

Flyford Flavell, Grafton Flyford and North Piddle Parish Council

Annual Report 2011/2012

Planning

The parish council has only dealt with 12 planning applications this year but these have included two replacement dwellings, an agricultural dwelling (withdrawn) and an estate for 9 dwellings in Flyford Flavell. Planning permission was supported by the parish council for the replacement dwelling at Glebe Farm on Bishampton Road but all the other applications for dwellings were opposed by the parish council and planning permission has not been forthcoming.

The first half of the year was dominated by the appeal for the traveler site on the corner of A422 and New Hill. A great deal of work went into opposing this appeal and our determination and persistence paid off when the appeal was finally dismissed.

The parish council has also been very involved with the proposals for development in Flyford Flavell. Wychavon D C have indicated their preference for development of 20 houses on land opposite the Boot Inn and this has been seized upon by Bloor Homes who have approached the parish council concerning a possible scheme to be submitted in the future. Discussions continue within the village and with the district council about the possibilities this opportunity presents and every attempt to reflect public opinion has been made by holding public meetings and inviting comments from Flyford residents. It is a little disappointing that despite plenty of vocal concern only 28 objections were received to the Worcestershire Development Plan during the consultation period.

Village Design Statement

A final draft of the VDS has now been produced and is of a very high standard. Government planning policy is changing quite radically under the Localism Bill and new National Planning Framework and this will be a vital part of the planning regime in our parish. The distribution of the plan has now begun and is available on the website. Thanks are especially due to David Waide who piloted the plan throughout its development.

Parish Website

Information about the work of the Parish Council including dates of meetings, minutes and contact details of your councillors can be found on the website at www.theflyfords.co.uk.

Traffic Management

The traffic activated sign is now a familiar site around the parish and has proved very useful. Data collected from the sign was used in evidence concerning road safety in the appeal against the traveler site and was accepted by the inspector.

Highways and Footpaths

Generally the highways are in good condition in and around the parish although there are about half a dozen nagging issues, which seem never to be resolved. Your councillors are aware of the encroachment problems on Old Hill and the dreadful drainage on Libbery Lane for instance and do regularly nag the authorities about them. Work has now been completed on Bishampton Lane to

address the subsidence caused in the floods of 2007.

Please report any concerns you have to your councillors or the clerk at markbroughtontaylor@mac.com. Please note that the verge along the lanes generally belong to the Highways Authority and it is illegal to obstruct it in any way.

Precept

The precept for 2012 was set at the same level as 2011. There was a slight rise in the amount paid per household but this is due to there being less households in 2012 than 2011. In reality the precept has only been raised once in the past five years but was reduced three year ago by over 10% when the public loans board loan was paid off.

Councillors

The parish council has had a full compliment of councillors throughout the year.

Phone Box

The Parish Council has sponsored the phone box for a second year and will decide again in September whether or not to continue to sponsor it.

Post office

The post office finally closed in January about five years after Leena and Mike scheduled their retirement. The parish council had spent a great deal of time working with the various parties to try and find a solution to the problem but to no avail. Following the closure the parish council was again invited to help find a way forward to reopen the shop and fully participated in what became successful negotiations to relaunch the shop in May 2012.

Tribute

Peter Dodgson sadly died during the year. He had served as a parish councillor for many years and latterly until his death as Footpaths officer and Tree Warden. A full tribute was made to him and his colleague Bill Greg who also died during the year at the parish council meeting on 10th January 2012.

Thanks

Thanks go to all those councillors that have served the council during the year and David Smallcombe for chairing the council.