwin79@btinternet.com](mailto:baldwin79@btinternet.com) Tel. 01981 541198  
**Cllr Rosemary Rigby MBE** Cartref, Tump Lane, Wormelow, Herefordshire, HR2 8HN Tel. 01981 540477

Full minutes of the meetings and information etc. can be found on the Parish Council website following the link found in this summary. [www.muchbirchparish.org.uk](http://www.muchbirchparish.org.uk).

You can also find us on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/MuchBirchPC> and Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/Much.Birch.Parish>

## South Hereford Rural Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT)

**Lowri Anderson PCSO 40247**

**Hereford City Southside and Rural SNT**

**West Mercia Police**

**Get in touch**

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