

CHAIRMANS ANNUAL REVIEW, MAY 2010

Organisation

Mark Mackintosh replaced Andrew Sergeant who resigned in August 2009.

The Councillors were saddened at the death of Peter Fanner who had been a key figure in the Parish Council for 17 years. We are pleased that Anna Paget will join the Parish Council at the May meeting.

We still have no representation of Parish Councillors east of the A36 and are grateful that Rosemary Wells and David Naylor regularly attend meetings to help with issues on that side of the Parish.

Sam Hopkins became Clerk in May 2008. Despite her need to spend much of her time to help her family she has stayed with us until we could find a replacement. Andrea Griffiths took over as Clerk on 1st April. Andrea has been Clerk to Limpley Stoke Parish Council for 5 years and we look forward to benefitting from her experience.

Transport Activities

Towards the end of last year the Transport Committee persuaded the Highways Agency to include a proposal for a 50mph speed limit through Claverton Village in their package of improvements for safety on the A36. Regular pressure was maintained to keep it there, but we were disappointed to learn that the entire package failed to receive funding in their recent budget submission.

In a joint approach with Bathampton Parish Council discussions with British Waterways have influenced British Waterways to propose a steering committee of interested parties to develop a strategy for moorings along the western end of the Kennett & Avon Canal. This would be the first of its kind in the Country. The Transport Committee has resisted some less satisfactory interim arrangements and pressed for the steering committee to be set-up.

Planning and Other Activities

Throughout the year comments were made on a number of planning and listed building applications. The largest of these was the major application in the Rectory Walled Garden.

Links were maintained with the University of Bath. The University Master Plan was submitted to B&NES some months ago but there has not yet been a response.

We commented on the Bath Air Quality Action Plan which could impact on Claverton. We made a detailed response in the critical first round of consultation on the B&NES Core Strategy. The Core Strategy provides the planning framework to help guide change and development in the District over the next twenty years.

The Council support Veracity Bath which aims to protect the landscape setting of the World Heritage City of Bath. Veracity Bath is challenging the planning decision made by B&NES to put a Park & Ride site on Bathampton Meadows and the Secretary of State's decision not to call it in for a Public Enquiry.

Of more immediate impact, Councillors ensured that the verges on the A36 were regularly mowed, pot holes were repaired, undergrowth was cut back and ice was cleared at the junctions with the main road.

A New Initiative – The Valley Parishes Alliance

Throughout the year we have been working more closely with neighbouring Parish Councils on issues that affect us all. Claverton Parish Council has joined with the Parishes of Bathampton, Batheaston, Bathford, Freshford, Limpley Stoke, Monkton Combe and Westwood to form a new organisation, The Valley Parishes Alliance. Much discussion has already taken place and the Constitution has been agreed.

The purpose of the Alliance is to provide a single voice on the social, economic and environmental issues which affect B&NES and Wiltshire Parish Communities in the Avon & Limpley Stoke Valleys area, east of Bath. The two strands of activities are:

- a) Protection and enhancement of the character and distinctiveness of the landscape, natural environment and village settlements for present and future generations.
- b) Identification and promotion of community projects appropriate to the purpose of the Alliance.

The combined population of the Valley Parishes Alliance is about 9000, nearly 60 times that of Claverton. It is hoped that Membership of the Alliance will both strengthen our voice and avoid much duplication of effort on the issues that are common to us all.

Looking Forward

The Transport Committee will do what it can to get a speed limit on the A36 but in the absence of funding the chances of early success are much reduced.

We will be involved in a way yet to be decided in the Local Strategy for Moorings along the canal.

We will remain vigilant to, and involve ourselves in consultations related to, issues that might affect Claverton arising, for example, from the B&NES Core Strategy, Joint Local Transport Plan and The University of Bath Master Plan.

We will continue to support Veracity Bath in its opposition to the Park & Ride on Bathampton Meadows.

We will play an active part in developing the Valley Alliance.

Whilst looking at “the bigger picture” we should not forget to help with the important small things that make our Parish and Community what it is.

Chris Jump:

Date: