



Annual Parish Assembly

Monday 13th May 6:30pm
Civic Centre, Wotton-under-Edge GL12 7DN

**All Parishioners are cordially invited to this Assembly
to talk to Councillors**

6:30 to 7:00	Teas/coffees/biscuits/peruse written reports/networking
7:00 to 7:30	Guest speaker Kathy O'Leary, Chief Executive, Stroud District Council
7:30 to 8:00	Approval of 2018 Minutes, very brief reports from the Mayor and any other committee chair or organisation from the written report
8:00 to 8:15	QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS - feedback & explanations
8.15 to 8.30	Any questions.....?

(Council is also happy to receive any questions in advance which can be answered at this meeting)

Close of Meeting ~ continuation of refreshments/networking



*Cllr Paul Smith, Mayor,
Wotton-under-Edge Town Council,
28th April 2019*

WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE TOWN COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE TOWN COUNCIL



ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY Monday 23rd April 2018 7pm Civic Centre

Present: Cllrs, P Smith (Mayor), R Claydon (Deputy Mayor), P Barton, John Cordwell, June Cordwell, L Farmer, C Young, T Luker, M Short, J Turner, N Pinnegar, R Hale.

In attendance: Town Clerk Ms S Bailey & Administrator Mrs D Hyam Members of the Public 4

1) **Welcome and to receive apologies** for absence from Councillors. No apologies received.

2) **Adoption of Previous Minutes** of the Annual Parish Assembly of 12th May 2017 and any matters arising from those minutes. It was proposed by Cllr L Farmer and seconded by Cllr R Hale to approve the Minutes as presented, all in favour.

3) **Brief Report from the Mayor, Cllr Paul Smith.** The Mayor thanked the Town Clerk and staff for their hard work during a very difficult time due to reduced resources caused by long term sickness plus the departure of the Caretaker. He added that we now have a new Caretaker who has helped tackle the heavy workload. He thanked Councillors for their support and wished to thank the outgoing Councillors Andra Proctor, Norman Clement and Alastair Kendall for their service and welcomed new Councillors Jonathan Turner, Richard Hale and Mike Short.

It has been a busy year with the Town Council making improvements and supporting good causes in the town such as;

- Improvements to the entrance and new water supply at New Road Allotments.
- The Fleur de lys on the Chipping Hall roof was replaced as the existing one was damaged.
- The Town Council continues to give financial support to Wotton Pool. The Pool has been offered a grant of £45,000 from Sport England, for replacing tiles to the pool and to refurbish the changing rooms and office. For this to go ahead, the lease and Service Level Agreement with the Wotton Swimming Pool Ltd are being modified to meet the grant requirements of Sport England.
- The Youth Work carried out at the Youth Centre is run by two youth work providers via a contract. This contract is due to finish this summer, and a small working party of Councillors has been drawing up Tender Documents to allow the Town Council to select a youth work provider for the next three years. The contract will be let by the summer.
- The Town Council continues to support Wotton in Bloom with additional funding this year to support the group's entry into Britain in Bloom for the first time.

4) **Brief Reports from Town Council Committee Chairs.**

Planning (Cllr C Young) The report in the booklet outlined the number of applications received and of those approximately 50% were supported. It was stressed that 93% of the applications were permitted by Stroud District Council as Wotton Town Council can only give their recommendations and the final decision is taken by SDC. The following points were highlighted:

- The application for the development of the land behind the fire station has been resubmitted, and is now waiting for SDC decision.
- Dryleaze Court is now up for sale.
- The application at Fountain Crescent has been permitted.
- No progress seems to be made at the Full Moon development.
- The National Planning Policy Framework is out for consultation and is open until May.

Footpaths (Cllr R Claydon) The report in the booklet detailed four new members to the committee. Cllr Claydon thanked the outgoing members for their efforts. It also included the following points:

- The review of the Parish's public rights of way started in 2016 has been completed. Any findings will be reported to Gloucestershire County Council.
- Footways have continued to be surveyed following work carried out by Virgin Media and results are being analysed.
- Wotton was selected by the Cotswold Conservation Board to be part of their "Cotswold Gateway Project". If successful the town will be given gateway markers and noticeboards showing circular walks and cycling routes.
- The Committee oversees the town's Holywell Leaze amenity area and it is hoped that the Cotswold Wardens will make repairs to the old mill wall and install a stone circle seating area with financial support from the Town Council.
- It was noted that the second Wotton Walking Festival will take place from 11th-13th May 2018.

Allotments (Cllr P Barton) The report included the following points;

- There are some vacant plots at Knapp Road and New Road.
- A new Holding Deposit of £50 has been introduced for new tenants.
- The first Publication of the "Allotment News" produced by the Town Council and was well received by tenants.
- The Memory Group have taken on plot 15 at New Road.
- Improvements have been made at Knapp Road clearing two plots and the area inside the main gate. A skip was used to remove rubbish, fly tipping and items from New Road.
- Around £8000 has been spent at New Road to improve the main entrance, new gates, new water supply and a new noticeboard.
- Plots have been strimmed and covered at both sites using Town Council, resources saving nearly £700.

Regeneration (Cllr A Wilkinson). No report available. Cllr A Wilkinson was not present at the meeting.

Wotton Youth Partnership (Cllr June Cordwell). The report gave some background on the formation of the Wotton Youth Partnership (previously known as the Youth Liaison Group). It supports a wide range of activities as follows:

- With a grant from SDC the Heritage Project it is helping KLB Students to film memories and views of older people in the town.
- The partnership has given financial support towards, the training of young youth leaders, the WCSF for a shelter and the BMX tracks, Bearlands Play Area, and a graffiti workshop at Under the Edge Arts
- Grants have been obtained for Mental Health and Wellbeing to create a one-to-one space at the Youth Centre.
- Future plans are to buy football shirts for Wotton Rovers Juniors.

Wotton Library. No attendee, however a written report provided in the booklet.

Wotton in Bloom. No attendee, however a written report provided in the booklet.

Wotton Pool. No attendee, however a written report provided in the booklet.

Wotton Community Sports Foundation A written report was provided and the highlights of the year were as follows;

- Party in the Park was very successful and will now be an annual event.
- Sports usage of the park continues to grow with hockey in particular.
- The regular parkrun proves to be popular.
- The Safe Access Path was installed.
- The construction of the BMX and pump track is planned during the summer.
- Plans are currently being finalised for The Sensory Garden.

Future plans include:

- Improvements to parking with funding support from Barnwood Trust.
- To develop plans for clubhouse facilities.
- To look at the possibility of a Mens Shed using the barns onsite.

Synwell Playing Field. No attendee, however a written report provided in the booklet.

Heritage Centre The Heritage Centre thanked the Town Council for their ongoing support, which is planned to continue until 2021. In addition to the report the following points were noted:

- The centre is trying to attract younger people to get involved and volunteer.
- Visitor numbers were down last year but it is hoped that this will improve with walkers and other tourists making full use of the Tourist Information Point.
- Former residents are attracted to the Centre for information.
- Recording of 6,000 artefacts on the data base has been completed with about the same amount still to go.
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Wotton-under-Edge & District Community Recreational Trust. No attendee however a written report provided in the booklet.

County Council Matters (Cllr John Cordwell). Cllr John Cordwell explained that he had served on the County Council for 40 years and is lead member for a number of committees. The following points were noted from the report:

- The Council continues to absorb the reduction in Government Revenue Support and the council tax in total increased by 4.49%.
- A request has been made to have an extra officer to tackle the large backlog of requests for definitive map modification orders.
- Tarmac have now been contracted to deliver road surfacing work.
- An Ofsted inspection carried out last spring found children's services inadequate. The Cabinet agreed an Improvement Plan on 18th September 2017.
- A total of 23K of the 30K Highways Local funding allocation was spent in Wotton-under-Edge.
- Consultation on Traffic Regulation Orders has now ended.

District Council Matters (District Cllr Catherine Braun). Apologies were given for not submitting a written report but Cllr C Braun reported the following points:

- The waste and recycling program is working well and there has been an increase in residents recycling waste.
- The Neighbourhood Wardens continue to deal with issues ranging from litter to anti-social behaviour.
- Plans for the housing development at Fountain Crescent supported by SDC have been passed and are going ahead.
- The former sheltered housing site at Dryleaze Court is now up for sale.
- Tenant services are reviewing older properties in the area looking at thermal insulation and ways to reduce carbon emissions.

- Public meetings were held to consult on the review of the local plan. This highlighted areas for new housing and areas where local people did not want any development. Students at KLB School took part in the consultation and their views proved to be very interesting and will be included in the plan.
- The Greenway Group has received a number of donations and this will allow for an initial feasibility study, to establish a route and flag up any issues.
- The play area at Bearlands is now being installed. This has been achieved with support from the local housing association along with the Bearlands Action Group and Wotton Youth Partnership. It is hoped that the play area will be ready for opening in early June.
- Due to a reduction of 20% in staffing resources at SDC many green issues will have to be prioritised going forward.
- The garages at Mount Pleasant are now empty and there are discussions taking place to decide the future of the area. The developer of the Full Moon site might be considering the options in relation to that development.

Concern was raised by councillors at the lack of parking in Mount Pleasant and the difficulties already in the area. A suggestion was made to install parking bays where there are wide grass verges. Cllr Braun confirmed that there are no plans to provide extra parking across the district.

7) **Public Forum** No further comments were made by the public on Town Affairs. The Mayor, on behalf of the Town Council, expressed condolences to Mr G. Carpenter, (the Town Crier, a former Mayor and Town Councillor,) on the recent death of his wife.

The Assembly Concluded at 8.05pm

Signed.....Date.....

Chairman & Town Mayor

MAYOR'S REPORT

As your Mayor I would like to welcome you to the 2019 Annual Parish Assembly and hope you will all take the opportunity to take part in the meeting tonight.

It has been another busy year for the Town Council, due to staff shortages because of long term sickness and a member of staff on long term leave due to family illness, as we try to deal with the many issues of importance to our community. I would like to thank the Clerk and her staff who have had to work particularly hard this year due to the staff shortages as well as some of the Councillors who were able to step up, to fill in for the staff.

The Town Council, at the request of the Royal British Legion, sent a representative to the centenary celebrations in Flanders and we thank Cllr Nicholas Pinnegar (an ex serving soldier) for representing the Town Council. He has been asked by a number of organisations to speak of his experience of the celebrations. The Town Council has continued to making improvements to the Knapp Road Allotments.



A working Group of Councillors worked on the drawing up of Tender Documents for the provision of Youth Work in Wotton to allow the new contract for the next three years to commence in September 2018. The working group made up of a number of councillors interviewed the contractors who tendered for the work and finally recommended that 'The Door' should be appointed, which Council then approved. I would point out that this Working Group put in many hours of their spare time to allow the tender process to run as smoothly as it did.

Due to a number of complaints from residents regarding unsafe parking of vehicles on the highway the Town Council worked with the County Council to put in place some additional double yellow lines and hopefully make these areas of the highway safer for everyone.

There was a push by Stroud District Council (SDC) to introduce parking charges in the middle of last year. This horrified a number of Town Councils including Wotton Town Council (WTC). After a concerted effort, much of which was led by WTC, SDC withdrew these proposals. Since the proposals have been withdrawn, WTC has now agreed to take on the proposed new car park in Symn Lane and a Working Party has been set up with the task of getting quotes for equipment required for the proposed car park, much of which will be installed by the developer for free, as well as looking at the strategic running of all the car parks within Wotton.

We have ordered and received a new five year independent arboricultural survey and from this have obtained quotes for tree work that have now commenced on site.

One of the largest pieces of work carried out by Councillors has been the consultation questionnaire sent out to residents concerning which of the projects listed should take priority. The results of this consultation will be discussed later on in this meeting.

The Town Council continues to provide significant financial support to a number of originations within the Town such as Wotton Pool, Youth Centre, Heritage Centre, Synwell Playing Fields, Under the Edge Arts Centre and Christmas trees, to name just a few.

I would like to thank the Chairs of all Committees and their committee members, together with the working groups, which in many cases also include residents, who not only attend meetings, but also do a great deal of work outside the committee meetings.

Lastly, I would like to thank our Councillors who freely give their time to attend (sometimes lengthy) meetings and for their time given to various projects that have been carried out over the year. In the last year we have bid farewell to one Councillor, Chris Young, and welcomed Cllr Derek Thomas. I would like to thank Chris Young for his time and work whilst being a member of the Town Council.

The Annual Parish Assembly is important as a means of exchanging views with residents. Committee Chairmen will report at the Assembly and there will be an opportunity for all to meet with Councillors on a less formal basis at the end of the meeting. We hope that this will provide for a rewarding interchange of views and ideas. We will do our best to answer questions that arise but please be understanding if we are not able to respond directly on the night.

Cllr Paul Smith, TOWN MAYOR AND CHAIRMAN

Town Council DRAFT Accounts for 2018/19 Financial Year

Although prepared by the Accountant, the following figures are before internal and external audit and before Town Council official approval of the financial year just ended 31st March 2019. The Town Council continues to manage its finances well and prudently – with much of the Reserves represented by Earmarked funds for specific projects.

Income	31/3/2019	31/3/2018	
Precept	294075	280632	
Burial fees	5570	10685	
Bank/inv interest	3713	3686	
Civic centre lettings	15405	13178	
Town Trust Admin contribution	7000	7000	
Allotment rents/deposits	2608	1880	
Misc income	5946	6440	
VAT Town Trust	1473	4041	
TOTAL INCOME	£335,789	£327,542	
Expenditure			
Salaries/wages	123722	121119	
General Administration	26864	28554	
Amenities	12364	9112	
Cemetery/churchyard	14149	12626	
Old Town Toilets	4328	4687	
Civic Centre costs	26965	27251	
CCTV	1922	4070	
Youth Projects	20978	19793	
Allotments	2960	3499	
Maintenance operations & van	2240	2734	
Swimming Pool	28000	28000	
Travelling & Training	1539	1821	
Footpaths	340	0	
Town Regeneration	7200	7664	
Reserve Expenditure	7231	29240	
Public Works Loan	3725	3821	
Town Hall capex	2000	2000	
Support to Town Trust	4700	4700	
Election costs/legal fees	6321	6349	
VAT transfer to Town Trust	1473	4041	
Contingency spend	4317	0	
Petty cash	159	233	
Total Expenditure	£303,496	£321,314	
<i>Surplus for year</i>	<i>32,293</i>	<i>6,228</i>	
<i>B/fwd funds</i>	<i>95,293</i>	<i>83,906</i>	
<i>Sub total</i>	<i>127,586</i>	<i>90,134</i>	
<i>Increase/decrease in Earmarked Reserves</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>5159</i>	
<i>Reserves c/fwd</i>	<i>127,586</i>	<i>95,293</i>	

Town Clerk

Planning Committee Report April 2019

The Town Council's Planning Committee considers planning applications within the parish and makes recommendations to the Planning Authority (SDC). The Planning Authority (either the Development Control Committee (DCC) or Planning Officers) make the final decision on whether to permit or refuse planning applications.

Significant Planning Applications

Over the past year, the Council's Planning Committee has considered the following significant planning applications: Garages, Mount Pleasant. This application proposed demolishing the Mount Pleasant garages and replacing them with four dwellings. The Planning Committee objected to this application but it was permitted by the DCC. The Town Council was not informed that this application would be considered by the DCC and was, therefore, unable to raise its objections directly with the Committee.

Land at 6 Potters Pond (Moore Hall). This application proposed building a modern single storey dwelling in the grounds of Moore Hall. The Planning Committee objected to this application. The application was subsequently withdrawn.

Renishaw PLC, New Mills. This application proposed a new building and multi-storey car park on the New Mills site. The Planning Committee supported this application but it was opposed by Kingswood Parish. The application has yet to be decided by the Planning Authority.

Land North of Holywell Road, Coombe. This application proposed the erection of two dwellings in the grounds of 3 Holywell Road, Coombe and a significant number of concerns were raised by the local community. The Planning Committee objected to this application and it was refused by the Planning Authority.

Land at Wortley Road. This application proposed the erection of two dwellings in the garden of 4 Wortley Road. The Planning Committee objected to this application but it was permitted by the Planning Authority.

Garages, Berkeley Close. This application proposed the demolition of 11 disused garages in Berkeley Close and their replacement with three new dwellings. The Planning Committee objected to this application. The application has yet to be decided by the Planning Authority.

Dryleaze Court. This application proposed the demolition of the existing SDC owned sheltered housing complex to be replaced by 22 dwellings with associated parking. The Planning Committee supported this application but asked for improvements to the distribution of parking across the site. The lack of affordable housing and the types of housing proposed were also queried.

Chipping Surgery. This application proposed a 2-Storey extension to provide additional medical facilities, with a consequential loss of 3 patient parking spaces. The Planning Committee objected to this application because inadequate on-site parking would be available for the expanded medical facilities.



District Local Plan

The District Council has started the process of reviewing the existing 2015 District Local Plan and a public consultation on the "emerging strategy" finished in January 2019. The new District Plan will cover the period 2020 – 2040 and is expected to be adopted at around the end of 2021. Stroud District is required to provide 12,800 new homes by the end of the period, including some provision for Gloucester City. The emerging strategy for distribution of the new homes envisages two new settlements (Sharpness and Wisloe), growth at main towns and some dispersal to some smaller towns (not Wotton) and villages. Public consultation on the final proposals will take place in the Autumn.

The Town Council submitted its comments on the emerging Local Plan, the Gloucestershire Concordat 2050 and the South West Council Joint Spatial Strategy in December 2018.

