

From the Chairman

As Chairman of the Parish Council I would like to thank the members of the Parish Plan Steering Committee for their dedication and hard work in compiling a finished document of the highest quality.

The excellent detailed analysis of the information recovered from the questionnaires will ensure that any future plans and policies carried forward by the Parish Council will be in line with and driven by the wishes of the electorate.



Ed Sheppard
Chairman of the Parish Council
September 2005

THE PARISH OF CLENT

As the first tier of Local Government, being within the perview of Bromsgrove District Council and Worcestershire County Council's being the final tier. The Parish is about equidistant from the towns of Bromsgrove, Kidderminster and Stourbridge.

Geographically the Parish is spread over a wide area with Gallows Brook forming the ancient boundary with Hagley Parish. The brook runs from the Clent Hills to the north-east through to the Parish north-western boundary at Sweet Pool. The boundary meets Broome Parish in the south-west. Belbroughton Parish adjoins Clent on its southern border.

A large proportion of the Parish is made up of the Clent Hills. Now owned and managed by the National Trust the Hills are defined as a Landscape Protection Area covering over 500 acres of open space, woodland and farmland. The highest point is Walton Hill, which rises to 1035 feet. The Hills form part of the range of hills running from Kinver in the north to the Lickey Hills in the south and create a natural barrier between the West Midlands Conurbation to the north and east and the Worcestershire Plain running west to the Clee Hills in Shropshire to the Malvern Hills in the south west.

It is vitally important that the landscape surrounding the Hills is protected, they cannot stand in isolation - they need the accompanying landscape to be of value to all who visit them. The protection of the Green Belt surrounding the Hills has been a paramount policy of the Parish Council. Due to its closeness to the Conurbation there has always been, and continues to be, a great deal of pressure on the Parish from developers wishing to develop in the Green Belt.

Clent has two designated Conservation Areas, namely 'Clent' from St Leonard's Church, Adams Hill to Bromsgrove Road and 'Holy Cross' covering Holy Cross Green and Bromsgrove Road.

A source of special pride for Clent Parish is that it is one of only a few Parish Councils to have its own Warrant of Arms, which entitles it to use its own Coat of Arms. The motto is 'I will lift up Mine Eyes to the Hills', referring to the Clent Hills. The Lord Lieutenant of the County presented the Letters Patent to the Parish in 1999 and the original Warrant of Arms is held at the Worcestershire Archives.