

## Coberley Parish Council Annual Assembly May 2015

### Chairman's Report

#### General highlights

- Successfully applied for share of **WW I commemoration funding** from CDC – plaque installed on base of sun dial in memory of all parishioners who fought in WW I listing the 32 names. Dedication ceremony 11 November 2014. Also acquired **2 Black Poplars** from Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group in project to commemorate centenary of Great War. Planted at Seven Springs by Cotswold Voluntary Wardens in Feb.
- **Housing Needs Survey** carried out Feb 2015. Identified one family with local connection with affordable housing need in parish. Summary to be circulated by e-mail to parishioners on list and posted on website. Full report available for viewing from Clerk.

#### Major planning & environmental issues

- **Hartley Lane traveller site:** Despite strong objection from the Parish Council, individual parishioners and an independent campaign group, application for 2<sup>nd</sup> traveller site at Hartley Lane was given temporary 3-year permission last December. Consider this **harmful to AONB and Cotswold Way environment. Unacceptable suburbanisation.** In permitting this, Planning Committee went against its own previous decisions and also against rulings made by Planning Inspector at appeal on 1<sup>st</sup> site in August 2013. Appears to be driven by need to have emerging Local Plan adopted to identify housing development supply and provision of 26 traveller sites by 2031 is integral requirement to get this Plan accepted. We remain in contact with CDC regarding work on site to ensure it conforms to permissions granted.
- **Local Plan consultation:** Parish Council made strong representation for all traveller sites at Hartley Lane to be removed from the Plan on grounds of harm to AONB and Cotswold Way + unacceptable suburbanisation. (1 pitch being identified by CDC as 'preferred site'; other 2 pitches being identified as 'reserve sites'). Furthermore, WS assessment report/evidence base suggests that more pitches could be supported on these sites – 7 pitches by 2022. Also reference to the 2 sites as broad locations in the 2023 - 2031 period.
- **Korrin Farm:** In Cowley Parish, but generator noise impacts Coberley residents. Following refusal of retrospective planning application for residential caravan, applicants have appealed to Planning Inspectorate. Outcome of appeal still awaited, but pursuing noise issue through environmental office.
- **1 Oxford Cottages:** Application to establish dog boarding kennels refused.
- **Ullenwood Court:** Application for redevelopment to residential site – 20 high quality homes + retention of Riding Centre. Parish Council made

comprehensive representation to CDC. Opposes contemporary design proposed, pressed for retention of riding centre, requested clarification on funds available for relocation of businesses to ensure reasonable, seeks confirmation on future plans for remaining acreage and assurance it will be restricted to agricultural/pastoral, Section 106 funding for primary education should be settled on Coberley School and any needs in Coberley for affordable housing should be given priority on funding proposed.

- Other applications where PC has submitted comments: **Seven Springs Lodge, Minotaur Barn** (Hartley Lane), **Honeyacre** (Ullenwood Manor Road).

### Highways issues

- Regular communication & meetings with local Highways' representatives addressing: **road surfaces** - potholes, sinking road at Upper Coberley, Hartley Lane resurfaced, Ullenwood Manor Road – patching, still to be completed. **Visibility and safety measures at junctions** - road signage (A435/Upper Coberley, A436/Cowley/Ullenwood (approach signage & street sign), Leckhampton Hill Road/Salterley Grange); vegetation/foliage cut-back throughout parish.
- **Community Speed Watch group established at Salterley Grange** (only 40 mph limit in parish) resulting from local concerns at speeds exceeding limit and Police speed data recorder survey.

### Finance highlights

- Year-end 2014/15: **Increase to Budget approved during year** to take in additional maintenance costs of parish assets and need for support by professional services (planning consultants etc) on issues key to parish
- **£100 Grant for WWI memorial plaque from CDC**
- **50:50 match-funding from GCC Highways for grit bin upgrades**
- **Surplus in Bank & Building Society accounts**
- Significant activity: **Engaged professional services** to assist key Council decisions (expenditure on planning consultancy support on traveller site and Local Plan issues); Continuation of **winter grit bin** upgrade programme
- **Precept amount raised to £4950** for 2015/16 (increase of £600 over last year due to increases in asset maintenance, staff costs, continuation of grit bin upgrade programme and need for professional support on current major planning issues in Parish)
- **Budget for 2014/5 £4950** (in line with precept)

Full accounts can be viewed upon request to the Clerk to the Council

### Other issues

- **A417 Missing Link:** confirmed in December that DoT would include in national funding for road improvements. Assessing to develop solution.

- **Winter resilience:** Increased number of grit bins around parish and continued upgrade to lidded bins (still have large back-up stocks of grit). Mild winter again meant little of stocks used.
- **Litter:** Have continued to combat litter problem around Parish, working with CDC, which has been responsive to alerts. Main problem areas have been Leckhampton Hill road, A436 lay-by, Air Balloon area, Coberley lane. Need residents to monitor and report direct general littering and fly-tipping.
- **Sun Dial Memorial on Green:** concerns at poor condition of base of column. Working with Col. Mike Bennett (War Memorials Trust) to obtain assessment and estimate for repair + possible grant
- **Restoration of A&E provision at Cheltenham:** PC has given support to letters sent to authority by REACH
- Continue to participate in **GRCC-facilitated community approach to road safety**, working with other parish & town councils and GCC Cabinet Leads, RoadSafety Partnership, Highways to address concerns on highways maintenance, speeding & other road safety issues around County. Also working with **CDC on road safety initiative in the Cotswolds**