

## **Pebworth Parish Council Annual Report 2016 - 2017**

**Changes to Parish Councillors** – Councillor John Hyde resigned as Chairman in March 2017 after 7 years in this post. John will continue to serve as a Councillor and we thank him for his time as our Chairman, and also for the additional work that he provides as Parish Lengthsman and Handyman.

Councillor Sue Peace resigned in February 2017 – We thank Sue for her work as a Councillor, her position on the council will be filled by co-option at the next meeting in May 2017.

**Precept** - Although the precept has increased by £600 the impact on the band D council tax will be minus 3% as the tax base has increased, therefore the tax will be £2.18 less than last year.

**Neighbourhood Development Plan** - The council agreed to the formal engagement of Brodie Manning as the Council's NDP planning consultants. Over 20 parishioners signed up to join the NDP steering committee and the first meeting was held in June 2016. The most recent meeting was last week at which the final version of the village questionnaire was agreed.

**New Homes Bonus funding (from Cala Homes development)** - The New Homes Bonus questionnaire revealed full support for the Village Hall refurbishment project and the Defibrillator/kiosk project funded from the New Homes Bonus. The council agreed that all available funding can be requested from Wychavon District Council to fund the Village Hall refurbishment project.

**Kiosk and Defibrillator** - As a joint project with Pebworth in Bloom the redundant BT telephone kiosk at Ullington Crossroads was saved for the village and moved from Ullington to Little Meadows Farm. A close inspection determined that its refurbishment would be a major operation, therefore it has been agreed that it will be part exchanged for a factory refurbished kiosk which will then be installed on School Road on land in front of the bungalows and will house a defibrillator.

Cllr Alastair Adams kindly contributed £1,700 for the Defibrillator/kiosk project from his ward members funding allowance

BT have also offered to the Parish Council the opportunity to buy the modern phone box at Elm Close. The purchase of this kiosk was not supported and it will eventually be removed by BT.

**MUGA – Section 106 funding** - Following a parish wide consultation it was agreed that there was majority overall support for the installation of a MUGA. We now have planning permission for a MUGA to measure 30 X 16 meters to incorporate a tennis court and the fencing will remain at 2 meters high weld mesh painted black. The MUGA will be sited on the east side of the Recreation Field car park area and 4 metres from the southern boundary of the field fence, the orientation will be confirmed when site measurements have been checked. The MUGA fencing will incorporate a double gate for maintenance access. The MUGA surface to be green tarmac (if affordable) marked out in different colours for 5 A-side Football, Netball and Tennis.

The construction project has been put out to tender to a number of specialist installers and we await their feedback and costs.

Note: The installation of the MUGA will be dependent on available budget. (Section 106 plus possible PC reserves).

**Pebworth Discretionary Fund: PDF** - This fund has now been closed and final donations made to St Peters Church

**Allotments** - The allotments continue to be a great success and are very well supported by parishioners. One recently vacated plot is available for a new tenant

**Masons Arms Public House** - Parish Council have formally registered the pub as a Community Asset under the Community Right to Bid legislation. A community group have since made an offer to buy the pub and discussions are continuing. The Parish Council have separately begun to investigate ways in which they may be able to support this project, for example by obtaining external funding.

**Parish Notice Boards** - Council agreed to the replacement of the Parish Council's three noticeboards. These will be made at HMP Long Lartin and awaiting delivery

**Burial Ground Hedge:** Council considered the WI members concerns over the state of the Cemetery hedge and agreed the only way to resolve the Bindweed infestation was to dig out the hedge to enable the weeds to be fully controlled before a new hedge could be planted.

**The Close – New fence** - A new fence has been installed along the side of the play area to replace the previous wooden fence which was rotted away as well as sections of broken metal fencing.

**Front Street verges** - These are continually badly damaged by large lorries and following the recent resurfacing works the Parish Council have purchased and installed a number of oak posts to try and protect the grass bank.

**Traffic speeding** - There has been a noticeable increase in traffic volumes now the Long Marston developments commuter traffic is traveling through Pebworth. The problem is particularly affecting the Honeybourne Road and Little Meadows.

A number of measures have been considered to try and contain this problem but any further painting of the roads or alterations to the roads (e.g chicanes as at Quinton) are not permitted by Worcestershire Highways.

White plastic gates at the village entrances (e.g as at Honeybourne) have also been rejected by residents and the Parish Council as not appropriate.

The following measure have been agreed:

1. Extend the 30 MPH zone on Long Marston Road to well beyond the Mill Field access road as children walk this area in the dark when coming from School and the junction to Mill Field is in a 60mph zone.

2. Parish Council have agreed to fund a new sign at Little Meadows “Please drive carefully through our hamlet”
3. Request speeding enforcement is carried out more regularly by the police, especially at Little Meadows

### **Planning applications – 24 full applications + 2 planning appeals**

**Land off Chapel Road** - During the course of the year the developers proposal to build 14 dwellings on this site have been examined in great detail and responses given by the Parish Council as well as a large number of parishioners. It is clear that the majority of residents object to this development.

The application was received in 2 amended forms before being put before the December planning committee at WDC. Our District Councillor, members of the Parish Council and other parishioners attended this meeting and spoke against the application, after which it was refused by the committee.

The application has now been further amended to 12 dwellings (down from 14) and resubmitted. The Parish Council have again made a majority decision to object. The grounds for objection are no proven unmet local need for this number of additional dwellings and the density of the houses within the site being too high.

We have also agreed to make further comment regarding our concerns about safety of access (particularly lack of pedestrian footways) and insufficient green spaces within the site. An alternative Rural Exception site is available within the village and supported by the SWDP approved policies.

**LED streetlights** - The Parish will shortly begin the changeover to LED streetlighting which will bring a number of improvements in terms of energy efficiency and an overall reduction in electricity costs.

At the same time it has been agreed that we should take the opportunity to standardise all the streetlights within the village, including those at Broad Marston and Little Meadows.

The current lights are a mixture of different styles, colours and sizes, so the proposal is to ensure that all columns are changed over to steel and painted the same colour (provisionally dark grey) and the lanterns are changed over to a new style. Two styles of lantern were considered which were:

- a) Aspect ECO
- b) Candela Aston Midi

The councils preferred option is the installation of Candela Aston Midi subject to final confirmation of costs.

**Cllr Simon Shiers**  
**Chairman Pebworth Parish Council**