



The Occasional

Winscombe and Sandford Parish Council Newsletter Number 25 March 2018



Hopefully, this Newsletter will enable you to:

- find out what your PC is doing and planning to do;
- tell us what needs doing;
- find information about the parish;
- contact North Somerset Council - **01934 888 888**



We like to hear of your concerns and of any issues that you wish to bring to our notice. You can do so by:

- calling at the Parish Office, Community Centre Building;
- (opening times Monday and Thursday 10am to noon);
- accessing our website: www.winscombeandsandfordpc.org.uk;
- telephoning: 01934 844 257;
- emailing: winscombepc@btconnect.com
- writing to **Lynne Rampton**, the Parish Clerk.

Parish Council Cemetery

Surrounded by, and with splendid views of, the Mendip Hills the Parish Council Cemetery is a very special place. Thanks to high-quality maintenance and the support of our cemetery orderly, Jenny Nicholas, the grounds are kept in excellent order.



Future plans include a larger area for parking and a new pergola in the east of the Cemetery, together with a larger storage area for cemetery equipment. The wrought iron gates, damaged by an unknown party, are to be repaired and re-instated. However, the existing building is suffering from a degree of subsidence so that sections of the building cannot be used. As a result the intention is to demolish the building and replace it, alongside the Strawberry Line, with a new building using a Bradstone construction. This is in the good hands of the Parish Council Cemetery and Allotments Committee.

Parish Council Allotments

Next to our very special cemetery is, reportedly, one of the best kept allotment areas in North Somerset. The opportunity for parishioners to grow there their own fruit and vegetables has never been more available and currently our waiting list is very short. As an expert gardener or a keen beginner, you would be very welcome. The allotment holders are very friendly and help from established members is always on offer. At present half-plots, at £15 per annum, are very popular and relatively easy to maintain. If you are interested please contact the Parish Office for further information.



West of England Joint Spatial Plan

The four West of England Councils, which include North Somerset, have worked together over the last two years to produce a West of England Joint Spatial Plan (JSP). This will plan for sustainable growth to help the Region meet its housing and transport needs for the next 20 years.

On completion of the appropriate consultations, the four councils will submit their proposed JSP to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.

The JSP presently describes plans for areas close to our Parish and involves very major changes. These include two large developments, one north of and near to Churchill and Sandford and another near Banwell, both being described as 'Strategic Development Locations' (SDL).

The development north of Churchill and Sandford is planned as 2,800 homes and that near Banwell 1,900 homes. Both will include a local centre, employment and schools.

A dual carriageway will be constructed through the Churchill and Sandford development. This will link a new junction, J21a, on the M5 near Banwell to the A38 somewhere south of Bristol Airport. It will bypass Banwell, Sandford and Churchill. In addition, a spur road will be built to join the A368 at Towerhead.

By 2036, 1000 new houses are planned for smaller developments throughout North Somerset, these being defined as 'Non-strategic Growth'. As far as Sandford and Winscombe are concerned the sites allocated by North Somerset that have yet to gain planning permission include Broadleaze Farm, Shipham Lane, Coombe Farm and North of Greenhill Lane (Aurora). Those with planning permission include land to the North of Greenhill Lane (Strongvox) and Woodborough Farm. Extra proposals are likely.

Our Parish Planning Committee responded as follows.

Banwell Garden Village

No new housing should be built before the Bypass is completed in its entirety. To complete this piecemeal would only serve to transfer Banwell congestion problems onto the A368 in Sandford and create a greater flow of traffic and bottlenecks through Sandford and Churchill. It is preferred that the J21a is an all-direction junction to alleviate 'rat runs' to J21. Once achieved, a traffic-calming scheme could be appropriate in surrounding villages.

Churchill Garden Village

The Parish Council believes that the Churchill SDL proposed to the north of Sandford is misconceived, excessive and unacceptable for the following reasons:

1. There is insufficient room in the identified area for a development of this size without effectively joining a number of communities together. If the Garden Village were to proceed, it is unlikely that a meaningful separation-gap would be possible and residents of Sandford would be cut off from the open countryside by a swathe of new houses. The creation of a village of this size would change the area to an urban environment.
2. Environmental or green corridors around, and through the development would be essential to separate the settlements and is considered important both environmentally, and so that the distinctive characteristics of both old and new

West of England Joint Spatial Plan (cont')

villages would be preserved and enhanced. As previously stated, there is insufficient land available in the location to achieve this.

3. The area identified is considered to be in an unsustainable location, poorly served by public transport with the majority of residents already commuting by private car to employment in Bristol and other large centres. The allocation of 7.2 hectares for employment land is not adequate to address this issue in a Garden Village of this size.

