
Trull Parish Council Newsletter

February 2010

Website Address: www.trullvillage.org.uk

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Have Your Say

Few parishioners could have been aware of the contents, and the potentially massive long-term impact on Trull, of TDBC's recently published draft *Core Strategy*, which planning staff presented at a well-attended public consultation in Trull on 19th January. This is the first step in a two-year programme of discussion and consultation which will eventually produce a new Local Development Framework ('Local Plan'), for 2012 to 2026. It implements the government's Regional Spatial Strategy, itself the subject of protracted consultation and evolution over the past five years.

The February PC meeting will focus on the response of the Parish Council to the proposals. There will be a comprehensive presentation of the document, followed by an opportunity for members of the public to comment and ask questions, before the parish councillors debate the issues and decide what formal response to make to TDBC. This will include, in general terms, its attitude to the Broadlands development at Staplehay that was the subject of a pre-submission public consultation exhibition at Canonsgrove last month.

It is vital that we are all fully aware of what is proposed, and that we respond to the consultation collectively and individually. Do attend if you can, and also let TDBC know what you think about its proposals.

Any Port in a Storm

The PC decided to support the replacement of a two-bay car port with a four-bay one at 2 Jeffreys Way, Staplehay.

A Field too Far

Following the consultation at Canonsgrove of the Broadlands building development at Staplehay, some villagers felt that the proposals showed disregard for parishioners' wishes and the overwhelming opposition to any large scale development, as referred to in the 2005 Trull Parish Plan and the recent Review, so they demanded Mr French's resignation as a parish councillor at the January meeting. It was pointed out that the Code of Conduct rules specifically deal with such inevitable conflicts of interest. When the matter comes up for consideration at the PC, a councillor with a prejudicial interest can be present at the discussion, but must leave the room before voting takes place. They were entitled to their own opinions, and could seek to develop their property like any other person. The PC had taken advice from David Greig (TDBC Parish Liaison Officer), and he confirmed that Mr French cannot be forced to resign as he has not broken any rules. If he had, it would be a matter for the TDBC Standards Board.

Mr French has worked hard for the Parish over many years and is entitled to remain a councillor. It was confirmed that such public consultation prior to any application for planning permission is part of TDBC's current planning requirements.

The next PC elections are in May 2011, when a new Council will be elected - if there are more candidates than seats, otherwise they will be automatically appointed as before.

Next PC Meeting

Mon. 15th Feb 2010 @ 7.15 pm
Main Hall, Trull Primary School
All welcome

The Patch

Paul Grant, Estates Manager at Queen's College, has been asked to confirm that the proposed extension of the allotments can go ahead. Quotes for fencing off the new area are acceptable, and the project should be completed within the £2,000 budget allocation.

Downfall

Stephen Fawcett, of the Mill Stream Committee, thanked the Parish Council for its support and offer of financial help with the Staplehay Weir repair costs. No progress was reported on the matter of ownership of the weir, and it appears unlikely that ownership will ever be established.

Road Works

Residents had asked who would be responsible for maintaining the newly-cleared footway from Dipford Orchard to Honiton Road in future. The answer seems to be a combination of SCC Highways and the adjacent landowners.

Trull Primary School was closed during the recent snowfalls as access via Church Road was considered too dangerous for both vehicles and pedestrians. The PC acquired some rock salt, and is investigating the provision of grit bins.

The PC is also looking into the use of local farmers' equipment to clear roads in Trull. This falls under TDBC's responsibility and is, therefore, subject to a list of the legal obligations and requirements for anyone undertaking clearance work. Following comments made after the snow last year, "elves and safety" issues have deterred locals engaging in basic snow clearance work.

Stand & Deliver

Hopefully, most residents will have received a hand-delivered copy of the Trull Parish Plan Review 2010 during the last few days. If you have not received a copy, please contact Tony Wooldridge, 21 Church Road or Tel. 253057, as he can deliver a copy to you.

Comments relating to the review and other concerns about Trull can be left in a special Review Box currently located at Trull Post Office.

By Poplar Request

The poplars on Trull Green are to be fully inspected for signs of disease, and a report is expected shortly.

Under the Radar

At the PC meeting, PCSO Simon Perry reported that the four recent Community Speedwatch surveys had resulted in letters being sent out to the 4% of motorists who had exceeded the speed limit. The surveys will continue as they are encouraging drivers keep to the speed limit. Most of the offences occur at the end of the day when drivers are leaving Taunton, suggesting they are not Taunton residents. Simon added that he is still looking for a co-ordinator for Trull, as Bishop Hull's co-ordinator is covering both parishes.

The parking problems outside Trull Primary School has been monitored over the last three months, and the safety issues have been drawn to the attention of drivers dropping off children at the school. A joint letter from the School and Police has gone out to parents. Letters have been sent to drivers parking dangerously near the school and any re-offenders may be ticketed.

Plans to improve the entrance to the Memorial Hall and Church car parks are progressing, including a time limited parking restriction by the disused gate into the playground.

Splish Splash

Since the last PC meeting, ponding of water in the bus shelter on Honiton Road has been resolved.

Communal Affairs

The Playing Field is in good order, the first celandines are in flower and the benches will be moved before the first grass cut.

The date for the next Party in the Park is 19th June 2010, with David Davenport chairing the next planning meeting at 7:30pm Tues. 9th February in the Parish Rooms.

Under Foot

SCC ROW has failed to respond to the Three Bridges issues despite repeated emails.

Damage caused by erosion under the stile in Amberd Lane on the Pitminster footpath will be resolved by use of a paving slab.

Rain Affected

A request has been received for paving slabs to be laid at the Honiton Road bus stop, near Wild Oak Lane, to improve access across the grass. It was also reported that:

A gully in Comeytrove Lane was blocked again causing a pool of standing water; a manhole at the top of Eastbrook has sunk and a pothole keeps forming; a grating at Kibbear Lane is blocked and water is running down the Lane onto Eastbrook, possibly a water main problem; the gullies are blocked in Eastbrook.

Burning Issues

Dave Marks is to construct three extra compost bins on the burning plot at the allotments, along with notice boards. The burning plot is very high and burning could take two days. When the allotments are extended, the burning plot will be levelled, and a lockable access gate added in the corner. It was reported that a "No Parking" signs is need at the entrance gate. Local residents' gateways have also been blocked.

Local Diary

Next Film Night – Creation, Fri. 12th Feb. 7:30pm in Memorial Hall.

Footpaths

Contact John White
Tel: 365991 (Evenings only).
Email: jwhite2820@btinternet.com

Councillors

Geoff Hewett (Chairman)

Trull Green Farm, Dipford Rd., Trull
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Don Archer (Housing & Development / Trull School)

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Fiona Drew (Website / Trees / Trull Action Plan)

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Sid French (Trull Community Centre Development Group)

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Nick Hancock (Highways)

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Ann Hudson (Planning / SALC / Trull Relief in Sickness)

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Dee Luke (Trull Community Centre Development Group/ Party in the Park)

Rose Arbour, Wild Oak Lane
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Peter Parris (Trees / Playing Field)

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Colin Ralph (Party in the Park / Planning)

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