Cllr Roger Claydon, Chairman, Planning Committee

Footpaths Survey

The Working Group commenced its periodic review of the Parish's 104 Public Rights of Way in 2016 and completed the exercise in 2017. Problems were found with 62 of the paths and significant issues were reported to Gloucestershire County Council for remedial action. During 2018, the Group re-surveyed a number of the problem footpaths and a further 8 issues were reported to the County Council.

Footways Survey

The survey of 70 footways in and around the town was completed in 2018 and 19 significant problem areas were reported to the County Council for follow up remedial action.

Gateway Town

Wotton was one of a number of Cotswold communities selected by the Cotswold Conservation Board to be part of their "Cotswold Gateway Project. As part of this initiative four high quality, waymarked, circular walking and cycling routes will be established with which to explore the many attractions of Wotton and the surrounding area. Each of the routes will start and finish in the town and it is hoped that these will attract many new visitors to Wotton, its shops, eateries and other local attractions.

Work using local volunteers is expected to start in the near future on installing signage and path improvements where required, prior to the launch of the project later in the year. Two notice boards will also be provided in the town to illustrate the routes.



The Council received a significant amount of help for this project from local walking and cycling groups and is much appreciated.

Holywell Leaze

The Committee also maintains oversight of the town's Holywell Leaze amenity area and, here, the Cotswold Wardens, with financial support from the Town Council, have commenced repairs to the old mill wall and installing a stone seating area.

Walking Festival

The third Wotton Walking Festival takes place during 10th-12th May 2019 and has an expanded selection of walks this year. Look out for the green booklets.

Councillor Roger Claydon

Chairman, PROW Working Group, April 2019

Chairman's Report for the Allotments for the Annual Assembly 2018.

What was previously known as The Allotment Committee will in future be known as The Allotment Partnership.

Allotment Holding Deposit

Please note that in February an Allotment Holding Deposit of £50 was introduced for new tenants. The aim is to encourage tenants to leave the plots in an acceptable condition when they decide to give up their allotment. This is to cover costs of any work that is required. If all is satisfactory then the deposit will be returned in full.

There are currently five vacant plots at New Rd and two and a half at Knapp Rd; although this figure changes weekly.

Report for New Road Allotments

- The water supply now working satisfactory after a new mains supply installed.
- The new path and railings at the main entrance has vastly improved the ease of access.
- Paths that required attention have been shored up.
- A new notice board now in place.
- The Memory Group have now taken plot 15 next to the main entrance.
- Rubbish removed by Council staff. (the old landmark rotivator no longer there to greet you)
- Two large popular trees on plot 8 removed.
- A large cherry tree on plot 20 also removed.

Report for Knapp Road Allotment

- The area next to plot 35 has been cleared and will be treated and covered.
- The steps at the middle entrance has had the steps filled in and a new handrail fitted with a small level area at the top of the steps to make carrying tools/ produce etc easier.
- Council staff removed a large amount of fly tipping and rubbish in a hired skip.
- The hedge alongside Knapp Rd has been cut and tidied up.
- The top path will be improved by plans for the bank to be strimmed and covered two metres from the path.
- Also the path to be widened to 90 cms and the bank be shored up by old sleepers.

As Chairman I would like to thank the Administrator who does all the organising, the newsletter production and everything concerning the allotments and tenants, also the Town Clerk for her support and not forgetting the Buildings Manager with the able assistance of the caretaker who both put in plenty of hard work in keeping our allotments up together.

Of course there is the backing of fellow councillors who vote for money to be spent on the allotments too...



Regards
Cllr P Barton
(Chairman of Allotments)

Wotton Youth Partnership Report

2018-2019



We have a very strong committee of interest partners of 18 regular attendees at our bi-monthly meetings. During the year we welcomed representatives from Synwell Playing Field, Andy Beamish (Neighbourhood Warden), Jemma Grieve (SDC youth Forum) and various youth workers from The Door.

At the AGM in November Pat Comer became Treasurer of the Partnership. During the year we gave money to Wotton Rovers under 12's for 16 new football kits. We paid out £5,133 of the SDC grant for mental health and gave money towards the new BMX track at New Road.

The Heritage Project, which entails recording prominent local people who talk about their life in Wotton, has taken on a new life. Head of History at KLB have taken over the equipment and provides students to talk to Wottonians and record for a video. Paul Grimes and George Carpenter have been recorded.

The Mental Health Project, grant funded by SDC, is at a standstill. The new providers, The Door, are reapplying for the money left in the account. They want to have a team of youth workers delivering a mental health programme at KLB promoting emotional resilience in young people.

Last year we gave money to the Bearlands Play Area project. Unfortunately, there have been problems with anti-social behaviour and mismanagement of the site by SDC. Our District Councillors are taking up the complaints.

Synwell Playing Field are hopefully going ahead with a MUGA pitch and are actively fundraising. We have been asked to support them.

The OK footpath became problematic in that the hedge belonging to the farmer was very overgrown. This, after personal representations has now been trimmed back, but the height has not been reduced. Litter is a major problem and Lions have done litter picks up from KLB to the surgery. A letter from a KLB student has requested 2 litter bins be put on site. The youth workers are taking up the problem to see if there is a way forward.

June Cordwell

Chairman

Wotton Library

We have had another busy year at Wotton Library. Baby Bounce and Rhyme continues to be popular with an average of 10-13 babies enjoying nursery rhymes every Tuesday morning. Storytime has moved to a new slot of 10.30am on a Wednesday morning, this is run mainly by 2 volunteers with a wealth of experience and we are advertising it to encourage a greater attendance.

We ran a successful Easter egg hunt and word search, accompanied by crafts such as Easter baskets and tissue paper chicks, which were very popular. The 2018 summer reading challenge was well received. We didn't manage to hit our target of 110 signees but of the 97 children who did sign up, almost all of them went on to complete the challenge. The theme and associated crafts were enjoyed.

