

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
Minutes of the Meetings held in the Windmill Centre Lounge, Deddington on
Wednesday 9 May 2018 at 7.30pm
Present: Ten member of public, eight parish councillors, the Clerk and minute's secretary.

1) Approval of Agenda.

2) Presentation by and questions to Alex Keen, Cherwell District Council (CDC).

Alex Keen General Developments Team Manager CDC (Slides are available on line). Alex introduced himself to the meeting and then presented the role of CDC planning.

Planning Acts. There are two main acts that govern planning; **Town and Country Planning Act 1990** (dealing with change of use, building works, engineering works, tree work and advertisements) and **Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990** (dealing with conservation area designations and listed buildings). Enforcement is the action of dealing with the breaking of either of these acts.

How decisions are made. In accordance with the Development Plan and with regard to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and other "material considerations" (such as public impact).

The Development Plan. The development plan is made up of; Cherwell Local Plan 2011-2031 Part 1, Cherwell Local Plan 1996, and if available any relevant Neighbourhood Plan.

Who can comment on application? The planning process means that anyone can comment on applications. The PC are asked as are any other "Statutory" consultees. There should be a site notice or letters to neighbours to where the application relates to. In addition there are newspaper advertisements and the CDC planning portal.

Who makes decision? CDC make the decisions. Call-in requests ensure that the application decision is made in a Planning Committee.

Enforcement. Enforcement is undertaken when there is; unauthorised development, building not in accordance with agreed plans, breaches of conditions or a run over time limits imposed by CDC at approval.

Alex Keen then opened the floor for questions;

- I. **Flooding in Clifton.** A resident asked about environmental impact assessments. In particular, run off flooding destroying the valley and ecology in Clifton. Alex said that this may be due to cumulative development upstream and difficult to manage as they have to view each development application as an individual proposal rather than view the bigger picture. If there is considered adequate flood risk assessment then they can do little. There was a suggestion that a mitigating consideration could be put into the Local Plan Pt 2 specifying a particular area.
- II. **Pharmacy application in Hudson Street, Deddington.** A resident raised her concerns regarding the application for a pharmacy in the village. Health Centre residents residing within a mile of the practice will no longer be able to collect prescriptions from the Health Centre but have to use another Pharmacy the nearest being in Hudson Street. Concern was raised with regard to the elderly and infirm having to make a further journey, increased traffic, lack of parking and concern regarding those needing to make out of hours' collections. Alex Keen stated that the chances of stopping this application were slim as it would automatically be considered permitted development. It was noted that there is a form available to get dispensation from having to use an alternative to the Health Centre for those with mobility issues.
- III. **Government Policy.** The Clerk asked what influence CDC had on government policy with particular reference to S106 payments. She queried why it was not paid upfront and non-refundable so that the monies go directly to the community and are kept in the vent of the development not being built.
- IV. **Housing Supply.** Alex was asked how much of the housing supply has been land banked for five years. He was not able to answer this. Alex raised concern of Oxford's unmet need and said as a district they may have to fight with developers about where the unmet houses are built and whether any should go to CDC. Should they have further houses imposed on it may result in additional houses in Category A villages. He also stated that the NPPF is changing planning law requiring a mandatory requirement to review 5 years – revise and revisit local plan and also includes a standard method for calculating housing land supply.
- V. **Support for backfill.** A resident asked if the barrier of backfill development could be overruled if the local community and PC were to provide full support of the planning application? Clifton is a category C village. Alex said that engagement with parishioners' and the PC were key and if dozens of letters of support were received then they would give them due consideration.
- VI. **DPC Planning team relationship with CDC.** The Chair of the PC asked if there was any scope for developing relationships with the DPC planning working group and CDC planners to build up a rapport. Alex said that it was not unreasonable and a good idea as planning is contentious issue as usually someone unhappy and someone happy with the decision made. He did state that this however was a decision that the Senior Manager would have to make who he has agreed to speak with.

- VII. **Target for Category A villages.** The chair asked if there CDC target for Deddington. Alex Keen said that he did not know.
- VIII. **Enforcement.** The Chair asked what happens when there is a breach in planning and what action would be taken to monitor it. He said breaches should be report to Planning. There is a dedicated monitoring offices. A resident asked if there was any redress if CDC failing doing what should be doing as it was felt sometimes that David Wilson homes had more power to bend rules than a single dwelling applicant. Alex said that one could seek redress from CDC if felt there was mal-administration. The procedure is; formal complaint to council, local government ombudsman can then fine and request that it is remedied. He further stated that CDC have not been proactive but there is no law saying CDC have to. However it is hoped that the introduction of two new monitoring officers will mean they are better able to deal with enforcement issues. Speed is expedient in requesting enforcement of any breaches.
- IX. **David Wilson.** Concern raised regarding water and sewage drainage once all houses are built. CDC standard policy of not collection refuse from un-adopted roads. As originally an outline planning application with no specific details no comments were made regarding material consideration. It was reported that the site had been leafleted with bin collection/recycling information. Any rubbish found on site needs to be addressed to the Site manager.
- X. **Category A development.** A resident asked why has Deddington less development than Adderbury and Bloxham? He said that this was due to less applications being made in Deddington.
- XI. **Thanks.** Thanks, were passed to Alex Keen for attending, presenting and answering questions.

