

Planning Committee

The Planning Committee has dealt with over 80 applications this year.

We are consultees in the planning process and are able to make comments, with Tewkesbury Borough Council making the final decision. In one or two cases this year an application has gone to Planning Inspectors level and we have contributed to this process.

We remain concerned about the impact that major developments will have on the infrastructure of the village.

All developments, whether they be housing, commercial or other put pressure on an already loaded road system. The gradual spread of the village to become coalescent with surrounding areas is something we believe would be detrimental to the character of Bishop's Cleeve.

We have had several applications for development in plots of land which are large gardens. In considering these, we try to bear in mind the impact such development will have on the streetscape and amenities of the surrounding houses.

We are aware that the village has had a reputation for space, diversity and good design and we hope to maintain this.

Planning applications either current or past can be viewed on the Tewkesbury Borough web site. It may be possible to view paper copies of plans in the Parish Office.

We would urge anyone who has concerns regarding planning matters to express them to us or the Borough Council.

General Purposes Committee

The Committee deals with general amenities around the village. We continue to install & maintain dog & litter bins around the village but Tewkesbury Borough Council has the responsibility for emptying them. Since April 2009 over 20,000 dog refuse bags have been distributed from the office. We now ask for a contribution to cover the cost of this service. Unfortunately, there are still a number of people who are not using the bins provided.

There are 11 Parish Notice Boards around the village which contain contact details of Councillors, meeting dates and publicity for local events.

Our Web Site includes information about the Council, its meetings, contact details and amenities. It is possible to access information about our Community Building, Sports field and Parish Office facilities and download booking forms. There are links to other agencies and we are able to post up to date information regarding local matters, if and when required.

We have continued to produce our quarterly newsletter which is distributed to each household in the village.

The Council is aware of the need to improve and maintain our standards of working and we hope to apply for Quality Standard Status in the near future.

Contact details:

Bishop's Cleeve Parish Council
Church Road,
Bishop's Cleeve
Cheltenham
GL52 8LR

Telephone 01242 674440

Email clerk@bishopscleevepc.org

Website www.bishopscleevepc.org

Parish Update

Bishops Cleeve Parish Council Newsletter

Report from the Chair of the Council

This has largely been a year of consolidation following the move into our new fully accessible office in Church Road. The office is now open every weekday between 10am and 2pm. It is the first time that we have had an office which is large enough to host the monthly meetings of the Full Council.

Significant achievements over the last 12 months include:

- Enhancement of the Sports Pavilion and Bowls Club to meet current accessibility requirements
- Ongoing programme of maintenance of our watercourses to minimise the risk of flooding
- Production of regular quarterly newsletters delivered to every household
- Further development of our allotments with the creation of additional plots and more streamlined management systems
- Employment of additional caretaking staff to provide enhanced management of our facilities
- Introduction of regular monthly councillor surgeries

In addition to developing our own services, we have also taken on responsibility for services previously provided by Tewkesbury Borough Council.

These include:

- Daily locking / unlocking of the Cemetery Gates
- Partial funding of the local Sports Centre
- Funding of the Roses Theatre for specific local community activities
- Provision of dog waste bags

Our plans for the coming year include:

- Provision of a Youth Shelter on our Sports field
- New play equipment for Pecked Lane field
- Taking over of Grange Field (agreed in principle but details still to be negotiated)

Annual Report Bishop's Cleeve Parish Council Summer 2010

I should like to personally express my thanks to our staff who are all employed on a part-time basis:

- Belinda our Clerk – who is now our first ever fully qualified Clerk
- Lisa and Geri – our Clerical Assistants who provide the initial point of contact with our parishioners
- Alan and Trevor – our new Caretakers

Best wishes go to Jerry who recently retired from his role as Caretaker after 10 years of service and to Cllr Jayne Stephens who resigned due to moving out of the Parish.

Thanks also to all of the hard-working Councillors who have contributed to our success and who (unlike Borough and County Councillors) receive no financial reward for their services.

Pete Lightfoot (Chair of Council)

If you wish to see a copy of the Income and Expenditure Account for 2009/2010 please contact the Parish Office

Councillors' Attendance Record for Parish Council

Meetings

Peter Lightfoot (chair of the Council)	100%
Vera Ayres (long term illness)	20%
Peter Badham	80%
Mark Cooper	100%
James Habgood	80%
Geoffrey Jackson	80%
Clive Lawrence	90%
Ann Lightfoot	100%
Anthony Mackinnon	90%
John Peake	70%
Kate Peake	90%
Patrick Rawlings	100%
Peter Richmond	100%
Philip Taylor	90%

Allotments Committee

The Parish Council manages in excess of 170 allotments at the Nortonham site on the A435 at the North West extremity of Bishop's Cleeve. The number of plots has increased significantly over the last couple of years due to increased demand. We currently have a waiting list of around 30 but have little room to create further plots.

