



This is a report on both the Council's activities in the past year and our plans for next. We've had a successful year and managed to complete much of what was intended; for example the two A38 pedestrian schemes are now in place, as are the new main window at the Hall and solar panels on the roof, with new defibrillator installations in Redhill and at the Rec. Also, three new items of play equipment will soon be installed.

Some of this work has been grant funded and we have recently heard that funding has been agreed for other projects. These include half funding for a new Hall kitchen (with further external funding required) and for a footway providing safer access to the bus in Redhill. A summary of our programme for the coming year is included on the back page.

While we're pleased to report these positive developments we were obviously disappointed that efforts to keep the bank in Wrington weren't successful and the future of the post office is still unclear. We are in discussion with First Bus about improvements to the new A2 service following loss of the direct bus to Bristol.

You will be well aware that there's a general election in May, when there will also be district and local council elections, although we understand that there will be no parish election in Wrington. Please contact the office if you have an interest in joining us, especially if you live in Redhill or Downside.

Let us know if you need more information on anything mentioned in this newsletter.

David Glynn, Chairman

Finance

The Council's financial report and accounts for the year are available on request. We have managed to keep the Council's part of your council tax bill unchanged for the third year, with the charge for a Band D property held at £76.37. To ensure this the precept was reduced to £90,025. Total income is forecast at £94,828 against an expenditure of £98,208, the difference to be covered from reserves. In recent press reports on North Somerset precepts it appeared that Wrington's charge is high compared to some others. This is due to the unfortunate historical fact that we are responsible for almost all of the parish street lights, which accounts for 18.6% of the budgeted expenditure. Without the street lights, which NSC will not adopt, the precept would be much lower.

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**** Annual Parish Meeting ****
29 April, Memorial Hall, 7pm (refreshments from 6.30)

Speakers on:
'Barley Wood – the future'
'Neighbourhood Planning – an opportunity for the community'

Dog Bins

We reported last year that NSC had proposed increasing the charge for emptying dog bins from £2 to £6, which is significant when our thirteen bins are emptied weekly. We have now agreed to join with other parishes and will work with a commercial contractor at a saving of £1356pa. While this is seen as an essential public service the new arrangement will be reviewed at the end of the year, so please let us know if you encounter any problems.

Flood Risk

The first phase of the Wrington flood relief scheme, the Glebe to Garstons culvert, is just about complete, with the final landscaping and some road works to come. The potentially crucial surface water retention scheme, which is to be constructed on land to the east of the village, has been delayed. The design contract has been placed by NSC and it is anticipated that construction will start early next year with completion by summer 2016.

Buses

Following our report last year about the lack of consultation when the 121 bus was reduced to two-hourly, this year provided a greater surprise when the service was withdrawn. While the A2 bus is more frequent and serves Weston, anyone wanting to go to Bristol must change at the airport or on the A370. We have complained both to NSC and First Bus about the service and the inadequate bus stops in Redhill and on Downside Road, and have met with First to discuss what might be done.

Policing

We were disappointed to lose our very helpful PCSO, Yvette Mayo, and there have been other organisational and personnel changes. We hope soon to meet our fourth Beat Manager (local police constable) in the year and will post contact details on the website when these are confirmed. We look forward to more stability in the future.

Public Conveniences

Work should soon start on refurbishment of the Broad Street toilets. As reported previously, while we will aim to minimise any restrictions, you will find that access is restricted at times. Following completion of the works we will then improve the garden area and undertake some limited tree pruning.



Hall Committee

The Memorial Hall & Recreation Field Committee works closely with and on behalf of the Council to maintain the Hall, John Locke Building, House and Recreation Field. The Hall Committee is chaired by Marshall Clements, who sits on the Committee as one of the user representatives. In the past year the Council has replaced the garage roof, installed a new double glazed main window at the Hall and paid for rewiring of the John Locke House.

Play Equipment

New equipment in the Church Walk play area and at the Rec will soon be in place, with these completing our programme of developer funded equipment. While we have no plans for further items we will be undertaking some refurbishment of the existing equipment. We are also working with Redhill to upgrade their play area.