In November we were thrilled to host a visit from the author Jess Butterworth, author of 'Running on the Roof of the World' and 'When the Mountains Roared'. A group of year 7 pupils from Katherine Lady Berkeley School attended and, as they had read her books in the library book group, were very interested to hear what she had to say.

In December we also had a class of 30 children from the British School attend a story session led by Katherine MacInnes, a local author of the John D Gorilla books.

Sadly we lost some of our long standing members of Library Club this year, however we were heartened by comments from some of their relatives, who told of how this group had enriched their final years. The spaces have been filled thanks to our local Community Support Nurse who referred some new members and there are now 6 regular members who meet monthly.

We are now offering Saturday morning seasonal crafts drop in for children from 10am -12noon, this has been popular with both children and parents who can browse or read whilst their children create!

There was a Library Walk in the Wotton Walking Festival last May 2018. This started in Dursley Library and ended in Wotton, this year there will be a circular walk from Wotton Library with tea and biscuits in the library afterwards.

Finally, we would like to say a huge thank you to our volunteers without whom we couldn't stay open for the hours that we do. We have many volunteers who have dedicated 8+ years to Wotton Library as well as a few new recruits. We lost our Volunteer Coordinator last year who moved on to pastures new; he had dedicated many years to organising the volunteer rota and we wish him all the best.



*Julie Davies,
Team Leader
Gloucestershire Libraries*

WOTTON IN BLOOM 2018/19

'Wotton looked even more lovely than I have ever seen it on July 5th 2018 for the Britain in Bloom judges visit.'

Wotton in Bloom has had its most successful year ever. We entered the Britain in Bloom competition & filled the main streets with 182 containers of flowers. We were awarded a silver-gilt medal which we have been proud to accept, on behalf of the whole town.



- In addition to our hanging baskets and troughs & the Britain in Bloom entry with all that it entailed we:



- put up 29 extra hanging baskets
- tackled the war Memorial Tubs
- cleared & filled the tubs at the 2 main entrances to the Town
- supplied & filled 15 extra containers of flowers for residents
- set up & organised Bloomers2 to clean, tidy & weed the Town
- ran a Shop Window Competition & a Childrens Trail competition

- To support all this we needed to fundraise, & we did! The 2018 fundraising was incredibly successful, people showed their appreciation of the difference that Wotton in Bloom makes by donating generously. We raise funds in many ways: this year we had a Band Night at the Swan, a Curry Night at the India Palace, a street collection, donations from many clubs and societies in the Town, donations from individuals and local businesses and generous financial support from Renishaw, Wotton's Secret Gardens Trail, the Chamber of Trade and Wotton Town Council (who granted an additional £630 for extra baskets to fill in gaps).

- The hot summer of 2018 meant that the watering costs were higher than anticipated, but we were able to meet these due to the generosity of our supporters.

- We are starting our tenth year with a strong budget, a strong committee and good community links. Wotton in Bloom is now an established part of civic & community life in Wotton. We work hard, and it usually rains, but we now have friends who will turn out to volunteer whenever they can, which is something to be valued. Thanks must go to Wotton Lions, Rotary Club, Round Table, Under the Edge Arts, the Garden Club, the Secret Gardens Trail (also major donors), the Baptist Church, and many more.

Sue Hunt, Wotton in Bloom



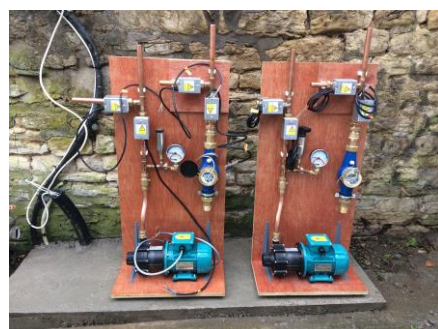
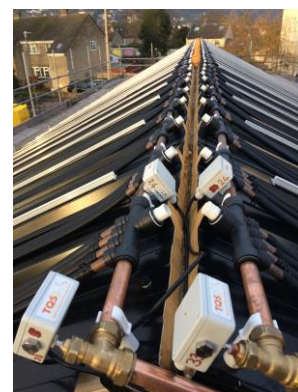
Report from Wotton Pool



It has been a record season for attendance and improvements. And again, I am grateful for the support I have seen coming to the pool from dozens of kindly and generous people giving their time, money, effort and skills to help with the running and the development of the facility. We have also enjoyed the benefit of a core of dedicated and professional employees providing the operational support needed to run the pool day-to-day. This season had two major elements: the spectacularly hot and gorgeous summer weather at the beginning of the season and the major developments made to the pool



infrastructure. This was the first season where we were able to offer the social area in the veranda at the south end of the site with the splendid views over the Severn Vale. Unsurprisingly, this has been an attractive amenity for the customers and it is in regular use -- it is just a gorgeous place to be in the evening sun: I would recommend it to anyone! Also, we were able to invest the Summerfield Trust and other generously-donated money into building the thermal solar water heating system on the



changing room roof. Coupled with the spell of uniformly hot weather it has been very effective at collecting the free energy coming from the sun. Another very useful, and poignant, development is the



installation of 'Stew's Steps' These are a set of removable easy-going steps that allows the less able to enter the pool more easily. They have been a great success.

And we have continued to operate in accord with the keynotes we defined for the facility, namely: safe, high quality, indefinitely ongoing, low maintenance, community enterprise and fun for all.



Alan George

4/4/19



WCSF Chairman's Report for 2018: Mark Easton

Another great year has passed for Wotton Community Sports Foundation (WCSF), seeing the continued development of the Wotton Community PARC, raising our profile in the community and planning for the future.

Superb efforts have been made by the committee members, with monthly hours tracking indicating that on average at least one volunteer day per month is made per committee member. This represents a 0.6 Full Time Employee role, demonstrating the real 'value' of the committee and the commitment required to make WCSF and Wotton Community PARC the success it is.



