

Annual Parish Meeting 6th April at Tidenham War Memorial Hall - see page 2

Question 3 "Do you think Tidenham News is important to the Parish"

When first asked 54 people knew what it was but, on explanation most people said that they did know what it was. Comments ranged from (1) I have never read it (2) it is of no real interest (3) does not concern me (4) look forward to receiving it (5) very interesting

Roy Birch
28th November 2010

Go Project

Over the past year the Forest of Dean District Council has been involved in a Project to share its services with other Councils with the intention of forming Centres of Excellence; by combining some of their functions with those of other Councils it is hoped that significant savings can be made. At inception there were 7 Councils prepared to join forces but, for different reasons, 3 dropped out and the Project now comprises: Cheltenham Borough Council, Cotswold District Council, West Oxfordshire District Council and the Forest of Dean. The Project is continuing to assess which Council is

List of Councillors

- | | |
|--|---|
| Cllr John Powell
Chairman
Tel: 01291 624901 | Cllr Bernard Bowshall
Tel: 01291 624152 |
| Cllr Lance Allan
Tel: 01291 628867 | Cllr Carole Dawson
Vice Chairman
Tel: 01291 680032 |
| Cllr Roy Birch
Tel: 01291 624326 | Cllr Steve Ford
Tel: 07908 634570 |
| Cllr Gareth Birt
Tel: 01291 624114 | Cllr Andy Hossack
Tel: 01291 630615 |
| Cllr Gerald Blunt
Tel: 01291 689424 | Cllr Sue Hutchings
Tel: 01291 626536 |
| Cllr Sheila Bollen
Tel: 01291 620812 | Cllr Gabriella Kirkpatrick
Tel: 01291 629394 |

most suitable for each discipline/service and, over the coming year, decisions will be made. It is understood that Cheltenham BC has already been awarded the responsibility for IT and, in the near future, Centres of Excellence for Human Resources/Payroll and Finance/Procurement will be formed with others to follow as necessary. The time scale for these operations has been finalised and it is hoped that by April 2012 the arrangements will be complete and savings can be made in that year's budget. As a matter of interest the Councils who declined to proceed were: Gloucester City, Stroud and Tewkesbury.

Roy Birch
January 2011

USEFUL NUMBERS

ALL EMERGENCIES: 999	
Police (All non-urgent calls) 0845 090 1234	Trading Standards Helpline 01452 426200
Crimestoppers: 0800 555111	Education Helpline: 01452 425300
Bogus Callers Helpline: 0800 100 0777	Environment Helpline: 01452 425500
Doctors Surgery - Beachley Road 01291 626041	Libraries Helpline: 01452 305420
Doctors Surgery - Coleford Road 01291 637910	Adult Helpdesk: 01452 426868
NHS Direct: 0845 4647	Children & Families Helpdesk 01452 426565
Sedbury Pharmacy: 01291 622532	Forest of Dean District Council Main Switchboard: 01594 810000
Sedbury Post Office: 01291 629300	Bulky Items Collection: 01594 812444
Sedbury & Beachley Village Hall 01291 624055	Abandoned Vehicles: 01594 812264
Tidenham War Memorial Hall 01291 624663	Council Tax Helpline: 01594 812532
Chase School Room: 01291 689775	Dog Warden: 01594 812447
Rev Royston Grosvenor: 01291 622442	Noise & Pollution: 01594 812442
Pastor Chris Rees Stroat Evangelical Church: 01594 529209	UTILITIES Western Power Distribution EMERGENCY: 0800 052 0400 GENERAL: 0845 6013341
Chepstow Citizens Advice Bureau 01291 623437	GAS Tranco EMERGENCY: 0800 11999
SAMARITANS: 08457 909090	Water - Dwr Cymru EMERGENCY: 0800 0520130
Gloucestershire County Council Main Switchboard: 01452 425000	SEWERS & DRAINS EMERGENCY 0800 085 3968
Streetlights (freephone) 08000 514514	

Further Information on the Closed Churchyard Situation

I am pleased to provide an update on the progress being made on the three closed churchyards in the Parish.