3) Minutes May 2017 and Matters arising.

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting for May 2017 were unanimously approved by those in attendance. Matters arising. **None.**

4) Report from the Chair 2018. - Chair Cllr David Rogers reported;

Thank you. He thanked all those whose efforts have helped, improved and supported both the Parish and the lives of Parishioners. With thanks to the volunteers who have turned out for a wide variety of causes including the Neighbourhood Plan, the Windmill redevelopment working group members, the Speedwatch volunteers, the Spring Clean crews, those who help maintain the green spaces, playing fields, sports facilities, allotments and monitor the footpaths, the Friends of Castle Grounds, the Snow Wardens and the countless others that have given their time and talents so freely. He also thanked Lorraine, Richard and Susan and all those who have been councillors over the last year, parish district and county, for their time and support.

Parish Spring Clean. Has demonstrated what a good job the Steward does in keeping the villages clean.

In summary. Plenty has been done over the year and the effort and hard work is evident. There has been much work to improve and expand public facilities across the parish.

5) Report from the Chairs of the PC's Working Groups:

a) Planning. Cllr Stella O'Neill reported; DPC received 60 planning application during 2017/18 – 45 building related and 15 tree related.

Tree applications. The 15 tree applications, these were to fell a total of 27 trees for a variety of reasons, mostly overcrowding, poor/dangerous condition, overhanging neighbours' property and potential disruption of overhead cables. Eleven were to reduce/crown/top trees one of which had a TPO on it, which was approved.

Building applications. The 45 building related applications, a majority were for renovations, modifications, single and two storey extensions; however, of these 45 applications, there were 13 applications for new residential dwellings, equating to a potential 17 new homes in the Parish. Of the applications; 4 were withdrawn before determination, 4 were refused, 5 have not been determined at the time of writing. Of the refusals and withdrawals; 2 were resubmitted and subsequently approved, 1 was resubmitted and awaiting a decision and 1 application was refused twice, however a third application was successful. CDC has the final say on applications and there have been some occasions where they have not agreed with the PC's recommendations. There have been 8 occasions in the last year where we have objected, and CDC have subsequently approved applications and a further 3 occasions where we have no objections, but CDC have refused the application. It is true to say, of course, that some of these have been resubmitted application that have subsequently been approved by us and CDC. The PC in the majority of cases approve applications that meet planning criteria and are regarded as sustainable development, always having regard to legitimate concerns and objections of neighbours and other parishioners".

David Wilson Homes development. In the last year, the David Wilson Homes development has progressed apace; however, the PC has felt it necessary to contact CDC and OCC to seek confirmation that the developer's obligations under the Section 106 agreement (including payments and works) are being complied with, as timescales have slipped on some items – and that those works and payments have now been progressed. In the event of any further developments coming forward in the future which may involve planning gain for the parish, it has been agreed that the PC will agree a prioritised wish list as an early stage of the planning process to try and ensure that the parish derives maximum benefit. The new homes started to be occupied last August and some 45 homes on the David Wilson development are now occupied. The PC welcome our new neighbours and hope they are very happy living in our beautiful Parish.

