

## Ashchurch Rural Parish Council News Letter 2018

Welcome to the 2018 Annual newsletter of Ashchurch Rural Parish Council. The previous twelve months have once again been a very busy period for the Parish Council and below are just some of the issues that the Parish Council have been involved with during this period.

### **Parish Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer - Vacancy**

Robert Stone our former Parish Clerk retired from the council at the end of last year following a year's service. Since this time the Parish Council has been in the process of advertising for his replacement. It is with great pleasure that I can now confirm that Pauline Clark is our Acting Clerk/RFO.

**Neighbourhood Development Plan- NDP** – The Parish Council have been continuing to take our emerging Neighbourhood Development Plan forward. But due to the changes in the Joint Core Strategy of Cheltenham, Gloucester Districts and Tewkesbury Borough Council, the NDP has had to include those changes. Once adopted, this document will become part of the statutory planning process at Tewkesbury Borough Council.

**Joint Core Strategy** – Only validated at the start of 2018 the Joint Core Strategy latest version sees the removal of the MOD site. The discussion for improvements to the A46 and M5 junction have put on hold the development of 850 houses at North Fiddington, whilst these debates take place and a review of housing requirements by Tewkesbury Borough Council.



**Pamington Development** – the 'Reserved Matters' application for 150 dwellings at Pamington has now been approved by Tewkesbury Borough Council and the commencement of these works with land levelling and other ground works has started. The Parish Council requested, as a minimum, a bus service to facilitate this proposal to help reduce the additional car movements that this application will create on the A46. This was rejected by Tewkesbury Borough

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### **Planning Application - Walton Cardiff/Edge Of Wheatpieces**

The Parish Council supported the "Outline" Planning Application for 261 Dwelling's at the above location in 2016. As part of this application the Parish Council helped negotiate a £330,000.00 proposed extension to the Wheatpieces Community Centre for the residents that will move into this new development to have access to. This development is progressing speedily with a large majority of the houses occupied this year

**Garden Centre/Outlet Centre** – Tewkesbury Borough Council recently approved the outline application for these new facilities which was also supported by the Secretary of State following a referral by TBC. The Parish Council now awaits the Full Planning Application from the applicant. Final plans are still being determined by developer and planning, no ground works have started yet.

**Ecotricity Proposal – Fiddington** – The 2 applications were taken to appeal after being refused at Tewkesbury Borough Planning stage. Thanks to brilliant work by the local action group "Saveourlanes", supported strongly by the parish council. Before the appeal could be heard Ecotricity withdrew both of the appeals.

### **Defibrillator**

The Parish Council in 2017 organised for a defibrillator to be installed on the outside of the village hall. This has now been commissioned and is now available for use by the Emergency service. The forward plan will be to install further defibrillators.



### **Planning Application – Land East of the Railway – Ashchurch Village**

An application for outline planning permission was made for the construction of an alternative access and the erection of up to 45 houses on this site, which lies to the rear of the existing houses west of the Village Hall. The Parish

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Council supported local residents in objecting to this application, especially in relation to the additional traffic such a development would bring to an already congested A46. Tewkesbury Borough Planning Committee rejected the objection and granted permission, stating that a few more vehicles would hardly affect an already poor situation. This development has not commenced yet.

### **Enhancement of the Local Area**

At the request of residents, the council is looking for ideas to enhance and improve the aesthetic appearance, and / or improve safety on the roads and lanes throughout the parish. Such as signage to identify different hamlets and villages. Making features of some of the many ponds.

[More of your suggestions please](#)

### **New Parish Council Website**

The Parish Council is currently in the process of setting up a new Parish Council Website. The Website is in the early stages of construction but can be found at the following link.

<http://www.ashchurchruralpc.org.uk/>

### **Council Tax 2018/19**

Bands and values for England as set in c1991

- H- Over £320,000.....£3212-82
- G - Between £160,001 and £320,000.....£2688-46
- F - Between £120,001 and £160,000.....£2338-90
- E - Between £88,001 and £120,000.....£1989-32
- D - Between £68,001 and £88,000.....£1573-06
- C - Between £52,001 and £68,000.....£1639-76
- B - Between £40,001 and £52,000.....£1290-02
- A - Not exceeding £40,000.....£1115-54

This represents a 5.5% increase on last year's council tax charges

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**Ashchurch Rural Parish Council** – I should like to conclude by thanking my fellow Parish Councillors for all their help and commitment over the previous twelve months in addition to Jo McAulay for her support in administrating the occasional Parish Council meeting while standing in for the Parish Clerk.

And a special thanks to;-

a, the committee of "Saveourlanes" for all their efforts in opposing the Anaerobic Digester application and bringing together a community in a common effort.

b, Ian White for all his IT assistance especially on the new web site

Thank you.

*Councillor John Hargreaves*

*Chairman of Ashchurch Rural Parish Council*