

Coberley Parish Council Annual Assembly May 2018

Chair's Report

Focus of PC activity this year has, as usual, been predominantly on planning applications and highways issues

Planning & Environmental issues

PC has continued to robustly represent parishioners' views on planning and environmental matters, where appropriate employing the services of Evan Jones, Planning Consultants to ensure the optimum professional representation.

Full details of main planning applications, together with PC representations can be found on our web site <http://www.coberleyparish.co.uk>

Most significant issues for the parish this year have been:

- **Hartley Lane Traveller Sites:**
 - **First site** to the south had been **given permanent approval** in previous year. Applied for additional pitch and facilities this year. Refused in view of emerging Local Plan and Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA).
 - **Second site** to north **applied for permanent permission** but in view of emerging Local Plan position, only **granted 1-year extension of temporary approval** in December 2017.
 - Local Plan has progressed through Examination stage and further Consultation stage on Modifications prior to submission to Secretary of State for approval. The Plan **now proposes exclusion of both sites as not being required**, although Site 1 is, of course now permanent anyway
- **Dowmans Farm**
 - Conversion of barns into **4 dwellings**. Broadly supported by PC. **Permitted**
- **Ullenwood Court Revised proposal** currently being submitted for **26 dwellings + retention of existing house but without previously approved riding stables**. (Original approval was for 20 dwellings + replacement riding stables). Overview of pending application given at extraordinary meeting on the 23rd April. PC raised following concerns:
 - Loss of replacement stables could raise objections from the community
 - Access to the site is a major consideration. This must only be via the existing entrance on Leckhampton Hill Road, not via Greenway Lane.
 - It would be necessary to re-visit Affordable Housing Provision as need has now been identified in the parish
 - Section 106 Primary Education contribution. Case to be made for Coberley School (Nominated schools in previously approved application S106 were Coberley/Birdlip)
 - Protected trees within the development
 - Drainage issues. Current system to be assessed to establish whether adequate.

Parishioners will be notified when the revised application is published for consultation and will have the opportunity to raise concerns direct to CDC and at a future meeting of the Parish Council.

- **Other Planning Applications this year have included:** Various alterations to properties in the parish & extensions at the **Ian Coley Shooting School** (amendments

have since been made following consultation with Parishioners and a comprehensive statement from the Parish Council).

Work commissioned on **new Parish Web site to satisfy Transparency Code**. Objective greater appeal, flexibility and user-friendliness

General Data Protection Regulations – 25 May 2018 All parishioners have been asked to confirm opt-in to receive Parish Council communications. If agreement or response not forthcoming, PC will be obliged to remove address from distribution and information will cease.

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.

Defibrillator purchased by PC with part-funding by CDC. Installed in telephone kiosk. Accredited with SW Ambulance Service. Training provided. David Carlton kindly volunteered to undertake weekly checks to ensure compliance with SW Ambulance Service Accreditation Scheme. Reduced Book Share facility remains in the kiosk.

Sun Dial Memorial on the Green: The Parish Council awaits work to be completed on the Memorial but is assured that work will take place shortly.

Appeal for volunteer to help with **Grass-cutting on the village green**

Battle's Over – A Nation's Tribute & WWI Beacons of Light 11 November 2018. PC has agreed to participate. Cllr Powell kindly offered to host beacon event at Hartley Farm

Ultra-fast Broadband: Current work to provide service to Salterley Grange & Hartley House completes the coverage of Coberley Parish

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. Each report is listed on the Parish Council website <http://www.coberleyparish.co.uk> and appended to PC meeting minutes. Cllr Piggott continues to represent Coberley PC on the NO CRASH campaign group chaired by County Cllr Paul Hodgkinson.
- **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. Parish Snow Warden is David Carlton.

Finance

- **2017/18 expenditure (£8,575) marginally exceeded income (£8,441).** Due to **professional services** on planning application and Local Plan consultations. **Increased spend** drawn from **reserves** which nevertheless remain at **adequate level** (£4,125)
- **Precept for 2018/19 set at £6,500** (2017/18 was £5,500). **Increase** due to anticipated necessary professional representation at CDC Planning Committee given Parishioners' concerns at the Hartley Lane Gypsy & Traveller Site and the impact of statements put forward in the Local Plan

- **Transparency Fund received** (£1314) to bring the Parish Council in line with Transparency Code requirements.
- **Significant financial activity: Principal expenditure Clerk to the Council; professional services** (to assist Council decisions on traveller site application); Installation & purchase of **defibrillator**, funding from CDC came in at less than the originally anticipated 50%.
- **Full set of Accounts and Transparency Code documentation** will be available on website upon completion or by request to Clerk.