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# Trull Parish Council Newsletter

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April 2008

Website Address: [www.trullvillage.org.uk](http://www.trullvillage.org.uk)

Volume 7, Issue 7

## Packed House

Outline planning applications for two affordable housing schemes were discussed at the PC meeting, which attracted around 78 members of the public. The council stressed that, despite both applications coming up for discussion at the same meeting, they would be considered separately on their own merits. The need for both to be on the same agenda was due solely to the planning process, which sets a timescale for comment dictated by when the applications are initially registered. Members of the public were given an opportunity to speak and ask questions about each application before councillors made their observations. The Parish Council has now submitted its recommendations to Taunton Deane BC, whose officers or Planning Committee will make the final decisions (see below), subject to appeal if turned down.

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## Dipford Split

The Council was split over an application from West of England Developments, in association with Falcon Housing, for eight affordable houses on a disused orchard site opposite Dipford Cottage in Dipford Road. The Chairman decided to use his casting vote in favour of the proposal, but assured members of the public that their concerns would be relayed to the Deane Council. Among these are the loss of a wildlife site, the impact of extra traffic on a route already used by emergency vehicles, the risk to pedestrians on a narrow road, and the issue of

overlooking for the closest neighbours. Also five of the eight proposed dwellings were of a three bedroom design, which would not reflect the needs identified by the recent housing survey; and if the application was not for affordable housing it would be outside permitted development and contrary to current planning policy.

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## No To Comeytrove

The Council gave a resounding thumbs down to a proposal from Summerfield Developments for 58 affordable homes on land to the west of Comeytrove Road. Several members of the public voiced concerns over the application. The main issues surrounded access along the road, which is already considered dangerous and has no footpath; the size of the development on a greenfield site which is not allocated in the local plan; the likelihood of drainage and flooding problems; and the lack of local school places available. The PC also felt the proposal was disproportionate to local housing needs. Neither Somerset County Highways Authority nor the Environment Agency was in favour of the application. Comeytrove Parish Council had also been invited to comment on the application and had not supported the development.

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## Planning

In addition to the two applications above, the Parish Council decided to make **no objection** to

- 1 Gatchell Court, Gatchell Oaks, Trull.

Erection of a conservatory on the patio.

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## Highways

The County Highways Authority will be asked to look at a longer lasting solution to problems caused by a spring in Kibbear Lane. The spring is regularly patched up only for it to emerge again, leaving large potholes in its wake. A request for netting over the railings of the bridge at Mill Lane will also be repeated, to guard against the possibility of children falling in the water, pending long term improvements.

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## Village Flood Plan

The Council's lead member for housing and development, Don Archer, has reported back on an Emergency Flood Plan seminar which he attended, organised by the Somerset Local Authorities' Civil Contingencies Unit. Climate change is altering the rainfall pattern, with wetter winters and a greater risk of flash flooding during the summer. As a result, Parish Councils are being encouraged to compile Village Flood Plans. Mr Archer confirmed that proposals for a flood storage reservoir at Wild Oak Lane would be discussed during the 'Proposals for Change in Taunton Town Centre' presentation at the Annual Parish Meeting – see below.

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## Trull PC Meeting

21<sup>st</sup> April 2008 @ 7.15 pm

**The Pearce Suite, Memorial Hall.**  
Annual Parish Meeting open to all.  
Minutes of March's meeting can be viewed at the Post Office and on the website.

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## Scouts Honour

Congratulations are due to the Trull Cub Scout leader Andrew Mountstephens. He is being presented with the Silver Cross by the county's Chief Scout in recognition of his bravery after rescuing a man from the River Tone. Mr Mountstephens jumped in to save the angler who had fallen into the water after suffering a fit. He pulled the man to safety and administered first aid until the emergency crews arrived.

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## On Condition

Discussions are due to continue on the erection of a new notice board at Staplehay. Members had given their conditional approval to locate the new board to the east of the telephone box, subject to permission. Information has now been received regarding the need for a license from the highways authority, so members will debate the new costs and conditions at their next meeting, immediately after the Annual Parish Meeting.

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## Spring In Sight

The clocks have gone forward, spring is in the air and our Police Community Support Officer is turning her attention to the garden. Residents are being warned to consider how much monetary value there is on the property in their garden and shed. PCSO Kelly Browning wants to ensure that residents are making it hard for thieves to get into the shed or garage, and if they do, find the property is so distinctive that selling it on the black market would be difficult and not worthwhile. She recommends taking time to clearly mark property, and also warns against leaving insecure items in the garden which could be used to

gain access to property. Prevention is better than cure, and a lot can be done to help reduce the risk by taking some simple precautions. Help is available if needs be, on 0845 456 7000.

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## Off Road News

The Council has chosen to erect two new gates where Pokes Lane crosses the drive to The Bell House and Bell House Cottage, in an effort to make it safer for pedestrians, particularly children. It has opted for wooden models, double-hinged for wheelchair access, which had been recommended by the Footpath Liaison Officer, John White, in consultation with the SCC ROW team. The residents are also being encouraged to provide a sign on the drive warning approaching drivers.

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## Local Diary

**Trull and Staplehay WI Jumble Sale:** Saturday April 12<sup>th</sup>, Trull Memorial Hall, 2.30pm.

**All Saints Trull, Annual Church Meeting:** Sunday April 27, 10.45am.

**Trull School Fun Walk:** Sunday April 27<sup>th</sup>. Arrive at the school between 2 and 2.30pm. Entry £1.50 adult and £1 children (school age). The walk is not suitable for pushchairs.

**An Exhibition of Paintings and Drawings** by Trull resident and former parish councillor Tony Haskell is being held at Barrington Court, Ilminster, from April 3<sup>rd</sup> to May 19<sup>th</sup>.

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## Footpaths

**John White** (Non-councillor)  
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## Newsletter

**Becky Howat** (Non-councillor)  
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## Councillors

**Geoff Hewett (Chairman)**  
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**Sid French (Deputy Chairman/ TCCDG)**

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**Peter Parris (Tree Warden/Playing Field)**

Lower Kibbear Farm

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