- b) **Highways & Transport: Cllr Helen Oldfield sent through a written report detailing:**
- S106 public transport contribution:** The S4 bus began a half hourly service between Banbury and Deddington in May 2015, supported by S106 contributions from the Longford Park estate in Bodicote. However, the half-hourly service to Deddington is to be stopped as from 20 May as it has not attracted enough passengers to make it financially sustainable. The Deddington Grange estate comes with a S106 public transport contribution of £73,000. So far, the money has not been allocated. Evidently it has not been used to salvage the half-hourly S4. Two new bus stops (one each way) on the A4260 outside Deddington Grange estate should be installed soon. There will be no laybys but there has recently been talk of bus shelters being included. £12,000 S106 money was set aside for these.
- Oxford airport:** In February this year, the council was lobbied by campaigners who were opposing plans to change the airspace around Oxford airport from Uncontrolled to Controlled – a precursor, they said, to commercial flights using the airport. Cllr Alan Collins, a former pilot, said the change would make the airspace above the parish and surrounding area safer, and the length of the runway would preclude larger aircraft. The council resolved to make no comment.
- Funfair and Carfest:** The council, in particular Cllr James Reeve, has been in negotiation with Stagecoach to improve signage when the S4 service is diverted while events are held in the Market Place.
- Comet bus service:** This is a service provided by OCC for groups and individuals in outlying villages using school minibuses and their drivers when they're not ferrying schoolchildren. The service is fully subscribed – a Deddington group uses it regularly – and is secure for the time being. OCC officers are unable to guarantee that Comet will continue indefinitely.
- c) **Environment and Recreation. Cllr J Watts reported;**
- Play areas.** There have been two significant upgrades to the play areas at Welford's Piece, Clifton and Wimborn Close, Deddington.
- Windmill Centre Play Areas.** Plans are being progressed for the Windmill Centre Play areas. Thanks, were passed to Mary Robinson for her involvement in the project.
- Grass Cutting.** Grass cutting continues to cause issues with residents – the PC cut within OCC budgets and pay for limited extra cuts.
- Village Steward.** The Village steward does an excellent job around the Parish the PC's thanks go to him.
- Parish Spring Clean.** The clean up again sadly collected record levels of rubbish. Looking at undertaking a clean twice per year. There was excellent support from Clifton.
- Speeding.** There will be monitoring and random checks throughout the parish. The "check your speed signs" have been moved around the parish and it is hoped to purchase some newer signs.
- Cllr Terry Timms.** Is doing an excellent job checking the play areas.
- Thanks.** Thanks to the Clerk and the E&R group for their support.
- d) **Finance and General Purposes Cllr B Wood reported;** The accounts have increased £356k due to the monies from the sale of the Royal British Legion building. The PC to receive £50k from an anonymous donor for sports equipment. The PC is having been in an enviable position of having almost £1million at its disposal. F&GP try break-even but has put money aside the last few years to spend on Wimborn Close & Welford Piece (£40K) and agreed to Holly Tree Club spend of (£100k). The reserve is currently at £320k with £70k set aside, for the next three years, for trustees if Royal British Legion for potential Capital Gains Tax liability from the sale of the building.
- e) **Windmill Centre Redevelopment. Mary Robinson reported:** Group set up by PC comprising of Cllrs, sports team representatives and the Windmill Management Committee. The working group is looking into outside projects such as the refurbishment of AWC, MUGA 2 on BMX site (paid from S106 payments). Children Play area on bowls green to be funded by matched £50k by PC and anonymous donor. Development of hall is being investigated with three architects working on costings. The working group will look at ways of raising monies from PC, grant aid and other funding with a timescale of the next four years.
- 6) **Report from Neighbourhood Plan (NP). Cllr Alan Collins reported:** The polices are drawing to a close. The steering group are now auditing the polices to make sure the various consultations are duly reflected in the documents prior to the statutory review. There is an emerging NPPF but the NP steering team will not have time to reflect changes under the current NP timeline. However, the team may well have to take into account if over run on the timeline.
- 7) **Advice about the Blandford Fly – Cllr Maureen Cox.** Cllr Maureen Cox produced a flyer regarding the Blandford Fly for distribution around the Parish.

8) District Cllr Bryn Williams, District Councillor Report for 2017-18 (full report available on line)

Thanks: To the PC and community for their support over the past 12 months. He is proud to represent the Deddington Ward. There are three CDC Councillors (Hugo Brown, Mike Kerford-Byrnes and himself) to represent the 13 parishes within the Ward.

CDC. At CDC, he sits on the Personnel Committee, Standards Committee, Appeals Panel, Vice Chair of the Licensing Committee and is a reserve on the Planning Committee.

Planning. Planning is an emotive subject at the best of times and he suggests that it is best to engage with the planning officers in face to face meetings on site, this allows the applicant or in some cases the objectors to share their concerns and hopefully resolve their issues. Only in extreme cases are planning applications called-in to committee.

Other involvement. His responsibilities have ranged from neighbour disputes, anti-social behaviour, clearing roadside hedges of litter, fly tipping which is sadly on the rise, footpaths and their upkeep, regular emptying of dog bins and even the removal of a dead badger at Castle Grounds despite being beyond CDC's remit.

Council Tax. CDC's share of the Council Tax remains unchanged for a 9th consecutive year.

Maternity Unit at the Horton. After a long running campaign, he believes that now, thanks to the Independent Reconfiguration Panel, they may be winning the battle.

Castle Quay. CDC stood in to the future of Castle Quay and that of the proposed Castle Quay 2 development. This came about as the majority owner wanted to exit and sell their equity. CDC stepped in as it did not want the centre of Banbury to be controlled by either a third party or disinterested investor. By acquiring both Castle Quay and Castle Quay 2, CDC can now shape the future of the centre of Banbury to create a worthwhile destination for the people of Cherwell and the many thousands of tourists that visit.

9) Open discussions. None. Cllr D Rogers thanked those in attendance. The meeting closed at 9:15pm.

Annual Parish Meeting 2019 - Chairman's report

I would like to thank all those whose efforts have helped, improved and supported both the Parish and the lives of Parishioners.