The year started with the handover of the Chairman role from the long-serving Barnaby Beere. Barnaby had been one of those at the forefront of WCSF and driven it forward to help achieve all it has. After nearly a decade at the helm, Barnaby decided to step back as the face (and email address) of WCSF. And so with a new antipodean 'caretaker' Chairman, the good ship WCSF sailed on.

After a bedding in period, the first major project of 2018 was the evaluation and award of the BMX / Pump Track construction project. Funding targets of £20,000 had been met by the first quarter of 2018, with construction set to commence in May 2018. The successful tenderer, Tony Griffiths, established to site and completed the both the BMX and Pump Tracks by early June 2018. The popularity of the BMX and Pump Tracks exceeded all expectations – so much so that consideration of parking arrangements became a spin-off project (more on that later). The only downside of its popularity was the use by radio controlled car enthusiasts, sadly badly damaging the Pump Track surface such that a full resurface was required. However, this has opened a potential opportunity to engage with yet another demographic.

Through the first 6 months of 2018, running in the background to the main WCSF activities, was the organisation of the second Party in the PARC festival. A dedicated team focused on the project, looking to build on the successes of the inaugural 2017 event. Using a similar formula of local food, drink, music and various fun activities, the event sought to raise revenue toward our Sinking Fund for 3G and AstroTurf pitch replacement/preventative maintenance. Unlike the 2017 event, the weather wasn't quite as perfect! However, an overall profit in the order of £5,000 was realised. Plans are afoot for a third Party in the PARC in 2019...just get on with booking the warm, sunny weather early.

Sports usage continues to be the main activity at the Wotton Community PARC. Growth continues across Wotton Rovers, Wotton Hockey Club and Wotton Rugby Football Club, the latter resulting in a league decider at Wotton Community PARC on a warm and sunny day in April. Parkrun also remains a firm favourite, with participant numbers hovering around three figures and never missing an opportunity to get sweaty, muddy or both.

Due to an incredibly hot and dry summer, the Safe Access Path completed in 2016 has suffered from extensive surface cracking. This has not been an uncommon occurrence in 2018, with many areas of the Wotton Community PARC and adjoining KLB School suffering from shrinkage cracking. After much investigation and debate, a repair and maintenance strategy has been agreed to protect this valuable asset into the future.

The ecology of the site remains as strong as ever, with deer, rabbits, a barn owl, sparrow hawks, a kingfisher and an otter all included in the hall of fame.

Much discussion has been had over the future of the barns. Clearly a potential drawback for the PARC, their usefulness is overshadowed by their current condition and layout. Through a series of informed discussions the long-term position of the barns is heading in the direction of decommissioning, with reuse of valuable Cotswold stone across the wider Wotton Community PARC the likely beneficiary. In the meantime the barns will remain, with minimal maintenance being undertaken to ensure H&S risks are appropriately managed.

As previously mentioned, the success of the BMX and Pump Tracks has brought to the forefront the issue of access to the Wotton Community PARC from the New Road entrance. During periods of high usage, cars are forced to park in the accessway or on the adjoining verge. The risks associated with this activity are too great to be sustainable. A review of parking operations has been undertaken, with the outcome being that there will be development of a 16 bay, fenced, car parking area within the Wotton Community PARC boundary. This will ensure that vehicles can at all times enter, manoeuvre, park and exit Wotton Community PARC safely. Tenders are to be sought in early 2019, with construction planned in the first quarter of 2019. Funding will comprise jointly from remaining funds from the BMX and Pump Track build as well as pledges from Barnwood Trust.

The Sensory Garden project continues to develop, with levels of interest maintained and our dedicated project group working hard to turn this project into a reality. Initial construction estimates are higher than anticipated and therefore the current drive is around raising the necessary funding. However, we are hopeful that this project will be completed at some point in 2019.

The New Road entrance has now become a wider point of focus. Ultimately this entrance will form the main access point to Wotton Community PARC. A vision has been developed to lead users down the hill, across the valley and up toward what will be the new clubhouse and associated parking.

The long-term vision for Wotton Community PARC remains to develop a multi-use clubhouse facility. In a combined approach, the hockey, football and rugby clubs have developed a collective ambition as to what success would look like from a sporting perspective. A separate group, representing the wider community, has also begun to consider the opportunities that a well-planned and appointed building would provide. This is key in ensuring that maximum returns can be made to help support the ongoing development and maintenance of key facilities.

The Sport Wotton joint venture continues to operate efficiently and effectively, returning good profitability figures demonstrating its ongoing success and benefit. The potential for Wotton Community PARC continues to grow, with many fresh ideas being tabled. Examples include an outdoor nursery, Men's Sheds, a crèche, radio controlled car track and even a food festival. These have the potential to augment other activities such as the Cotswold Challenge, County Cross County Championships as well as more mainstream activities such as hockey, football and rugby. Mark Easton, WCSF Chairman for 2018, steps down in December as he and his family return to New Zealand after a 30 month secondment in the UK. Simon Weston becomes the Chairman from 2019 onwards and WCSF looks forward to continuing to develop under Simon's leadership.

Mark Easton, WCSF Chairman 2018 www.wcsf.org.uk



SYNWELL PLAYING FIELD - Registered Charity No. 301658

Report to the Town Council 2018 – 2019

We had a fairly quiet time last year, carrying out some very expensive tree felling after being approached by our neighbours in Court Meadow. The leylandii trees behind their gardens bordering the field had become far too tall and were stopping the houses having sunlight in their rear gardens or any views. The plus side of this work for us was that it has opened up the field and lessened the amount of space available for 'dens', which in turn decreased the dropping of litter in that area.



Fund raising has continued with money being raised through Town Hall Teas, the Charities Fair, and Wotton Christmas Event. During the summer of 2018 Rogers Fair returned to the field and for those of us old enough to remember the past fair visits, it was good to have it back. The Wotton Baptist Church held their community barbecue and sports event and Meningitis Now held a fundraising event. In addition to this a Buggy Exercise Class began just before Christmas and runs every Monday morning. The committee continues to look at ways to open up the field to other users during



the summer months. It will soon be used by Wotton Walking Festival for Nordic Walking sessions. Our new event this year is Pedal Car Races in June.



