

WRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Newsletter/Report - 2011/12

Following the town and parish elections last year a new Council was appointed, with Echo Irving retiring after having given many years service to the community through her roles with the Council. We would all like to record our appreciation of Echo's considerable efforts. Something that Echo spent much time on was the CPRE Village of the Year competition and we were very pleased to win the award for District Large Village of the Year 2011. Thanks to everyone involved.

We've included a report from the Finance Working Group, together with reports from the North East Ward (Redhill & Downside), the Hall Committee and an update from the Council's perspective on the new surgery development and related issues. Working Groups are informal groups of councillors who meet to consider specific issues and then report back to the Council. There are no separate reports from other Working Groups on this occasion.

The Council's responsibilities and activities are wide and for this newsletter we wanted to take the opportunity to illustrate this by listing some of these. Some other activities are reported elsewhere.

- ❖ **Transfer of Assets & Services** - discussions with North Somerset Council (NSC) on the potential for transfer of assets & services, including the Broad Street public toilets
- ❖ **Parish Orderly** - reorganisation to include a parish wide role and quick response to needs
- ❖ **Allotments** - issues raised by bee hives; opening of the northern section for wider use
- ❖ **Website** - design, registration & hosting of a Council dedicated website
- ❖ **Sport & Social Club** - application for a new extended licence
- ❖ **Street lights** - new lights with provision for part-night switching to save power/costs
- ❖ **Glebe wall** - hazardous boundary wall to the car park repaired
- ❖ **Twinning** - ongoing support for the Twinning Association
- ❖ **Skate park extension** - review of options for an expanded skate park
- ❖ **Playbuilder** - procurement and installation of three major items on the Rec
- ❖ **Church Walk play area** - possible upgrade/additions to the play equipment
- ❖ **Flood risk** - ongoing meetings with NSC Officers, alongside an Environment Agency study aimed at defining the issues affecting Wrington, with a long-term solution the objective
- ❖ **Dog control orders** - local controls and needs considered in advance of an NSC review
- ❖ **Area Officer surgery** - a monthly opportunity for residents to raise issues direct with NSC
- ❖ **121 bus** - recommendations submitted to NSC's supported bus service consultation
- ❖ **Grit bins** - new bins purchased and a policy agreed for future installations
- ❖ **Old Quarry, Wrington Hill** - vegetation cleared and waste removed in a project undertaken with the Goblin Combe Environment Centre

The Planning Committee has considered and submitted comments to NSC on a range of planning applications, generally highlighting potential neighbour impacts and environmental issues. Although located in Churchill parish, a comprehensive objection was submitted on the proposed new surgery development. This has of course since been approved and is now under construction. The only other major developments considered during the year were related to the ongoing expansion at the airport where the Western Apron extension has been completed and a Snow Base facility is to be built. We have also submitted comments and recommendations in response to NSC consultations, most significantly planning policy consultations relating to the Core Strategy, which has now been adopted and will act as the basis for land use planning in North Somerset to 2026.

Future plans – 2012/13:

The Council's forward plan includes work on the following;

- Parish Council website
- Potential for transfer of assets & services from NSC
- Possible Neighbourhood Plan
- Skate Park extension
- Computer room refurbishment
- Survey and work at the Rec to resolve drainage issues (with Hall Committee)
- Emergency Plan and Flood Prevention Scheme (with NSC's new Flood Risk Officers)

**Let us know if you would like more information
or see our new website when we finally manage to bring this online.**

Get involved & have your say:

As all the seats on the Council are not taken at the moment we urge you to think about getting involved. It would mean that you a real opportunity to influence decisions and help your community. We would particularly welcome those who live outside Wroughton, especially one or two Redhill residents. Contact the Clerk for further details.

Finance Report:

The Council's financial report for the year is available separately. Please let us know if you need more information. In the meantime we have included more here on grants paid and received together with a report from the Finance Working Group.

Grants:

Grants paid from the Precept account for a significant part of the Council's expenditure, with these mainly grants to the Wroughton, Redhill and Felton village halls. These grants are paid in proportion to the number of residents and this year totalled £15,600. In addition the Council provided grant funding to the Youth Bus, the Wroughton Fair, Twinning Association, Dickensian Fair, Friendship Club and to the Citizens Advice Bureau. We now have a Grant Policy document which explains the circumstances under which applications for grant funding will be considered. Further details are available from the office. While providing grant funding locally, we aim to ensure that funding is obtained from external sources whenever possible. One new local source is the Bristol Airport Local Community Fund which has been set up to benefit the local community and help offset the environmental and social impacts of the Airport's operations. A grant from the Fund will pay for work on improving the drainage on the Rec and we hope that both the Council and other parish organisations will benefit from this Fund in the future. Information on the Fund and the application process is available on the Bristol Airport website.