I'd also like to thank Richard, Gareth, Debbie and Susan plus all those who have been working group members, volunteers or councillors, over the last year be it parish, district (Cllr Bryn Williams) or county (Cllr Arish Fatemian) for their time, efforts and support. Lorraine left after many years serving as our Clerk and Brian Wood stood down as chair of the Finance group, they deserve our thanks for their service to the parish.

Others will report on their working group activities; plenty has been done over the year and much effort and hard work is evident so I'll allow the working group chairs to deliver their reports.

I was asked recently, "What is it that the Parish Council actually does for Deddington?" Let me give you a taste:

Over the last few years the PC has been quite busy. Some time ago, plans for the housing estate on School Field started to appear leading to the construction of 85 new homes on Daedas View, The Swere and Flux Drive. As construction nears its end, I welcome everyone who has moved in. I hope you find Deddington an open, pleasant and vibrant community and that you are able to settle and enjoy the countryside and the many activities that make Deddington such a unique place.

The Neighbourhood Plan, after much consultation, is now with the Independent Examiner but more on that from its Chair, Alan Collins. I cannot stress enough just how fortunate Deddington is to have such a dedicate group of volunteers with a wide spread of skills who were willing to put themselves out for this mammoth task.

The Parish has received various sums of money as a result of Deddington Grange and the Parish Council has been busy fighting to get the money granted spent within the local community rather than across Oxfordshire. These sums include £85,000 towards the S4 bus service and new bus stops. Two tranches for funding towards the Windmill Centre building, £101,000 towards a new multi-use games area and refurbishing the existing half MUGA at the Windmill Centre. Deddington Library will receive some additional funding which had simply been earmarked for the Oxfordshire library service. There will be another sum forthcoming when the Parish Council adopts the play area on Deddington Grange and an additional sum has been found by Cherwell District Council to help with community cohesion projects. Regarding the various paths connecting the site to the rest of Deddington we have succeeded in getting the developer to deliver all of the promised infrastructure. Once the Toucan crossing is working there will be a variety of significantly safer routes for those on the west side of the village who walk their children to school.

The Neighbourhood Plan consultation did show a level of discontent with facilities around and within the Windmill Centre. Recently, the PC supported the Windmill Management

Committee by funding £40,000 on new windows, LED lighting in the main hall, flooring and doors. Some of this came from a grant but the bulk was funded from the PC reserve. The boiler was also replaced and a more modern zone heating system installed when the old boiler died mid-winter a couple of years back. Another series of refurbishment projects have been requested by the Windmill Management Committee and the PC has agreed to fund these including repairs to the car park block paving (done), £40,000 towards future roof repairs, a new heating system in the main hall (done), refurbished toilets, a new CCTV system, better lighting in the rest of the centre, more secure fire doors (done) and wooden flooring in the upstairs hall. This all comes to just over £160,000 earmarked for or invested or into the Windmill Centre building and car park since 2015 and will help to make it a much better venue, easier to hire and much more pleasant for users. There are also plans afoot to look at extending the centre if the business case can be made.

The Parish Council has received a very generous grant from a parishioner (thank you!) towards a new playground on the site of the old bowls club. This was also contributed to by our County Councillor and the balance paid for by the Parish Council. Again, a team of volunteers formed to act as a Parish Council working group and did an amazing amount of research into what children wanted, met with contractors, planning and ecology officers, consulted with stakeholders and neighbours and put together the scheme for a play area and woodland trail that will be opened soon. Another fabulous effort from all those involved and the working group's chair, Mary Robinson, will expand on this in her report.

The fitness trail, installed after a £10,000 grant was successfully applied for, the new MUGA with storage area and refurbishment work to the existing all-weather court fencing and lighting has made an amazing difference to the sporting facilities at the Windmill Centre. I'd also like to mention the tennis club and their projects which, whilst nothing to do with the PC, have improved facilities at the Windmill Centre and that work should be acknowledged.

The Parish Council also received a substantial sum from the Deddington Branch of the Royal British Legion and whilst it is tremendously sad that the Club building has been lost, much effort has gone into spending the money received wisely and we are grateful for the funds. Some will go to the Windmill, some to the Holly Tree Club, the recent Church kitchen refurbishment was part funded by the Parish Council as will a new footpath from the south door of the Church towards the war memorial. The village nursery has also received a grant as has the Thursday Club, Deddington OnLine for website migration and there are rumblings of future projects elsewhere in the parish that the Parish Council eagerly anticipates supporting.

Some of this money has also been spent on refreshing the play areas in Wimborn Close and Welford's Piece plus a new path as requested by Clifton residents to make accessing the playground easier in inclement weather. Various benches and bins have also been added and quite a lot of hedge and tree work that might not have been possible.