The policy of the Council is that they should be self-financing. However, the increased number of plots has provided a fund which can be used to improve the infrastructure e.g. provision of parking areas and water. We have also taken action to remove asbestos sheds from the site.

A User Group was established in March 2009 but unfortunately appears to have lapsed. We understand a number of tenants have recently formed an Allotment Association but they have yet to inform the Committee of their intentions. We will shortly be consulting with all allotment holders in order to establish how they wish to be represented.

Traffic Committee

The Traffic Committee has continued to work closely with Councillors, Officers and Staff of County and Borough Councils which has benefitted Bishop's Cleeve parishioners and the Parish Council would like to thank all concerned. Thanks go to the Clerk and members of the Traffic Committee for all their help. Bus shelters are now maintained by our Caretaking team and we are replacing the damaged bus shelter in Voxwell Lane. Projects completed include:

- Changes to parking restrictions in Church Road and Tobyfield Road
- Safety improvements to Finlay Way and Voxwell Lane
- Parking restrictions for Blackberry Grove and the Grange Field.

A survey is being undertaken by Gloucestershire County Council to look at the efficiency of street lighting in the village. We continue to have contact with Stage Coach, seeking ways to maintain or improve the local bus services. Any **constructive** ideas on any of these issues are more than welcome and can be received by email or by calling into the Parish Office.

Community Building

The Community Building continues to be a valuable asset to the local community. The Breakfast Club, After School Club, Monkey Music, Jo Jingles, GKR Karate, Machine Knitting, Pilates, Art classes, Dance Works and Children's Centre are all regular users. Weekend use continues to be mainly for private parties whilst there have been less casual users we are pleased with the amount of use.

Our hire charges have been increased over the last year to take into account increased overheads but we believe they remain extremely competitive.

Details of our rates are available on the Parish Council website. Please contact the Parish Office if you would like to make either a regular or a casual booking or for contact details for any of the above activities.

I am particularly pleased to report that the building is self-financing and does not represent an ongoing cost to the community. We regularly review the need for general maintenance of the building and contents.

Thanks go to our caretaker Jerry, who retired this year, and a warm welcome goes to our new team of caretakers who keeps the building clean and tidy, and to our Parish Office team who manage the booking system. May I take this opportunity of thanking all those who have used the building over the last year.

Playgrounds and Sports field Committee

The Parish Council owns five play areas in Finlay Way, Nottingham Road, Pecked Lane, Millham Road and on the Sports field complex at Cheltenham Road, which are managed by the Playgrounds and Sports field Committee. Youth facilities are concentrated on the Sports field where we currently have a Skate Park and Bike Track.

The Cheltenham Road Sports field is being extensively used for football by a wide range of clubs including Bishop's Cleeve Football Club, Cleeve Colts, Gotherington, Newton Heath, Star, AC Olympia, Lakeside and Cleeve Catalans. There is also a Rugby pitch which is used by Cheltenham North and a privately run fitness centre in the Pavilion. The condition of the pitches has continued to improve due to the efforts of our grounds men. We continue to bring the uncultivated areas under control as funding permits.

In addition, we have a floodlit all weather surface which is available for hire at reasonable rates. The Bowling Green and the associated Clubhouse are owned by the council but managed independently by the local Bowls Club.

We were particularly pleased to host the national Frisbee competition, in association with Bishop's Cleeve Football Club, for the northern half of the UK during the last weekend in April.

This year we have focussed our expenditure on improving the accessibility of the Bowls Clubhouse and the Pavilion to meet current building standards.

The Committee continues to take responsibility for the maintenance of the watercourses which run through our play areas. We continue to strive to work in partnership with the higher tier local authorities and the riparian owners to minimise the flood potential to local Householders.

For next year, our priority is to replace some of the play equipment on our Pecked Land field as the existing equipment is showing its age. We would also like to provide a Youth Shelter on the Sports field if funding allows.

In addition, we will continue to explore the possibility of taking over the ownership of the Grange Field from Tewkesbury Borough Council if suitable terms and conditions can be arranged

Office Committee Report

This committee meets on a bi monthly basis to oversee the running of the Parish Office building. It has been a busy first year of opening and we have received over 4000 visitors to the premises. Users are diverse and cover all age ranges and activities and we now have our monthly Parish and Committee Meetings in the building. We are particularly pleased that we now have an accessible space which has been able to accommodate the needs of the users. Borough and County Officers have also used the building for meetings.

The first year has been a "settling in" period for us and we have tried to respond to the needs of the buildings users. The Parish Pump area is now maintained by our caretaking staff but the garden took some time to settle following the construction of the office building. We have continued to improve some aspects of the building, including more storage space, additional heating in the lobby area and solar glazing.

The office opens every week day between 10am and 2pm and we hold Councillor Surgeries on the last Saturday each month, where members of the public can talk to a local Parish, Borough and County Councillor without an appointment.

A member of staff from Tewkesbury Borough Council is in the office on Friday mornings.

It has been a positive first year in our new premises.