

Coberley Parish Council Annual Assembly May 2019

Chair's Report

Review of PC's key activities this year.

Planning & Environmental issues

PC has continued to represent parishioners' views on planning and environmental matters with a balanced approach.

Most significant issues in the Parish this year have been:

- **Hartley Lane Traveller Sites:**
 - First site to the south (which already has permanent approval) re-applied for additional pitch and facilities this year. Refused by CDC
 - Second site to north applied for permanent permission prior to the end of the 1-year extension of temporary approval. Granted by CDC on grounds of specific personal circumstances.
- **Ullenwood Court - 26 dwellings + retention of existing house but without previously approved riding stables.**

Understood that application received approval at CDC Planning Committee in April, but this not yet published on CDC Planning web site. S106 contributions urged by PC for primary education at Coberley School and for affordable housing to meet the requirement for 6 affordable homes identified in last year's housing needs survey. Our understanding is that that this will be sought.
- **Dowmans Farm** - Conversion of agricultural barns to form 7 dwellings. Permitted by CDC
- **Other applications:** Building to north of **Greenway Lane** change of use (from agricultural to equestrian), and now to residential; Ian Coley **Shooting School** developments; **Korinn Farm** (Cowley Parish) agricultural worker's dwelling.
- **District Council Local Plan 2011-2031 adopted August 2018**

Coberley C of E Primary School – planned development

As reported in meeting minutes during the year, Coberley School has plans to develop the School's facilities to enhance provision for pupils. It is hoped that certain aspects of this will also benefit the local community. The PC wishes to proactively support the School to develop the hall, so that it may become a **much-needed community facility** outside school hours. We are therefore, exploring the necessary consents and arrangements to enable this, before moving forward on project plans, budgets, community consultation and fund-raising.

New Parish web site (to satisfy Transparency Code) is now live and can be visited at www.coberleyparish.co.uk . Work still in progress to upload information.

General Data Protection Regulations – 25 May 2018 All parishioners were asked to confirm opt-in to receive Parish Council communications. If agreement or response not forthcoming, PC was obliged to remove address from distribution. Parishioners should advise Clerk immediately if they have not yet re-confirmed inclusion.

Parish Housing Needs Survey undertaken. **6 households** within the parish have self-identified themselves as being in **need of affordable housing**. Discussions and investigations continuing. Survey Report & Summary can be seen on Council web site <http://www.coberleyparish.co.uk> 'Surveys & Questionnaires' page.

Grass-cutting on the village green. Volunteers are required please. Contact David Carlton and Sarah Webster.

Battle's Over – A Nation's Tribute & WWI Beacons of Light 11 November 2018. PC organised a successful event. Well attended. Thanks to the Powell Family for hosting the event at Hartley Farm. Thanks to CDC for funding of the commemorative leaflet

Future events. PC has agreed that it should host a Parish event each year to bring our community together and discussions in progress regarding a 2019 event.

Highways & Road Safety issues

- **The Parish Council continually monitors parish roads (maintenance & safety aspects). Working with GCC Highways** to achieve solutions. A bi-monthly **Highway Actions Report** is forwarded to GCC for updates. Reports will be listed on the Parish Council website <http://www.coberleyparish.co.uk> and appended to PC meeting minutes.
- **Gloucestershire County Council has appointed new contractors.** Amey contract terminated. Now 3 different contractors covering main aspects of county road works: **Ringway (general maintenance), Tarmac (structural maintenance), Atkins (highways professional services/major projects.** Contact for GCC Customer Services Team: T: 08000 514 514, E: highways@gloucestershire.gov.uk. Also a "Report it" inline portal: www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/report-it
- **Winter resilience:** GCC Highways practice is to replenish grit bin stocks each Autumn and make available additional bags of grit to PC to hold as back-up during winter months when GCC priorities focused on gritting primary routes and dealing with seasonal issues such as fallen trees etc. Contact Parish Clerk if a bin is noticed to be empty, damaged etc. Parish Snow Warden is David Carlton.

Finance

- **2018/19 expenditure under budget**, mainly due to lack of need for professional services this year.
- **Precept for 2019/20 held at £6,500** (as in 2018/19).
- **Budget for 2019/20 set at £6,500**
- **Significant financial activity: Principal expenditure Clerk to the Council, Beacon event and creation of new web site.**
- **Full set of Accounts and Transparency Code documentation** will, upon completion, be available on website or by request to Clerk.

Civil and Ecclesiastical Parishes

- As of 1 February 2019, the Parochial Church Councils (PCCs) of Coberley and Cowley united to form a single PCC and **ecclesiastical Parishes of Coberley and Cowley have officially combined into one.** Please note, however, that this applies only to the Ecclesiastical Parishes, which are part of the Diocese of Gloucester, and that the Civil Parishes and their respective Parish Councils, Coberley Parish Council and Cowley & Birdlip Parish Council, which are the first level of Local Government, remain unaffected by the ecclesiastical changes and continue to function as completely separate and unrelated organisations.