The most recent good news is the Pocket Park initiative. Announced in late December 2018 with a closing date of January 2019 Deddington Parish Council were both fleet-footed and successful in getting a grant of £25,000 towards refurbishing the under 6 play area at the

Windmill Centre. This will compliment the new playground and transform the play facilities in Deddington.

The Parish Council installed four defibrillators a couple of years ago and again, these were funded by a grant application for £10,000. They are maintained by the steward and are in addition to the emergency first responder volunteers we have in the parish.

Working parties have been set up to do various tasks around the parish including painting the fence railings around the war memorial and main church graveyard, laying bark on the paths and woodland trail at the Windmill Centre, clearing brash and rubbish in various locations, litter picks twice a year to compliment the stewards work and erecting the Christmas tree and lights. Thanks also to Darke and Taylor and Bob Staig for their help on this.

The Snow Wardens scheme was started with a grant from Oxfordshire County Council some years ago. It is staffed and run by volunteers under the banner of the Parish Council. The Snow Wardens were out in force again last winter and thank you for the kind words in the Deddington News. Another grant has been applied for to purchase more equipment for the snow wardens and more volunteers are always welcome.

The Parish Council Speedwatch group have been busy across the parish and it really does make a difference. If you have a concern about speeding then the very best thing to do is volunteer to join the Speedwatch team and help us all by keeping a visible presence by the side of our roads.

It is also worth noting the efforts made by those who support the community by volunteering for other groups and I'd especially like to thank the Farmers and other land owners who spend countless hours managing hedges, cutting grass, maintaining footpaths, stiles and boundaries and keeping the land around the Parish as beautiful and accessible as it is. Could I encourage everyone to follow the Countryside code.

It is also worth mentioning the work done by Deddington Charity Estates as the four Alms houses, Town hall and Pest House Field all look fabulous. The Feoffees should feel rightly proud of a job well done and they have my thanks for their efforts.

The Parochial Church Council have worked long and hard, there have been many interesting, innovative and entertaining secular events hosted by them and the kitchen does look good.

The Friends of Castle Grounds have benefited from a grant from English Heritage and the Parish Council has funded various project at the site. It remains an important asset for this community and whilst various pavilions and the ballroom have gone, as have the rifle range, archery butts, playground, football pitches and cricket ground, it remains a glorious venue and hosts various successful events throughout the year.

The Thursday Club continues and we are very fortunate to still have this service available as very many elderly day care services have been lost across the county.

The Primary School staff and board of governors deserve credit for all they have done as do the Windmill Management Committee, Deddington Housing Association, the Holly Tree Club

Committee, the Festival and Farmers Market teams, the Deddington News (who also report our activities each month), Deddington Media CIC, the Library staff, Friends and volunteers, those who run sporting teams, social clubs, keep an eye on footpaths or run activities provided for our youth.

Back to the Parish Council; on top of the day-to-day running of the parish, the allotments, the Hempton Road Cemetery, planning, highways, transport, environment, recreation, finance, policy review, grass cutting, hedge trimming, litter picking, emergency and winter planning, speed watch, the neighbourhood plan, the windmill refurbishment, the new play and sports facilities are all dependent on volunteers to help the parish council deliver these benefits for us all. Parish Councillors are also volunteers guided by our salaried Clerk. We all attend 13 Parish Council meetings per year, there are currently 6 working groups and many more sub-groups) all of which also meet every month plus meetings with parishioners, officers, contractors, suppliers, training courses and site visits. When necessary, we attend planning meetings and appeal hearings at Cherwell District Council, the OCC cabinet office and, once, a trip to Westminster to meeting the Housing minister to represent Deddington directly to HM Gov. We also liaise with the County Council and emergency services to provide safe, secure venues should something unforeseen occur.

We do what we can and anyone with the time and inclination to help make the parish of Deddington, Clifton and Hempton a better place is very welcome to join us.

If you have given your time for any voluntary activity within the Parish, I do truly thank you and please do get in touch if you would like to help on any of these projects.

David Rogers
Chairman
Deddington Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting, 8th May 2019

Planning Report

Deddington Parish Council received a total of 66 Planning Applications during 2018/2019 – these were 50 building related and 16 tree related application.

The 16 tree applications involved a total of some 105 trees. Of these, a total of 45 trees were to be felled for a variety of reasons, mostly overcrowding, poor/dangerous/diseased condition, overhanging neighbours' property and potential disruption of overhead cables & property etc. however, a number were requested to be replaced as appropriate.

The remaining 60 trees were to pollard/reduce/crown/top trees, one of which had a TPO on it, which was approved in order to maintain the tree in a good condition.

Of the 50 building related applications, a majority were for renovations, modifications, single and two storey extensions; however, of these 50 applications, there were 3 applications for new residential dwellings, providing a potential to provide 4 new homes in the Parish.

