
Trull Parish Council Newsletter

February 2008

Website Address: www.trullvillage.org.uk

Volume 7, Issue 5

Redeployed

The Parish Council has appointed Don Archer as lead councillor for Housing & Development. The role was identified in the Parish Plan which was adopted by the Council in 2004. It will include responsibility for some of the key issues likely to affect the parish over the coming years, such as affordable housing and flood defence schemes.

Ann Hudson will take over Don's previous role as lead councillor for Planning, with assistance from Colin Ralph.

Playing Fields

Users of the village playing field will be invited to put forward their views on the facility in the near future. The Parish Council is planning to consult groups who regularly use the field, inviting them to air their suggestions and ensure the field is used to its best potential. Among those the Council hopes to involve are the Dragons Football Club, The School and Pre-School, and the Church's Youth and Children's Minister. One objective is to identify and access funds not available to the Council.

The Council has also agreed to earmark a sum of money in its budget each year, to build a fund ensuring the upkeep of the playing field equipment and safety surfaces.

Work is currently underway on repairs to the slide and see-saw. Replacement swings have been purchased and should be in place soon. Swingers will have to get used to travelling north-south rather than east-west, as this makes best use of the existing safety surface!

Highways

The Council has been told there is a long list of similar work to do, following its request to Somerset Highways Authority for a small grassed strip of land adjacent to Spearcey Lane to be hard surfaced. The request was made after concerns were raised about the placing of large stones on the area. The authority said there are many such stones across the county, and occupants should remember that they are liable for any damage these stones may cause.

Planning

The Parish Council decided to make **no objection** to extensions at:

- Nevin Lodge, Private Road
- Little Oaks, Honiton Road
- 6 Trull Green Drive,

and to make **no comment** on listed works at 1 Kibbear Cottages.

Housing Awareness

An Affordable Housing Awareness Event was held at the Memorial Hall on 17th January. Falcon Rural Housing Association mounted a display showing schemes in different parts of the county. The Community Council for Somerset, which carried out the recent Housing Needs Survey in the parish in association with the Parish Council, was represented. And Andy Lahner, who has built many of the small Falcon schemes, demonstrated how such provision might be made in Trull.

There was a good attendance, including a number of young couples personally interested in such housing locally. Falcon Housing is now reviewing the response to the event, and to the survey questionnaires, before deciding

whether to proceed with a local scheme, subject to the normal planning procedures.

Spatial Strategy

The Council was given an update on the latest situation regarding the recommendations for extra housing in the Taunton area, and its implications for Trull parish. Last year, an independent Panel carried out an Examination in Public of the Draft Regional Spatial Strategy. Its Report recommends increasing the target figures by almost 30%, to 18,000 new dwellings in Taunton over the next 20 years. For the first time, Comeytrove (the fields to the west of Comeytrove Road) is specifically mentioned, with a proposed capacity of 3,000 dwellings. The need for improved road access there is acknowledged. These recommendations will now be considered by the Government, and its proposals published in the spring for public consultation. The final version of the RSS will be produced in the autumn. Taunton Deane BC will then have to incorporate the Strategy's decisions when it works on a new Local Development Framework (Local Plan) to replace the present one, which expires in 2011. The Panel's Report can be consulted at the Regional Assembly Secretariat offices in Dennett House, Middle Street, Taunton, phone 270101; or online at www.southwest-ra.gov.uk

Trull PC Meeting

18th February 2008 @ 7.15 pm
Pearce Suite, Trull Memorial Hall
Minutes of January's meeting can be viewed at the Post Office and on the website.

Hedge Your Best

Attempts are being made to resolve the problem of tall hedges and trees shading out light to the allotments on Wild Oak Lane. Residents in Ladylawn have been invited to consider having their trees pruned and hedges laid, but several were not in favour of such measures. The possibility of laying a trial section of hedge, to demonstrate the advantages to both the residents and the allotment tenants, is being explored. In the meantime the Parish Council will be writing to allotment tenants, to explain that it has tried to ease the situation although it has no statutory powers. It is unlikely that anything can be achieved before mid March, after which hedge cutting is discouraged to protect nesting birds.

Bookings Please

Susan Barrett is the new bookings secretary for the Trull Memorial Hall. She can be contacted on 01823 323347 or by email: trullhalls@homecall.co.uk

Keep Crime Down

The Avon and Somerset Constabulary's Community Officer for Trull has reported a 12.9% reduction in crime for the Taunton sector compared with this time last year, which represents 346 fewer victims. Criminal damage is down 12.6% (195 fewer victims), theft of motor vehicles is down 30% (63 fewer victims) and violent crime is down 18.5% (258 fewer victims). To help keep crime down, members of the public are reminded to make their own contribution by making things difficult for criminals including marking property, locking it up and keeping it out of sight. The number to call for assistance is 0845 456 7000.

Take Notice

The Council feels that current arrangements for displaying notices at Staplehay are unsatisfactory, and has decided to investigate possible locations for the siting of a new notice board, with a view to discussion at the February meeting.

Off Road News

John White, our Footpath Liaison Officer, has received an update on the situation regarding some items reported to SCC Rights of Way team in 2007.

Access for paths (T21/32 and T21/33) at Sweethay Lane has been resolved, although some work is awaited on the footbridge and other minor obstructions.

Finger posts from Kibbear Lane to 21/5 are on works orders.

Damaged bridges at T21/14 and T21/2 are also on the works list to be assessed.

In addition, there has been a provisional agreement from the County Council's Rights of Way team to part fund the gravel used for the bottom of the playing field, and an extension of the low walling at Pokes Lane, subject to quotations and invoices.

Local Diary

Pancake Lunch: Shrove Tuesday, 5th February, Trull Memorial Hall, 12 noon to 2 pm. Savoury and sweet fillings. Everyone welcome.

Footpaths

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

Newsletter

Becky Howat (Non-councillor)
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Councillors

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

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Sid French (Deputy Chairman/ TCCDG)

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Don Archer (Housing & Development/School)

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Spypost House, Staplehay
Tel: 322001

Email: steerside@aol.com

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Peter Parris (Tree Warden)

Lower Kibbear Farm
Tel: 284873

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Colin Ralph (Party in the Park/Planning)

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

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Jo Wooldridge (Playing Field/Memorial Halls)

21 Church Road, Trull
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Steve Watts (Parish Clerk/Allotments)

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