The Parish Council was reminded, in 2007, that it had a duty to maintain closed churchyards under the Local Government Act 1972 s.215(1). A Closed Churchyard is one where further Burials cannot be made unless into a



Family Grave which already exists. It was decided that a structural survey by someone competent in this area should be commissioned. This survey was carried out in Oct/Nov 2007 and a report issued stating the condition of the boundary walls at each location and in 2009 a Tree Survey was undertaken.

To remind us what the Act requires, the following is the duty laid down:-

"It (The Parish Council) must also keep the walls (which are often retaining walls) and the fences in good repair, and effective for their purpose. All this amounts, if circumstances warrant, to an obligation to bring an "indecent" closed Churchyard up to a standard of decency

and to put walls and fences in good repair, even at great expense"

The Parish Council took the decision to spread the work highlighted by the report over a number of years to keep the annual costs to reasonable levels. Thus the walls reported as being in need of immediate attention were addressed first. Work was carried out at St Luke's and Tidenham Church, with clearance of vegetation at Beachley and Tidenham. One major problem was the trees which had grown either in or adjacent to the walls and had caused damage. Where necessary these trees were cut down and removed to allow the repair/ rebuild of the affected wall.

One major problem with the vegetation was ivy. Gardeners will know that ivy is extremely difficult to kill and grows into walls. To pull the ivy from the wall exacerbates the problem because it makes the stones in the wall lose, thus causing further problems. It was decided to cut the ivy at ground level, thus killing the ivy growing up and into the walls, and reduce possible further damage until the wall could be refurbished. New growth was treated with SBK Brush wood killer.

Considerable work has been done at both Tutshill and Tidenham Churchyard, the next stage is to carry out work at Beachley. Trees adjacent to walls cause damage and at Beachley there is a very tall Yew tree which needs to be cut down, not only to prevent further damage to the wall but also interference with the neighbouring building (see photographs). The neighbour on the opposite wall is the War Graves Commission and, to remedy the damage to the wall here, we will need to liaise with the War Graves Commission. We must be very aware of the rising costs involved in this work and budget carefully to fulfil our statutory duty and make it easier to maintain the boundaries in the future. Meanwhile we will continue to ensure that these Graveyards are kept as neat and tidy as possible.

Finally, I express my thanks to the volunteers of the Churches who assist in maintaining these Churchyards in a reasonable condition.

Bernard Bowshall
Chairman Amenities Committee

A Snapshot of the Finances of Tidenham Parish Council

In the Spring Newsletter last year I provided a three year summary of the Parish accounts and invited any Parishioner to ask questions – well there were no questions and so hopefully the article was clear and understandable! Now it is time to look towards 2011/12.

In 2010/2011 the Parish Council planned to spend £100,100 based on a Precept (the money received from the District Council) of £90,100 and taking £10,000 from Reserves. As we are now 9 months into that expenditure it looks as though spending will be slightly down and so hopefully the amount taken from Reserves will only need to be £4,738. Due to the current economic climate the Parish Council decided in December 2010 to plan for a standstill budget for the year 2011/12 and thus the Precept demand will be £90,100 for a second year running. An amount of £2,854 will be taken from Reserves to support total spending of £92,954. This should lead to a similar Council Tax figure for residents as the current year and that was the aim of your Councillors. It is impossible to be precise on this fact as it depends upon the number of properties within the Parish and this figure is calculated by the District Council in February 2011. Parishioners will doubtless have noticed the new play area in the front garden of the Sedbury & Beachley Village Hall and an extension of the skate park to provide a goal mouth and basketball play area with a hard surface. The expenditure on these two projects comes from money held in a special account and is completely separate from the Council accounts – this is money which can only be spent on play equipment on land owned by the Parish and within Sedbury. Further play equipment will hopefully be installed in Sedbury during 2011 to use the balance of the money provided for this purpose; none of this expenditure affects the Precept or your Council Tax in any way at all.

As always should you have any queries about Council finances please do not hesitate to contact me.

Jan Cordon –

Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to the Parish Council

Newsletter Viability

The Parish Council wishes to consult with all parishioners concerning the viability of whether to retain the newsletter in its current form, to change the format, or to do away with it altogether.

When Council was awarded Quality Parish Status, it was incumbent upon us to produce a newsletter 4 times a year and to distribute to every household.

