

Technical details of www.wyeweb.org (for those interested in these aspects)

The old way of running websites was to have a webmaster who did everything. This didn't work because it was too much effort and there were always control problems. The point of wyeweb is to make everyone who wants to be a publisher able to do just that, under their own steam. It's community publishing, not something controlled by one person.

The technology behind wyeweb is a free open source solution called Joomla (www.joomla.org). It runs many large company systems. David Hewson started a website for International Thrillerwriters Inc (www.thrillerwriters.org) using it which now has several hundred active users. Other places have them running into the thousands. At the moment it is sitting alongside save-wye (now largely inactive) on a gigantic US host called Dreamhost. He very much doubts anything more substantial would be needed. But the maximum that would be required per month if *everyone in the Wye area came on board and was active* would be some kind of virtual server costing around £22 a month.

If you look at www.thrillerwriters.org you will see a site that uses exactly the same technology but gets around 14,000 hits a day, has several hundred articles, and hundreds of logged on users. It's very fast too. This is using that £22 a month hosting system. It is doubtful that wyeweb would ever need something of that power but that is all it would cost if it did.

The Parish Council can have as many pages as they want. So can anyone really but David doesn't want to put that on the site (the five page limitation is only notional and in practice there's no limit).

- Will anyone edit the website?

Sean Furey will be the independent editor for the website. (He is a local resident and recently became Deputy Director of CPRE – the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England).

- Who owns the site?

David Hewson because he started it! He is willing to consider options to put it into general non-profit ownership through an independent society not controlled by any individuals or organisation.

- Who will decide on any additions to the site / who will do further development (at what cost - if any)?

At the moment Sean Furey and David Hewson. David has developed it for free so there has been no cost to anyone else in the community. (For more about 'further development' see below)

- Who is responsible for the content (apart from the individual mini-sites)?

It is under the editorial control of Sean Furey. Anyone suitable can contribute.

- Can anyone put any information on the site?

Provided it's interesting and relevant.

- Will there be an editorial group / person?

See above.

- Who will be responsible for Search Engine Optimisation?

SEO is of very little relevance to a village website but Joomla is SEO-friendly and if the site keeps on going and getting new content it will start to move up Google. To be top of the list on Google takes months if not years and constant updating. Wye.org has been around since 1997 which is why it's there. If people are really bothered by this someone can pay for a click fee to get it up there. Or they could buy wye.org and point that to wyeweb. Over time it would come up the ranks but the primary audience will be local and stickers in shops and pubs and places are more important.

- [Who will assist the people of the WBA / village who won't be able to do their bit?](#)

The mini sites are easy enough for anyone who can fill in a form on Amazon to get something up. Local computer businesses could charge people who want to hire someone to do it for them.

- [Who will carry out more development of the website?](#)

The site currently has:

- user web sites
- a directory of links
- a working village calendar
- the ability to run video and audio
- a free classified ads service
- a private messaging service for registered users
- a working forum

David is not sure what else needs to be developed in the near future. He envisages additional sections – say for walks or travel guides or some such. They are simply sections and he can create them in a minute or so. If you look at the 'About Wye' link you will see the sections there – Wye today, Wye history for example. It's no work at all.

- [What's needed at the moment?](#)

What we need is content – people writing stuff!

- [What about search engines?](#)

The more content goes on wyeweb, the more it will be indexed. The urls have just been optimised for Google. If someone is really worried about the Google thing, someone could always pay Google for the site to come up when someone types in "Wye Kent".

Information supplied by David Hewson

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