

## PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRS REPORT 2023/24

A significant amount of time has been spent throughout the year with regards to the renewal of the bowls club lease. This is a wonderful parish asset opened 25 years ago with S106 monies for use by our residents. Over the years, as interest perhaps waned, the bowls club have built up their membership from across the county. During discussions with the bowls club ideas of ways in which the club could include our residents more both as members and in a social context have been agreed which we hope will bring benefits to everyone. We look forward to continuing to work amicably alongside each other.

We have met with Barnwood FC and they have held a question and answer session at the hall for our residents. Barnwood FC are hoping to be operational in the autumn subject to the fields being in a suitable condition. Sadly although the contractors repaired damage due to vandalism that occurred during the long period between completion and adoption there has been further vandalism which Tewkesbury Borough Council have agreed to repair. Barnwood FC are hoping that vandalism to the facilities will decrease once the building is occupied.

The grant funding we managed to secure for community engagement a while ago still had monies left which has enabled us to host further free coffee mornings this year. Tesco has continued to support our events and provide a substantial raffle prize for each event. The events are well attended and popular with our residents. If sufficient volunteers can be found the Parish Council will continue to organise coffee mornings.

We were approached by Tewkesbury Borough Council highlighting that there was a 50k pot of S106 monies, ring fenced for public art on Coopers Edge, that should have been spent and was in danger of being lost. Following a meeting with Brockworth and Upton St Leonard's Parish Councils it was agreed to develop a local history heritage trail around Coopers Edge siting the importance of the Gloucester Aircraft Factory in our area. The Jet Age Museum are assisting us with this project and Coopers Edge school has been invited to add the 'pupil' voice. Two boards will be sited in each parish within Coopers Edge.

Our parish is surrounded by very busy road networks and noise from these roads continues to be both troublesome and a concern to some of our residents. Councillor Pugh continues to attend meetings to raise these concerns on behalf of the parish council with some success.

There is now a wide range of activities suitable for all age ranges available to residents at the Village Hall. These include yoga with Emma, art classes, music with mummy, baby massage, Teddy Bears toddler group, Ellie Wright school of dancing, Forget me Not support group, monthly Woman's Circle meetings, Gong bath, Wide Valley Singers, Camera club and a Youth club. We have reviewed our hall hire rates in line with rising energy costs but they continue to be very reasonably priced. Further information about these activities is available on our website.

After careful consideration it was felt by the Parish Council that we were ready to apply for foundation level of the Local Council Award Scheme. There was a

significant amount of evidence to gather and submit by a set date. We were delighted to receive the news that we had been successful.

Although the big push on our Climate Change took place last year this project is still ongoing. A successful 'repair café' was held in December and new litter bins to encourage recycling have been installed. More recently we have replaced our old light bulbs with LEDs to save on energy costs.

We have held discussions with Bovis regarding the mound of left over building rubble from when Cranham Gate was constructed more than 25 years ago. As this will take a significant amount of money to remove, we have suggested to them the creation of a community park/ woodland, possible allotments and overspill carpark for the sports facilities. This project needs to be further progressed over the coming year and discussed with Tewkesbury Borough Council who will eventually adopt this land.

We had a lot of positive comments about the wildflower beds planted last year. These have been re-sown following further donations from Benefact Group situated on the Business Park. Sadly, four beds have recently been destroyed when grass mowing took place. We will do what we can to rescue the situation.

Quite a while ago we secured funding from the County Council to install four pieces of outdoor gym equipment. We were in danger of losing this funding and have put pressure on Tewkesbury Council to get the adoption of the public open spaces completed. The equipment has now been ordered and should be installed in 12 to 14 weeks time.

I now invite representatives from Hucclecote and Brockworth doctors surgeries to give presentations on the planned new facilities in the area.