The questions Council would like responses to, are:

i. Should we produce the newsletter and distribute via Royal Mail? (If we distribute via the Review, as we have done in the past, it does not reach every address in the parish).

ii. Perhaps change the format to reduce the size and quality of paper used?

iii. What content/articles should we consider including?

Your views are needed to enable Council to plan the way ahead. Please contact the Clerk via email clerk@tidenhamparishcouncil.co.uk or by phone 01594 562554, or any one of your Councillors, and let them know what you think.

John Powell

The Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting for Tidenham Parish will take place on 6th April at 7pm at the Tidenham War Memorial Hall. This is a meeting for the electorate of the Parish and the Chairman and Councillors do hope that as many parishioners who are able will attend

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Councillor Sheila Bollen would like to thank all of the people who came to the Coffee Morning at Sheila's Shop in Sedbury on Friday 24th September. Also thanks to all of the people who donated prizes for the raffle, cakes and books for the table, it was much appreciated. In spite of the weather that morning a total of £400 was raised for the Macmillan Charity

An Information Document provided by District and Parish Councillor Roy Birch Dated 28th November 2010

I have been asked a number of times during the year for information pertaining to potential house building within the Parish and, in particular, the possibility of an extensive estate being built around the rear of Wyedean School. Therefore, over five weeks during September and October, I conducted a spot survey of opinion in the area nearest to the school – this being done on Saturday mornings. The survey was to ascertain local views concerning a large new build in the area on land adjacent to the school, the use and effectiveness of local bus services and the interest of Parishioners in the Parish Newsletter "The Tidenham News".

This survey contained some information taken from the Forest of Dean District Council's Core Strategy and from the Housing Federation leaflet based upon the South West of England. Settlement Policy CSP16 of the Core Strategy (which at the time of writing is under further scrutiny and therefore not a final document) states that under the village development policies, and outside already agreed development, 111 new dwellings are suggested for the Tutshill/Tidenham/Sedbury area.

This figure is the requirement for a period of time up and including 2026 and is based on the fact that the area does not have the level of services and facilities expected for an area of this size and thus has limited opportunities for expansion within the settlement boundary.

Furthermore within a site containing in excess of 10 dwellings the Council would require 40% of the total to be affordable housing. Exception sites compromising solely affordable housing would only be permitted according to local policy and policy CSP5. The National Housing Federation shows that, in 2009, the average house price in the Forest was £190,908, almost 11 times the average salary in the area of £18,923. There are 2021 households on the waiting list and, based on these figures, the annual gross income to obtain a 90% mortgage would be £49,000. Note: these figures provided by the National Housing Federation
My survey results were as follows

having approached 248 houses over the five weeks with 196 houses having residents at home at the time:

Question 1 "What is your opinion on the possibility of some 300 to 400 houses being built in the area around Wyedean School"

From the total people asked 178 did not approve of such building. The following reasons being given (1) the present infrastructure is already overloaded (2) the roads and sewerage arrangements are not effective or sufficient (3) not enough local jobs (4) inadequate facilities for both the young and the elderly (5) Wyedean School could not accommodate more pupils (6) the new houses would be too expensive for most families (7) more housing means more cars which will make the roads more dangerous and will increase the hold-ups in Chepstow (8) we need more jobs before building houses.

The residents of 18 properties replied as follows: (1) young families require houses at an affordable rent (2) not every family wants to buy and would prefer to rent (3) many three bedroom houses only have 1 resident – maybe they should be accommodated in flats

Question 2 "Do you use public transport and what is your opinion of it" 22 people said that they used the buses although not on a regular basis but they were satisfied with the service. It was pointed out that to get to Gloucester from Sedbury needed three different buses

It should be noted that administration of concessionary bus passes will be passed from the District Council to the County Council from April 2011 and that consultation is being undertaken during November/December 2010. The District Council issues about 15,500 bus passes and about 500 travel tokens per year which costs about £300,000 and £23,000 respectively. There is a view that by combining all six districts under one administrative system could save money but changes to that system are certain. For instance travel tokens are a discretionary service and not government funded and passes will only be valid after 9.30am, there is also a possibility of service and route changes. For more information contact 01452 426263

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