4. It is accepted that there is a critical need to significantly boost housing supply in the area, particularly that of affordable housing. From documentation available (Paribas Report), it is understood that the Churchill SDL is unlikely to be viable within the plan period and will provide little, if any, affordable housing in line with Planning Policy requirements.

5. The Churchill SDL will be clearly visible from the Mendip Hills AONB and have a significant impact on views from the protected landscape. The Garden Village would add a significant amount of light pollution and have a negative impact on the dark skies and the area's sense of tranquillity. The Mendip Hills AONB Partnership has written a letter of objection to the inclusion of the Churchill Garden Village and those views are endorsed by the Parish Council.

6. As a village greatly affected by this SDL, Sandford has not been directly consulted and measures to protect the needs, social welfare and enhance the lives of local residents have not been explored. Both Banwell and Churchill have been consulted.

With no clear division between the settlements, it is considered that the Churchill SDL does not conform to a Garden Village Model. The Churchill SDL is in the wrong place and should be removed from the plan and a better, more sustainable, alternate site such as The Vale by the South Bristol Link Road explored.

It was proposed that the above responses be submitted to the NSC's Consultation on the NS Local Plan to 2036 with regard to the Banwell and Churchill Garden Villages. All members were in favour of the proposition.

Open Gardens and Scarecrow Extravaganza

It is four years since the last Open Gardens and Scarecrows event. So, another is proposed for this year. It will take place during the weekend of June 23rd / 24th.

Paul Matthews who organises the Open Gardens could accept more volunteer gardens, rambling or manicured, large or small. Give him a ring on 01934 843729 if you would like to take part.

Jane and Gerald Lloyd are again to organise the Scarecrow Extravaganza for the Parish Council. On the last two occasions over 250 scarecrows appeared, some in the strangest of places. You can see a large selection of them in the Scarecrow Gallery on the parish website www.winscombeandsandfordpc.org.uk. You will remember that we all take part for fun, there being no competition, and that there is no general theme. So your imagination can run wild!!

Additional details for both events will be available nearer the event.



The Community of Winscombe and Sandford Remembers.

As part of the 100 year celebration of the end of World War I, our Community is looking to develop a living exhibition to remember those who lost their lives, those who survived and those who were left behind to 'tend home fires'.

In November, with the anniversary of the end of WWI, we are thinking of having a parish-wide exhibition as a commemoration. Many people from our Community lost their lives in this conflict and this is a way of widening their remembrance by including local history and/or artefacts relating to the families involved.

Do you have any memorabilia/artefacts around your home from the WWI, or family memories and stories to share with others, and would you be happy for them to be in the public domain (i.e. included in an exhibition, on a website or even in a short film)?

Would you like to be involved in: building up this record, devising an exhibition, helping with research? We need to gather stories and investigate further by interviewing parishioners and compiling the relevant information, so creating a lasting memory for future generations. Can you help?

A questionnaire will shortly be circulating. Please fill it in either as paper-copy or on-line to help move this project forward. Your memories are the key!

Litter, recycling, toilets and blocked drains

Litter We have a team of parishioners who work hard to keep our streets and public places tidy. We hold "Litter Picks" several times a year. Our **next litter pick will take place on Saturday 3rd March.** Please let Janet Corry know (01934 842467) if you would like to join our litter pickers. We can provide appropriate clothing, sacks etc.

Recycling Winscombe and Sandford have won a Gold Award worth £1500 in the Parish Recycling scheme. We have extended recycling to the litter we collect, carried out a survey of recycling put out for the refuse collectors, persuaded about 100 residents to sign a pledge to increase their recycling, and set up the Repair Café, run by Claire King (see photo.).

Reducing the use of plastic bottles (and other plastic) You will be aware of the environmental damage caused by discarded plastics. Many, if not most of the plastic bottles sold in this country contain drinking water, even though tap water is free, safe and healthy. There is a campaign in Bristol to persuade people to refill their bottles free of charge in cafés and at public drinking fountains. Our Parish could contribute to this by reinstating our water fountain, which we once had outside the public conveniences and near the Strawberry Line. **Are you in favour of this?** Please let Janet know (01934 842467) - if you are!

Toilets We have recently been plagued by persistent vandalism in our Public Conveniences. They are old and rather tatty, and we are planning to refurbish them during 2018. We could at the same time reinstate the water fountain.

Our sewers Water companies are concerned about the formation of 'fat balls' which block sewers. We have had a number of such incidents recently in our parish. The causes are putting unsuitable objects such as 'wet-wipes' down the toilet and fats and oils down the kitchen sink or directly down the drain. An alternative is to dispose of waste fats and oils either by putting them into the brown bins provided by North Somerset Council or into your own compost bin, or by using them to make 'bird cake' for your garden birds.