The five pieces of outdoor fitness equipment were installed in the spring last year and these are well used by a variety of age groups. The goal mouth we were hoping to install has not happened but we still believe that the young teens are not well catered for on the field. This was born out by results of last summer's survey of field users. One of the suggestions made

was a multi sports court and we have now started a long-term fund-raising project for this. The new court may/may not replace the multi sports wall installed in 1997 depending on where we decide to site it. We are still hoping at some stage to replace the old rusty metal benches but for the time being this project 'on the back burner'.

The football pitch and field are now being cut by D. Howse, this has saved us a considerable amount of money. Wotton Rovers continue to use the field weekly during the winter playing 28 senior matches and 35 junior matches. Our next project aligned with this is to replace the door and windows of the changing rooms and we were lucky recently to receive a grant from the Recreational Trust which will in part pay for this work, this should be completed within the next couple of months.

Our committee membership has remained fairly static although we are now operating without a Chair, something we hope to rectify in the not too distant future. We still meet every third Wednesday of the month. When I started writing this report, I was very confident that by the time it was published the new 20-year lease on the Pavilion Sports and Social Club would be in place. However, due to the extremely sad and unexpected death of one of our Trustees this is on hold until we can appoint a new Trustee.

We would like to thank Wotton Town Council for their support during the year. **Anne Hartley, Secretary**



Wotton under Edge Historical Society Museum & Heritage Centre

The Chipping, Wotton under Edge, Gloucestershire, GL12 7AD

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Website: www.wottonheritage.com

Wotton under Edge Historical Society, Museum and Heritage Centre -2018/19.

In 2018 the volunteers at the Wotton Heritage Centre continued to build on the momentum from the previous 3 years. With over a thousand additional visitors through the door, our overall income showed only a modest increase due in part to higher investment in our IT equipment. Necessary to handle the large assembly of data now accumulated by our volunteers.

The Historical Society continued with conservation work, preparing for the gradual transition of information on to the database. The Visitor Information Centre continued with initiatives to try and attract more visitors to Wotton

In the Museum in 2018 we held three exhibitions and nine talks:

- 1) Exhibition 1: Education in Wotton
- 2) Exhibition 2: "Wotton" is the Word
- 3) Exhibition 3: Wotton and the Great War Centenary



In 2019 we are currently showing "The Changing Face of Wotton's Pubs" and have plans for more exhibitions in the pipeline.

*Our Cotswold Hare in 2018
Sheep in Hare's Clothing*

We invested more money than ever before on IT equipment 2018 with the purchase of a new File Server and a computer along with the latest software. With the help of a grant from the Summerfield Trust we were able to complete this development early in 2019. The assembling of the list of artefacts is nearing completion and will be completed in Q1 of 2019. We then start to link up the list to the location of the actual artefact. This will enable researchers to track down information via the computer rather than the card system we currently use. Further investment was made into purchasing storage boxes to protect documents and artefacts. Our Curator completed the addition of Wall Hangers in the exhibition area. Obtained via a grant this feature has added some considerable improvement in our ability to show documents.

We revised our data protect specification and in parallel our membership system with an increase in fees from 2019 onwards. The Wotton Youth Partnership project to record on film people in their later years was handed on to KLB school thanks to the intervention of Cllr Paul Barton. We are hoping to receive copies of new material for the collection at some point in the future.

In 2018 we hosted and have continued to attend meetings with the Cotswold group of Visitor Information Managers.

We have developed an Events Postcard for Wotton and planned a new map/Leaflet for early 2019 with help from Cotswold.com.

We continued to work with the Tourism Network set up by Dursley Town Council to cover the Cotswold Severn Vale. A new food/drink map is planned with them for 2019.

The Historical Society held eight talks at the Civic Centre in the period either side of the summer which were well attended and stimulating. This gives us a good platform to meet and greet our Members and **Friends** of the Heritage Centre.

We continue to raise funds with Town Hall Teas and as many grants as we can find. Being quite successful in most cases. We are grateful to the Town Council for their continued support.

By Jeff Walshe, Heritage Centre Committee. wuehistsoc@gmail.com

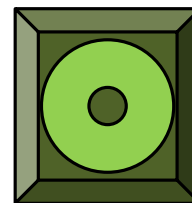
*Data entry on to our
database Adlib by Reg*



*Our President Prof.
Mark Horton giving a
talk at the Civic Centre. 17*

Wotton-under-Edge & District Community Recreational Trust

Registered Charity No. 289185



Report from Wotton under Edge & District Recreational Trust-2018/19.

In 2018 the Recreational Trust Members continued to support the Bowls Club and other affiliated organisations to the Charity. There were still funds available for distribution from the cash injection made by the Cinema volunteer management in 2016. Applications were invited from various groups in Wotton and the surrounding District. Applications were received throughout the year for grants from the limited funds available. Grants were awarded to the following organisations.

2019-1.1: Wotton Dramatic Society - £1000 towards refurbishment work in the Green Room at a total cost of £2,000.

2019-1.2: Synwell Playing Field association - £1000 towards replacing windows and doors in the changing rooms at a total cost of £2,650.

Other applications were received during 2018/19 and were rejected. These did not fully comply with the criteria specified by the Trust.

The Constitution regulates the way funding is distributed and is intended to stimulate new activities in the Town. Applications for match-funding new projects and require some fund raising activities to take place. The applicants must be constituted; the Trust does not fund the running costs of organisations preferring Projects with legacy aspirations.

From April 2019 there are no further funds available for distribution. The available residue from the Community run Cinema project has now been used up. The Trust has retained a contingency sum to support running costs in the coming years. This will cover insurance and accountancy/audit fees. This will be topped up by membership fees from the affiliated groups currently set quite low. Should the Trust receive income by gift or legacy it will administer the distribution of the funds as stated in the Constitution and not be used for running costs for the foreseeable future.