Finance Working Group:

The group meets at regular intervals to consider and make recommendations to the Council on varied items from day to day expenditure to larger projects. This can range from the side screens for the Broad Street bus shelter and requests for funding from local groups, to major installations such as the new play equipment on the Rec and replacement street lighting.

One ongoing issue is the state of the street lights. We have now completed the replacement/repair of the lights identified for priority work in a condition survey, although there will be other needs as time goes on and further costs incurred. Following the £22,000 grant funding obtained for the new play equipment on the Rec we hope that grant funding will allow us to add new play items for the younger residents in the Church Walk play area. We are actively seeking funding for other projects such as the rewiring of the Memorial Hall.

We had many discussions over the budget for the next financial year and several versions were produced. However, costs have risen such as power for street lighting as well as other items, for example the emptying of dog waste bins, with the cost doubling to £2 per bin per week, or from £624 a year to £1,248 in total. All members of the Council are keen to keep expenditure as low as possible despite rising costs and we managed to hold the rise in budget to 1.9% - well below the rate of inflation, with the Precept set at £80,860 for 2012/13.

John Rawlins

NE Ward - Downside:

We have continued to press North Somerset Council to acknowledge that Downside residents have serious issues. Spending constraints have until recently hindered requests for traffic calming and re-painting of the road markings along Downside Road. However when Highways resurfaced the road towards the end of last year some of these concerns were addressed. We would still like to see a more formal lay-by and bus stop area and pedestrian access along the road. Work has begun on the expansion of Bristol Airport with additional aircraft stands in place and a snow base facility under construction. The Council meets regularly with airport representatives to monitor developments and speak for local residents. It is through this that, after the introduction of the £1 tariff for the express pick-up and drop-off zone last May, we were able to negotiate free daily short term parking for local residents who wish to make use of the terminal facilities. We are pleased that the new turnaround for car transporters is now in use, which means that the drivers do not need to access the hire facility via Downside Road.

The formal start of major development triggered a new concessionary fare scheme for the airport Flyer, providing a 50% reduction on fares for the local community. Development will continue over the next few years and with it will come further issues, but by regular consultation with the airport, including our membership of the Consultative Committee and the Environmental Effects Working Group, the Council will do all it can to lessen the impacts. A new three year contract for the 121 bus service has been agreed with Bakers Dolphin. The service, between Bristol and Weston-super-Mare, is a lifeline to some residents. It runs two hourly from the Airport terminal.

I have continued to keep everyone informed of important issues in the parish by my monthly newsletter posted on the Downside Road notice board and distributed to households on request. I also have regular contact with many residents and have acted on your behalf on local issues

Christine Turton

Wrington Vale Medical Practice (WVMP):

As you will probably be aware, work on the new surgery in Pudding Pie Lane, Churchill, started in January and is scheduled to be completed early next year. Despite the best efforts of many residents and the Council we were unable to persuade either the Practice or NSC Planning that the existing Wrington surgery should not be closed.

Following approval of the planning application we have since met with the Practice to try to confirm the exact arrangements they are making to maintain a presence in Wrington, as required by

the PCT, but were advised that no alternative premises had yet been identified for a branch surgery. We have since asked to further discuss residents' worries about the new arrangements although it appears that WVMP prefers to update everyone through their newsletter and website. They have, however, indicated that they are intending to follow the development model approved for funding by the PCT, which provides for 'the concerns of Wrington residents to be answered'. We hope to be in a position to advise parishioners of the details of how this will be met in due course.

The conditions attached to the planning permission include a requirement for the developers to submit a Travel Plan, with this to include details of the transport provisions for residents who may find difficulty in attending the surgery in Pudding Pie Lane. This is still outstanding and we currently have no details of what is proposed. Again, we shall do our best to inform parishioners of these arrangements as soon as the information becomes available.

