

Annual Report 2012/13

Planning

We have reviewed and commented on a moderate number of planning applications this year. Most of these were supported by the Parish Council. The most significant was an application for 9 new houses in Flyford Flavell. This was opposed by the Parish Council and rejected by Wychavon.

The Village Design Statement was completed, and duly approved by Wychavon as a local information source to be taken in to account when making planning applications.

The South Worcestershire Development Plan has been further revised and taken through further rounds of consultation. The number of new houses proposed for Flyford Flavell has been reduced to 12 and the aspiration of the community for green amenity space has been included. This follows significant input from the Parish Council working with the local community, and the Flyford Flavell Action Group.

The Parish Council have been approached by Bloor Homes regarding their intent to apply to build more houses in Flyford based on the opportunity they see in the South Worcestershire Development Plan. A further consultation is expected imminently.

A housing needs survey is currently in process with Wychavon to determine the needs of local people for specific types of housing in the 3 Parishes.

Highways and Traffic Management

The County Council have agreed to investigate adjusting the speed limits on New Hill to consider moving the 30mph limit closer to the village centre and having a 40mph limit starting just off the A422. It is thought that this might reduce traffic speed through Flyford Flavell. The possibility of speed management “gates” at the entrances to Flyford was explored and a decision taken not to progress.

We have continued to progress a concern about highway encroachments on Old Hill. The County Council has determined that encroachments have occurred and the Parish council have resolved to ask that any safety concerns arising from these encroachments are resolved. We have just received a reply from the County Council and will now determine any need for resolution action.

A substantial number of potholes, overgrown hedges and drainage concerns have been reported and resolved during the year. The issue of continuing running water down Libbery Lane and resolution of drainage problems is still being progressed with the County Council.

Two litter picks were carried out during the year.

Contact has been made with local coach companies to try to reduce damage to verges from large school buses travelling through North Piddle.

Communications

The 3 Parishes website has been upgraded and substantially enhanced to improve communication to parishioners. Standing orders have been developed to guide the use of the website and we have agreed for various categories of general parish communication to be put on the website with the support of Linda Houghton.

This action achieves the major priorities established in our Parish Plan. I propose that the Parish Council now revisits the Parish Plan and establishes our next priorities for action for the coming year.

Precept

We agreed a 2% increase in precept to cover a small increase in costs and after a number of years with no increase.

Councillors

There have been no changes of councillors in the year which is very good for stability and consistency. We have agreed to Wychavon reviewing the total number of councillors and the number to represent each parish. This has gone out to consultation and we await their response.

Footpaths Officer and Tree Warden

After a long search we have a volunteer Footpath Officer who is undergoing training with the County prior to full appointment. We are still looking for a Tree Warden.

General

We have supported the upgrading of broadband speeds in the parishes and encouraged parishioners to register their support for this.

We are supporting the 3 Parishes Village Hall Committee in their consultation process about increasing the use of the hall and carrying out a major upgrade of the hall.

We adopted a revised code of conduct for councillors in line with the latest national guidelines and to replace our previous code.

We agreed to buy the telephone kiosk in Flyford Flavell for the nominal sum of £1. This reduces the previous cost to the parish and preserves the familiar

presence in the village. We are currently consulting with the Flyford Social Committee regarding potential amenity use for the village.

Thanks

I would like to thank all the Parish Councillors for their support for the Parish Council and in particular David Smallcombe for his support as Vice Chairman. Thank you to Linda Robinson and Rob Adams for their very good support as District and County Councillors. Special thanks to Mark Broughton-Taylor for his continued enthusiastic service as Clerk.