
Trull Parish Council Newsletter

October 2007

Website Address: www.trullvillage.org.uk

Volume 7, Issue 01

Your Decision

Affordable housing is an important issue for this parish. Local people, particularly those setting up independently for the first time, can often not afford to buy or rent here. On top of which, there is also a national housing shortage.

At the same time, we do not want to see large housing developments eating into our green fields. Most people would be happy with modest schemes that provided **lower-cost housing for local people on suitable sites**.

In 2005, Trull Action Plan identified this major issue after widespread consultation. One of its action points was to carry out a "parish housing needs survey" to establish what is the shortfall in 'affordable units'. The Parish Council (PC) is working with the Community Council for Somerset (CCS) to undertaking the survey now.

CCS has a standard questionnaire for local distribution. The PC's role is to deliver the questionnaire and freepost envelope to every household in the parish, (approx 850 homes). The CCS will analyse the responses and produce a report. The results of the survey will be presented by CCS to the December PC meeting.

This is where you come in! Can you help with the delivery of questionnaires in your part of the parish, towards the end of October?

Please let Don Archer know (see contact details in final column). Any assistance would be gratefully appreciated.

Building a Storm!

Summerfield Developments (SW) Ltd current controversial development on the west side of Comeytrowe Road is as yet only a proposal, as no formal planning application has submitted.

Mrs. Webb of TDBC advised the well-attended September meeting of the Parish Council on current TDBC policy. Surveys in 2002 and 2005 had identified a TDBC requirement for 564 affordable homes to meet demand. Only 53 had been built last year, with land shortage being the main stumbling block. The Firepool site would provide a limited number of affordable units, and any planning applications of more than 15 units were required to include between 20-35% as affordable units.

Land shortage around Taunton had resulted in the setting up of a working group to review possible sites. Comeytrowe Road proposal was an unexpected site in TDBC's eyes, and there is a rigid criteria matrix that must be addressed before any project can progress.

Members of the public objected to the proposed development as follows:

- Development should not proceed without improvements to the infrastructure, (as confirmed by TDBC Forward Planning Unit Manager at the June Parish Council meeting).
- Comeytrowe Road could not accommodate additional traffic.
- Increased likelihood of traffic related incidents.
- Developers were not keen to provide affordable homes.
- Compulsory purchase of sites is not the current policy of

TDBC, although this approach is encouraged by Government.

- Perceived integration issues with occupiers of affordable homes and local community.
- Monkton Heathfield development would provide 35% of the designated affordable units.
- Departure from the policy in that housing-needs survey was required before development.
- Should planning permission be granted, it may lead to an escalation of other developments in the area to the west of Comeytrowe Road, (although it could also be seen as only applying Government policy).
- Efforts should be made to retain Trull as a separate village to Taunton.

- Comeytrowe Road was subject to regular flooding, due to poor surface water drainage. More details are available in the PC Minutes.

It was unlikely that Summerfield Developments would be deterred, and therefore an application was anticipated.

Trull Parish Council agreed to support and organise an affordable homes survey within the parish, in partnership with the Community Council for Somerset's Rural Housing Project.

Pros and cons to: Tim Burton of the TDBC Planning Dept, Deane House, with copy to Jeff Copp of Somerset Highways Dept Development Control, County Hall.

More Fireworks

Do not forget the Annual Scout's Firework Display in the Playing Field on Saturday 3rd November. Starts 6 pm. Hotdogs and drinks.

Parking Problems

Would those dog owners who deposit their bagged pet's "walnut whips" in the normal waste bins, **please** use the appropriate dog mess bins sited at both ends of the playing field. An inspection of the playing field's old swings, slides, etc by RoSPA has raised some concerns that affect insurance cover. The PC is seeking advice from TDBC specialists before making a decision.

The damaged goal-post will be removed and, replaced at a later date, hopefully.

Grand Designs

The Parish Council decided to recommend **approval** of:

- outline planning permission for two new dwellings on land adjoining The Old Rectory, Wild Oak Lane
- double garage at The Roundhouse, Chilliswood
- garage to side at 6 South View, Comeytrove Road
- felling of a cypress tree at 3 Southwell
- retention of timber clad store at Cutsey Grange.

"Bookies Runner"

After seven years, Paul Leeder is standing down from the position of Memorial Halls Booking Secretary with effect from 1st October 2007.

During his time, Paul has managed to 'streamline' the bookings procedure, and any in-coming secretary could easily continue by devoting just an hour or two per week with a Committee Meeting every other month.

If you care for this village community, and would like to know more about this important role, please give Paul a call, without obligation, on 01823 350840.

Trull PC Meeting

15th October 2007 @ 7.15 pm

Venue: Pearce Suite,
Trull Memorial Hall

The **Annual Allotment meeting** starts at 6:30pm, and is followed at 7:15pm by the main PC meeting. Minutes can be viewed at the Post Office and website.

Local Diary!

Trull Village Farmers' Market, Saturday 20th October from 10:00 to 12:00 at the Memorial Hall.

Scout Jumble Sale. Saturday 13th October from 2:00pm at the Memorial Hall.

White of Way

John White, our honorary footpaths officer, has reported the following observations to the County Council:

- A fallen tree on Lipe Hill Lane has been cleared. (T29/20).
- Access to Trull Meadow from Queen's Drive is very slippery in wet conditions. Investigation on-going. (T29/2).
- Reportable weed discovered by the bridge near the playing field and at the start of Honiton Road to Dipford footpath is being treated. (T21/30).
- The foot-bridge near Stoford Bridge was dilapidated and overgrown. A new bridge has been installed and path cleared. (T29/28 and WG3/19).
- Footpaths around Herswell Farm are now clearly marked, after a permissive route was agreed with the farm owner. (T29/28-T29/26).
- The footbridge at Three Bridges is deteriorating, remedial work is being assessed. (T21/14 & T21/2).

Footpaths

John White (Non-councillor)
Tel: 365991 (Evenings only)
Email: jwhite2820@btinternet.com

Councillors

Geoff Hewett (Chairman)
Trull Green Farm, Dipford Rd.
Trull
Tel: 333630

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Sid French (Deputy Chairman/ TCCDG)

Spearcey Farm, Staplehay
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Email:
charlesfrench@btconnect.com

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Don Archer (Planning/School)

5 Church Road, Trull
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Fiona Drew (Website)

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Ann Hudson (Planning)

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Staplehay

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Simon Jeffery (Community Centre Working Party)

Spypost House, Staplehay
Tel: 322001

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Peter (Alan) Parris (Tree Warden)

Lower Kibbear Farm
Tel: 284873

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Colin Ralph (Party in Park)

Canonsgrove Farm, Trull
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Email: c.ralph57@btinternet.com

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Jo Wooldridge (Newsletter/Playing Field/Memorial Halls)

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Steve Watts

(Parish Clerk/Allotments)

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