Paul Robinson

Memorial Hall & Recreation Field Committee:

I would like to thank Jo and Tom, Fiona and Judith for all their effort on the community's behalf in keeping the Hall and Rec in good condition on a limited budget. This year we have repaired the flat roof above the Hall toilets, re-varnished the main floor, replaced the Fire Station doors and, following flooding in the boiler room, repaired the boiler, alongside the ongoing maintenance work. We were very disappointed that the lead roof on the stairs outside the John Locke Rooms was stolen recently and we hope to soon replace this (not with lead!). The new Playbuilder equipment was recently commissioned, but with the installation highlighting the drainage problems on the Rec. We have received a grant from the Airport Community Fund to investigate the drainage, with the objective of generally improving the ground, including the condition of the football pitch.

The Rec still suffers from dog mess, although many residents who walk their dogs on the Rec always remove it. Everyone should bear in mind that the field is used for play and sports by residents young and old so please pick up any dog mess and leave it in the bins provided. A group of young skateboarders led by Lucie Howells are seeking funds to improve the skate park. In the Hall, the immediate challenge is to update the electrics and in the longer term we intend to refurbish the kitchen. Finally, I must also thank the Committee members who put time and effort into help keeping the Hall and Rec in such a good state.

Marshall Clements, Committee Chairman

Solar (PV) panel installations:

Many houses and commercial buildings have PV roof panels generating electricity and you might now have them on your house. The Council has been offered funding for an installation on the Hall roof under an agreement reached between North Somerset Council and the Brook House site developer but while this is financially beneficial to the community there are some concerns about the visual impact. Also, we have a dilemma in that the Council has objected in the past to another Conservation Area planning application. Planning permission will certainly be required for PV panels on the Hall roof and possibly even if we're able to use the funds for an alternative installation on the neighbouring Fire Station or garage roofs. The Council is environmentally sensitive and generally supportive of energy conservation initiatives and micro-generation projects but what do you think? Please let us know.

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee:

The Council will be offering a commemorative medal/coin to all primary school and pre-school aged children in the parish, with these mainly to be distributed through Wrington School and Pre-school. Parents of other children living in the parish should contact the Clerk for details. In addition, we've agreed to the installation of two Jubilee benches in Wrington and arranged that a Jubilee Beacon will be lit as one of a chain of linked beacons across the country. The beacon will be at Pine Farm, Wrington Hill, courtesy of the Garrett family, with lighting scheduled for 10.15pm on Monday, 4 June. The Council has also provided support funding for the Wrington Jubilee Street Party, starting at 12 noon on Sunday 3 June, and will offer residents the opportunity to write their own message to the Queen, with these to be included in a formal book which will be bound and delivered to the Palace along with other messages from North Somerset residents. The book pages are initially available in the office.

Your local Police:

PC Lloyd Nethercott, our new Beat Manager, recently took up his position, replacing the now retired Kim Tacchi. Lloyd will now be seen around the parish, together with Yvette Mayo, his and our PCSO.

The Police contact number for non-emergencies is now 101, although 999 is still the number to call if an immediate response is needed to any emergency. Call Crimestoppers free on 0800 555 111 to provide information anonymously about crime. More general information is available on the Avon & Somerset Police website.

Council Meetings:

The Council normally meets at 7.30pm on the third Wednesday each month and the Planning Committee at 6.00pm every three weeks on a Tuesday evening. Dates for Planning Committee meetings are posted on notice boards and on the Wrington website. These are all public meetings, unlike the Hall Committee meetings which are not usually open but please contact the Clerk for further information.

Your Councillors:

Georgie Bigg - Environment Working Group
01934 863070

David Glynn - Chair
01934 862344

Lucie Howells - Sports & Social Club
01934 862850

Pat Ledbury - Highways Working Group
01934 863832

John Rawlins - Finance Working Group
01934 862432

Paul Robinson - WVMP
01934 862773

Barrie Taylor - Allotments Association
01934 862080

Christine Turton - NE Ward & Vice-Chair
01275 472230

Deborah Yamanaka - District Councillor
01934 862109

Contact us:

Fiona Burke, Clerk
Judith Bishop, Assistant Clerk

Fiona and Judith work in the Council office, which is usually open to the public on Tuesday and Friday mornings, 10.00-12.00, where they will be pleased to provide help or information wherever possible. Alternatively, you can leave a message or send an email.

Phone: 01934 863984

Email: clerk_wrington@hotmail.com

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