An outline planning application for 21 new homes at Stone Pits on the Hempton Road, next to Wimborne Close came to us in January. This is a mixed market development of 2, 3 & 4-bedroom homes. No decision has been made on this application at the time of writing.

Two applications were for business signage, one for a change of use of residential to holiday let and one for a change in planning conditions imposed on a previous application some two years prior.

Of the applications we received; 4 were withdrawn before determination, 2 were refused, 7 have not been determined at the time of writing.

CDC has the final say on applications and there have been some occasions where they have not agreed with the PC's recommendations. There have been 2 occasions in the last year where we have objected, and CDC have subsequently approved applications and a further 1 occasion where we have no objections, but CDC have refused the application. It's true to say of course that some of these have been resubmitted applications that have subsequently been approved by us and CDC.

The PC in the majority of cases approve applications that meet planning criteria and are regarded as sustainable development, always having regard to legitimate concerns and objections of neighbours and other parishioners.

In the last year, the David Wilson Homes development has progressed to virtual completion, with, we understand just 4 properties remaining to be sold.

Windmill for APM May 2019

Back in 2015, as part of the Neighbourhood Plan, the Parish Council carried out a Questionnaire on various aspects of life in Deddington. A significant result was that 82% of respondents regarded the Windmill Centre as essential or important to life here. But, beyond the headline, the individual comments were pretty brutal, picking out the children's play areas and the condition of this Centre building as targets for criticism.

These were typical of many: 'Considering where we aspire to be in the local area we are not delivering for our children's basic play needs'. And 'Deddington playground equipment is old and dated compared to facilities in other villages of same size, e.g. Steeple Aston'.

Comments on the hall ranged from needing: new toilets/ new kitchen/ refurbishment/ make-over/ updating/ upgrading/ modernising/ expanding/ additional rooms/ better changing rooms – even a swimming pool!

So in 2017 the PC set up the Windmill Development Group, made up of representatives of sports groups, councillors and the Windmill Management Committee who lease the hall from the PC. It seemed the ideal opportunity to bring together the people with the will to make this substantial parish asset work better for more residents. Since last year we've made a lot of progress on the outside Sport and Leisure Areas.

All-weather Court

This has been refurbished with a better surface, LED lights, and higher, tougher, vandal-proof fencing. One of the problems with the AWC earlier was that, as it was kept locked and hired out, it was fair game for kids to attack the fencing with bolt cutters. It's the only part of the Windmill that has experienced vandalism to any degree and it has cost the PC a lot of money in repairs over the years. Recently, one numpty tried climbing in over the new fence – and had great difficulty getting out, so may be he won't try that again. The £26,000 cost of this has been met by PC revenue funds; it's still hired out to both groups and individuals, it's well used and very much valued.

New MUGA

So to solve the vandalism problem around the AWC, we decided to provide a new, smaller Multi-Use Games Area, an enclosed tarmaced sports court, with open access. Between the two courts, there's a locked storage space for sports clubs' equipment, goals, and so on.

After discussion with nearby residents in Mill Close, this was located on the site of the disused BMX track, west of the AWC. We had an ecology report done to ensure there were no badger setts or great crested newts to spoil the plans.

The £101,000 cost of the new MUGA (and refurbishment of the old half-MUGA) was met by \$106 money coming from the new housing development. And it's working extremely well, kids love it.

[Adventure Playground and Woodland Trail]

With the Parish Questionnaire comments very much in mind, we looked next at the 6–12 year old children's play area which definitely needed attention as parents and carers were getting into their cars and driving to Kings Sutton, Steeple Aston, Somerton or Upper Heyford to find play areas.

Here we were fortunate to receive a very generous donation from a local resident, fund matched by the Parish Council and topped up by OCC. So we had the money. We also had a site – the Bowls Club had sadly closed and the old bowling green was the perfect spot. We looked further at how to produce something really special and brought the nearby copse into the scheme, providing what the designers call 'an opportunity for unstructured play experience' – in other words, somewhere for timber play equipment where kids can just muck about in a natural setting. You'll see that some hedges have been removed to open up the site, an essential feature in children safeguarding.

We consulted Primary School children to see what they would like – the usual suspects were a zip-wire, swings, a slide, a roundabout and a ground level trampoline (both disability friendly). *Deddington News* has carried monthly progress reports, and we sent a flyer round Mill Close outlining what our plans were. We recognised that we need residents on board with the project, and the little negative feedback has been addressed. A landscaped buffer zone has been planted between the play area and nearby houses as screening.

Being a rural parish, we've gone for timber equipment as far as possible. Creative Play was the main contractor, and the splendid robinia timber multi-activity piece was built by local supplier, Trevor Stewart in Middle Barton whose work we knew and loved from many playgrounds in the area.

And we're hoping to install a drinking water fountain to encourage people away from single-use plastic bottles.