District Council

The Wrington ward will change from May 2015 with Cleeve and Brockley parishes joining Wrington and Butcombe to form a new larger ward. Our district councillor, Cllr Deborah Yamanaka, is also a member of the Parish Council and keeps us informed on relevant NSC matters.



Bristol Airport

The airport lies within the parish and some of our residents are very much affected by traffic, aircraft noise and other airport issues. There were 63,561 aircraft movements in 2014 and 6.284m air passengers, up by 3.35%. The recent road works on the A38 are funded by BA and must be completed before an eastern terminal extension can be used. These works include traffic lights at the Downside Road junction and improvements to the airport roundabout. Once completed BA will start on a western extension to the terminal building. Also, work is now underway on the new airport hotel, with this due to open early next year, and on extending the south side car parking area.

Planning

During the year the Planning Committee considered 61 planning applications and 14 TPO or Conservation Area tree works applications. While there were 18 objections submitted on applications for development this is a procedure under which the issues raised must be considered by NSC before permission is granted. Where we do have 'objections' these are mainly on neighbour impact grounds. Significant approvals this year include demolition of the old surgery building to be replaced by four houses and the Barley Wood change of use to a nursery and other facilities. All our comments can be viewed on the NSC website. The Council has also responded to various NSC planning policy consultations, with details on our website.

Highways

Our grant funded pedestrian crossing schemes on the A38 at Cowslip Green and Lye Hole Lane in Redhill are now complete. In Wrington we arranged for a dropped kerb to be installed on the footway in Silver Street, and for some new road markings. The 'Slow' marking in Long Lane had previously been on the wrong side of the road! We continue to press for repair of potholes and damaged road edges, although these are an issue across North Somerset. We are trying to ensure that the road surface in The Triangle and in other locations is repaired and for the roadside gullies to be regularly jetted and kept clear of obstructions. You can report problems direct to NSC's Area Officer on the second Tuesday of each month when he will be in the parish office between 10 and 11am.



Neighbourhood Plan

The Council has agreed to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan, which will help us to define planning and land use policies for the parish. However, these must fit within higher level local authority and national policies, for example Green Belt policy which cannot be varied locally. Further information is available on our website. In brief, a Neighbourhood Plan is a community-led plan which might address a range of policy issues (such as housing, employment, heritage and transport) or focus on one or two selected issues of particular importance. Once agreed by the local authority the Neighbourhood Plan is subject to examination by a Planning Inspector and, if approved, a referendum is undertaken. If there's a majority agreement the Plan will then form part of NSC's Local Development Plan. This statutory status gives Neighbourhood Plans far more weight than informal local planning documents, such as parish plans and village design statements. We feel that the considerable work required will ultimately prove to be beneficial.



Future plans - 2015/16

The Council's programme for the coming year includes work on the following:

- Refurbishment of the Broad Street toilets
- Installation of a new Hall kitchen (further grant funding needed)
- Purchase of redundant phone boxes for community use
- Neighbourhood Plan – a future land use plan for the parish
- Tree management works in the Church Walk play area
- Conversion of the store room/CRR for use as an information facility
- Further Recreation Field drainage improvements
- Review of parish speed limits and weight restrictions
- A survey/management plan for the Old Quarry site

- Preparation of an emergency plan
- Survey all 61 of the parish Rights of Way
- Safety/improvement works for the Barley Farm to Meeting House Farm footpath

Information on these and other projects is available from the Council office and will be posted on the website.



The Parish Council, 2014/15:

Georgie Bigg - 01934 863070
David Glynn - 01934 862344
Jacqui Fowler - 01934 862447
Lucie Howells - 01934 862850
George Lankester - 01934 862251

Pat Ledbury - 01934 862832
John Rawlins - 01934 862432
Barrie Taylor - 01934 862080
David Woolf - 01934 862004
Deborah Yamanaka - 01934 862109

You can contact the Council through:

Fiona Burke, Clerk to the Council, and Judith Bishop, Assistant Clerk, on 01934 863984.
Or email: clerk_wrington@hotmail.com

The office is open to the public for enquiries on Tuesday and Friday mornings, 10.00 - 12.00.

This report is available on the Council's website and by email on request.

Wrington Parish Council, The John Locke Room, Silver Street, Wrington, BS40 5QE

www.wringtonparishcouncil.gov.uk