

Clerk's report for period until January 6th, 2010

Cllr Wigzell responded to The Plunkett Foundation's survey of Parish Councils across England and Wales which sought to find out the level of awareness within rural communities of community-ownership approaches to rural challenges.

Cllr Hamilton responded to consultations relating to Gloucestershire Waste Core Strategy, the Big Plan and the LGA debate.

Cllr Hamilton is also responding to the consultation on the South West Leaders' Board Scheme.

Cllrs Wigzell and Bastin went on a Parish Plan refresher course in November.

Stroud District Council have given advance warning that they are preparing a planning policy document called the Core Strategy. This will be a key document in Stroud's Local Development Framework (LDF) and will guide the broad pattern of development across the district until 2026. The consultation document will be published at the end of January or beginning of February 2010 and the consultation period will run for six weeks.

Councillors have been invited to participate in the initial consultation exploring the current state of Gloucestershire's transport network and asking local communities what their transport concerns and priorities are. Responses will help shape the transport strategy for the county up to 2026.

Councillors views are being sought in respect of the Putting People First Programme, specifically in relation to the development of a joint strategy for Prevention and Early Intervention. This strategy will describe how Gloucestershire County Council will work with their partners across Gloucestershire to deliver more services which maintain people's health and well being to keep them as independent as possible for as long as possible, and which supports carers to carry on caring for as long as they feel able to do so.

Gloucestershire Local Involvement Network (LINK) are holding a public event on Tuesday 12th January 2010 at Hesters Way Neighbourhood Project, Community Resource Centre in Cheltenham.

Stroud District Council are holding a meeting with town and parish councils on Thursday 4th February 2010. On the same day the Planning Service will be providing a planning update and discussion forum. Cllrs Lead and Hamilton to attend.

The Devon Sustainable Building Initiative are holding a one day conference on low & zero carbon buildings in Bristol on 9 February 2010.

The Clerk is attending a training course on 12th January 2010 entitled "Clerks – The Knowledge".

The Clerk will be attending the SLCC branch AGM on Friday 15th January 2010.

Further to the presentation by Kim Woodford on behalf of SWALT at the last Parish Council meeting where the council's support for a children's adventure playground was sought, the Clerk has checked with the Parish Council's insurers and spoken with a number of neighbouring Councils who have responsibility for adventure playgrounds for the benefit of their experience to assist the Parish Council in their decision making. A summary of this has been circulated to Councillors.

Correspondence Received

Neatastreet brochure
Associated Surfaces and Materials brochure
SMP Playgrounds brochure
Clerks & Councils Direct
GAPTC Update
Glasdon Direct brochure
Village Hall Hire Agreement
The Playing Field Autumn 2009
Outstanding Autumn/Winter 2009
Stroud Parish Plan Forum Newsletter

Resident's Correspondence

In November Margaret Whiting and Dave Woods rang to request action on Bear Hill where freezing surface water due to inadequate and blocked drainage had caused 2 accidents. Adrian Boyes visited the site and following an inspection Highways swept and cleared the gulleys and unblocked a drain. This appears to have solved the problems and residents were advised of the action taken.

Graham Thomas has questioned the presence of plastic bollards and speed signs along the Woodchester end of Water Lane (close to the drive of Selsley Lodge) which he feels are unnecessary particularly as Water Lane is an ancient track and has little traffic. He believes it would be beneficial to try and keep it as unadulterated by modern street furniture as possible. Cllr Syrett is looking into this.

Following correspondence from Roger Campbell regarding the proposed development at Oakley House the Planning Committee discussed parish procedures regarding planning applications at the Planning meeting on 22nd December 2009. Current procedures were confirmed and the importance of two-way communication between the Parish Council and residents was agreed. The Woodchester Word and the village website will be used to support this and it was agreed to discuss the siting of notice boards will be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting on Thursday 7th January 2010.

All councillors register of interest forms have now been returned.

The Village Hall has been booked for the following dates for Parish Council meetings:

Thursday 4th March
Thursday 10th June
Thursday 1st July
Thursday 2nd September
Thursday 4th November

There is a possibility that a General Election will be called on Thursday 6th May so an alternative date for the annual meeting needs to be agreed.

Councillors are reminded that their biographies for the Woodchester Word are required by Friday 15th January 2010.

The digital switchover will take place in two stages on **Wednesday 24 March 2010** and **Wednesday 7 April 2010**. Research indicates good levels of awareness about the forthcoming change to terrestrial TV services and that the majority of viewers are well prepared:

- Nine out of ten households in West (**95%**) have already connected their main set to digital TV.
- Eight out of ten people in West (**82%**) know precisely what to do for switchover.

A guide to switchover will be sent to all households explaining viewers' options for going digital and what happens during switchover. For viewers with Freeview, BT Vision or Top Up TV equipment, the guide will also provide a step-by-step guide on how to retune.

The Switchover Help Scheme (www.helpscheme.co.uk) has sent out information packs to all eligible older and disabled people in the last few months. People must respond to the Help Scheme to get help. Starting in February, the Help Scheme's local community campaign, Helping Hand, will encourage people to tell older and disabled relatives, friends and neighbours about the help they can receive to convert one TV set to digital.

Cheques for Signature 7th January 2010

Cheque Number	Description	Amount
477	Clerk's wages	£264.35

Planning Applications Received

S.09/0875/HHOLD The Old Priory – Re-submission of withdrawn application for the construction of a pitched roof over the existing flat roof and chimney stack.

S.09/2207/LBC and S.09/2189/HHOLD The Old Priory - Add a bath house, swimming pool and garden gate.

S.09/1935/FUL – Oakley House, Church Road – Erection of a dwelling and formation of a new vehicular access. Resubmission following withdrawn application.

Proposed works to trees in a conservation area

The Lagger, Lagger Lane – various tree works

Highcroft, Atcombe Road – Fell Holly and Ash tree, prune Lawson Cypress and Yew tree

5 Manor Gardens – Fell Norway Maple

Applications Permitted

S.09/1842/FUL Denvers, Station Road - Retention of existing dwelling and the erection of two new dwellings. Consent has been given following alterations to the front and side elevations and the parking area.

S.09/1564/HHOLD Westerley House, Selsey Road - Demolition of existing single storey side extension, erection of new single storey side extension.

Notification of Appeal

S.09/1205/FUL Agricultural building, Frogmarsh Lane – Erection of an agricultural building