So, the work is finished, it's all passed its safety inspections, and it will be open for business just as soon as the ground has recovered a bit more. It might continue to look rough this year – but bear with us for the first season. Later in the year we're planning an official opening to thank everyone involved in this £120,000 project.

[Pocket Park]

Just before Christmas 2018 we learned about a central government initiative to provide funding for new or refurbished 'Pocket Parks'. We jumped at the opportunity to renew our Under-6 play area where the faded, plastic play equipment is nearing end-of-life with no spare parts available. We had to move fast as the closing date for applications was 25 January. But in three weeks we came up with a concept design, got ballpark costings, drew up a proposal, won support from Cherwell DC as our sponsors, and were really delighted to be awarded a £25,000 grant, fund matched by £7,500 from the PC. We're one of only two in the Cherwell area, and I believe only three in Oxfordshire. It's a national scheme and will receive much publicity, both local and national. There are targets and assessments involved in the project, so we have to keep on our toes and complete by March 2020 which is very doable.

We've chosen a Trevor Stewart design for the work. He will start at the end of May, and I'm sorry this means the Under-6 play area will be out of use while the work takes place. The idea of a Pocket Park is that it is a space 'where people can relax, exercise, socialise and play'. So, in addition to a shelter and picnic tables, there will be a timber multi-play structure, timber springies, robinia logs for climbing and sitting on, sensory boards and the wonderful MagPosts so children can examine leaves and creepy crawlies under a magnifying glass. We're also applying to toe2 (Trust for Oxfordshire Environment) for additional funding to 'improve biodiversity' by planting more sensory shrubs and a willow tunnel, and to 'promote and enable public access to green space to bring health benefits and allow more people to appreciate the natural environment' – to quote from their blurb.

So that completes what's been happening outside at the Windmill. Back to the Parish Questionnaire and comments on the building. In my view, what we have here has worked better as a sports centre than a social centre. It's shabby and showing its age after 30 years. A community centre is meant to be just that, a place for the whole community, of all ages and abilities, a place for people to meet for whatever purpose – what planners call 'promoting social cohesion' and 'combating loneliness'.

The Parish Council and the Management Committee have a rolling programme of improvements such as LED lighting, and a better and quieter heating system; new windows and doors; car park and roof repairs. Some of these are not headline grabbing but still essential to maintain the fabric of the building. Also underway are plans for refurbished toilets – a particular source of criticism – better cctv and broadband, and wooden flooring in the upstairs room.

We've also done research on what other social facilities are available in the Parish and there is a definite gap. So we're looking at the possibility of replacing this Hempton Lounge with a 100-seater, high-spec hall with access to a kitchen and a bar, suitable for group meetings, parties and business seminars. We know what we would like, and roughly how much it would cost. We're looking into grant aid from various sources, in addition to using some of the PC's capital reserves. We know £25,000 is available from OCC to provide new loos on this side of the building near the lounge for the benefit of the Day Care Centre.

But we have to be sure there is a business case for a new extension: is it sustainable as well as affordable? Will increased revenue match the increased outgoings? Thirty years ago when I was involved in building this place, some reluctant Parish Councillors were convinced the Windmill would be a white elephant. I'm very happy to have proved them wrong but, in order for the Windmill to expand, the case must be made again. I hope to be able to report more on this next year – or do follow our progress through *Deddington News*.

A few thanks are in order for the success of this huge collaborative project: to Parish Councillors who have supported the work so far; Nicole O'Donnell of Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association for guidance; OCC and CDC for financial support and guidance; and the volunteers on the Development Group and Management Committee for their time and insights. It really has been a huge volunteer effort, not without some pretty robust discussions!

A final word: the PC has the power to provide sports, leisure and play areas for its residents – and we've done that in spades recently. And new housing in the parish brings increased demand. Since 2016, the total spend or ringfenced for the Windmill has been over £344K, of which £184K is what I call outside money and £160K from PC capital and revenue reserves. The Parish Council recognises the Windmill as an asset which needs to be preserved for the benefit of parish residents, now and in the foreseeable future.

(1683 words)

Dogs – or E&R?

- Referees having to pick up dog poo before football matches
- Most dog-walkers very responsible and pick up after their dogs. A few thst spoil it for everyone. People driving in from other villages which have banned dogs.
- No dogs on sport pitches at all
- Dogs elsewhere on leads
- Dog-walking path from Windmill car park, through copse, up path to Hempton Road, back to car park (sign coming)
- Dog bins, signs
- Reassessing this summer. If it's not working only alternative is an outright ban – and no one wants that
- Need to keep dogs out of children's play areas – dogs and children don't mix
- Alternative is a fence which would be very costly and difficult because of access through copse

Highway Annual Meeting Report May 2019

***Site Visits.** Over the past year the H&TWG have made at least 9 site visits.

3 site visits with OCC officials. (X2 Highways, x1 School field Bus Stop)

***Speed Monitoring** has taken place to check the efficacy of the Clifton VAS.

Speed monitoring has taken Place in Earls Lane – the results of which have yet to be analysed.

Further monitoring has been planned.

*** Speed Watch** has been carried out by other groups within the Parish.

*** TVP Speed enforcement.** This has regularly taken place in Hempton Road.

***Hempton HGV Monitoring.** H&TWG secured DPC funds for speed monitoring in Hempton, looking especially at HGV vehicle which is thought to have escalated over time. Hopefully a week of monitoring should take place before the end of June.

*** New St/ High St Crossing.** Elderly Crossing signs are to be placed on posts to raise awareness of residents crossing from Hudson St/Grove.

*** Grass Verges.** H&TWG proposed that all planning applications have a condition clause that verges be put back into good order when building works have been completed.

Grass verges belong to OCC. DPC have no powers to prevent parking on grass verges.

***Deddington Grange** H&TWG have continually applied pressure on the developers to fulfill all aspects of the development and Highway alterations. We are still waiting for the Toucan Crossing to be activated.

***DPPP.** Disabled bays are for the use of all/any blue badge holders not the exclusive use of the resident who applied for one. An enforcement sign has to be erected in order that enforcement can take place should they be misused. Enforcement is not a TVP matter or a DPC matter.

*** Fly Tipping.** H&TWG continue to monitor the locked wheelie bins in the Market Place. Fly tipping is an offence. DPC would like be informed of any Fly Tipping in the Parish and residents can report this on the OCC web site.

***Civillies List sent.** - Ongoing – updated at last DPC meeting Arash has confirmed that the list has been submitted. You may have to explain what this means – TT and I looked at lose kerb stones, reinstatement of white lines, pot holes etc.

*** Fix My Street.** DPC Endeavour to send all Highway Issues directly via this portal ASAP. This site can be accessed by all residents.

Transport Report for Parish Meeting, May 2019

S106 funding. Two new bus stops complete with wooden bus shelters – the kind preferred by the parish council – have been installed on the Banbury Road beside the Deddington Grange estate. The cost was met by S106 money provided by the developers and hard standing was provided by Oxfordshire County Council. The stops are now in operation.

An additional sum of more than £70,000 is available in S106 funding from the Deddington Grange developers to improve local transport services, which in this parish primarily means the S4 bus service between Oxford and Banbury. This is not enough in itself to reinstate the half-hourly service between Deddington and Banbury. However as new housing is built along the route, particularly in Adderbury, and also potentially in Deddington, sufficient S106 funds may become available and we will continue to urge Stagecoach and Oxfordshire County Council to use it to improve the S106 service should that become feasible.

The half-hourly service between Deddington and Banbury ran for three years from May 2015 to May 2018 but unfortunately did not attract enough passengers to make it viable without additional funding,

Bus stop in New Street. The parish council asked OCC to consider moving the Banbury-bound bus stop further north along the road to where there is a layby. This suggestion was rejected but OCC did, at the parish council's request, provide a small area of hard standing beside the bus stop in its present location so that passengers no longer have to step off the bus onto a muddy churned-up grass verge.

Diversions to the S4 bus. The parish clerk will continue DPC's effort to ensure that Stagecoach properly advises passengers if the S4 is diverted, stopping at the junction of Hudson Street and High Street, when the Market Place is closed for events such as the funfair and the Deddington Car Festival.

Environment and Recreation Working group

E&R have organised volunteer groups to do some work carried out in the war memorial cemetery ,working party to tidy /mow/trim& prune around graves +repair/ paint gates & fences etc.

Speed watch we have managed to set up a speed watch group however more volunteers are desperately needed to become more proactive around the parish feedback has been especially positive.

We have received some encouraging comments from other parishes stopping and asking how we are getting on and where we got the signs.

Our group's is responsible for maintaining the play areas. This year significant success has been achieved with the enhancement of Welford's Piece in Clifton.

I will leave Mary to update in her report about the development at the Windmill.

Hempton allotments continues to be a great success with nearly all allotments let and an asset to the parish. Thanks to Mr D Parker for leading this with Susan our clerk.

Grass cutting is a hot topic for discussion. With budgets the number of cuts are limited. It would be good if some parishioners could cut the grass outside their own front door rather than asking the PC to do it. ??? The resident who cuts the grass along the Hempton Road gets my thanks.

Two litter picks were arranged, and litter collected. Highlight a double Bed in the Clifton layby !!!

Road signs cleaned by a willing volunteer ??

In agreement with the WMC and Clubs at the windmill a total Dog Ban was implemented on the playing areas at the windmill. However, a dog walk has been sign posted. Willing volunteers laid a Bark Path. Well received?

We have kept an eye on the public footpaths and reported any issues.

Wanted helpers to maintain village planters ?

Any comments to add on cemetery ??

I would like to thank our village Steward's Richard and Gareth for their efforts around the parish.