The affiliated groups operating under the umbrella of the Trust as at 31st March 2019 are:

Bowls Club	Streamsfield
Wotton & District Silver Band	Wotton-in-Bloom
Wotton Arts Association	Wotton Rovers Junior Section
Wotton Youth Liaison Group	Wotton Blues Festival
Bearlands Play Area Association	Greenway Group

Streamsfield



The affiliated groups all reported throughout the year and submitted accounts which we cons Charity Commission after a review by Burton Sweet accountants.

Jeff Walshe/Chair – WRT jeffwalshe@gmail.com

Background.

In the 1970s local residents mounted a campaign to develop part of the land in Dryleaze into a Bowls Club. The public raised the required funds and help was sought from the Town Council and District Council (who owned the land). This resulted in a sale of "Bowling Green" land from SDC to Wotton Town Council (WTC) for £25,500 including covenant 6, which stated that the land was only to be used as bowling green.

In 1984 the Town Council created the Wotton under Edge and District Recreational Trust to manage the assets under a Declaration of Trust document dated 1984. The original four Trustees handed over responsibility to the Management Committee once the Trust had been set up and registered with the Charity Commission.

The Bowls Club is run as an autonomous group under the terms of two documents:

- i) *Agreement between the Recreational Trust and Trustees of the Bowls Club-2017*
- ii) *Licence between the Recreational Trust and Trustees of the Bowls Club-2017*

The Recreational Trust also manages the recreational area named as Streamsfield on behalf of the owners – The Town Council. In 2003 the Recreational Trust expanded its umbrella activities by affiliating organisations with low financial turnover. This enabled those organisations to use the Charity number in their fundraising activities. When any organisation grew to a size where they could be self-sufficient, they left the Recreational Trust and set up independently.

The Trust has been supported with income from modest affiliation fees (since 2003) and the Cinema since 2006. There have been many recipients throughout Wotton as the Trust addressed requests for financial help for a variety of projects. All accounts are registered with the Charity Commission.



wotton-under-edge chamber of trade

www.wotton.biz

The Wotton-under-Edge Chamber of Trade and Commerce is a business development and networking group, including retail and commercial businesses, sole traders and public limited companies.

We are committed to developing our rural market town to its true potential. We are positive, self-motivated and work in partnership with other organisations to enhance our community and ensure that Wotton-under-Edge thrives in today's tough economy.

The Chamber also provides support and an opportunity for members to meet and exchange ideas through varied social events. They range from breakfasts in one of our lovely town's coffee shops or restaurants, or an evening meal with a talk by a guest speaker.

During this year we have had meetings and training sessions for the following things:

- GDPR
- digital taxation
- defibrillator training
- wine tasting
- gin tasting
- Facebook and Twitter presentation
- a book launch and signing
- on the final Friday of each month members have the opportunity to get together with other members to talk business and generally socialise.

We have been involved with and supported Christmas Under-the-Edge, the town leaflet (which is to be repeated this year) and the new town postcard with the list of this year's town events. We also help Wotton in Bloom with the hanging baskets that make our town look so wonderful throughout the summer - and also their removal.

Our President attends regular meetings with Gfirst LEP and the Association of Gloucestershire Business Groups. He has input to the Market Towns Association and attends Town Council and planning meetings to represent the views and interest of our local businesses. He is also co-opted onto the town's Regeneration Committee and supports the Town Council car park working group.



We also have regular Committee meetings to review progress and structure future plans to support local businesses. During the last 12 months our President set up a trust and management group to manage the new Symn Lane car park so that if the Town Council had decided not to manage it then a local group would have had the opportunity to look after the car park for the town.

The Chamber also offers help and advice to local businesses and, where appropriate funding is available for investment grants, etc., it will help with the application and give guidance which has proved very successful for some of its members.

We also held a fund raising dinner in aid of Wotton's Royal British Legion who sent representatives to Flanders to commemorate 100 years since the end of hostilities at the end of World War One and lay a wreath in recognition of those locals who lost their lives. The Chamber also lays a wreath every year on Remembrance Sunday to honour the fallen of Wotton.

The Chamber is currently working on a 'shop local' campaign to help traders and businesses in the town make the most of every opportunity to service the needs of the whole community.



Report on County Council Matters to Wotton Town Council Annual Assembly, 13th May 2019 John Cordwell

County Council

With no change in the composition of the County Council since last year, Conservatives continue to have an overall majority with Liberal Democrats as the largest opposition party. Currently there is one vacancy caused by the untimely death of a young Liberal Democrat Councillor.

My roles on the County Council

My committee memberships remained unchanged. I continued as my group's lead member on these and am Vice-Chairman of the Planning Committee, the Commons & Rights of Way Committee, and the Traffic Regulations Orders Committee.

I am a member of the Highways Cabinet Panel, which monitored the awarding of the three new highways contracts and will continue to monitor their progress. I also represent the county on various outside bodies in Gloucestershire and the South West.

County Council Budget 2019/2020

The agreed budget required an increase in the council tax precept of 4.99%, including the Government-permitted 2% increase specifically to fund Adult Social Care. At Band D this was an increase of £61.49 per annum to £1293.70.

Several amendments proposed by the Lib Dem group resulted in a total increased investment of £649k but with no increase in the precept:

- part of the surplus (£150k) in parking revenue is to be used on County subsidised bus routes. (This will be much needed as it was subsequently revealed that in the last financial year there was an average 35% cost increase in tenders from local bus operators to retain a largely equivalent existing service provision, which amounted to a £354k increase.)
- a proposal to increase Highways Local funding to £30k per councillor (as has existed in the past) was partly agreed, so each councillor will now be allocated £25k, rather than the £20k last year. (The later sting in the tail of this was that the Lengthmen's scheme, worth about £9k per councillor, has stopped. Councillors will have to buy in this type of work from the £25k.)

Bids to reverse the October 2018 decision for mid-week closing of household recycling centres (£43k) and to extend summer opening hours from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. (£84k) were lost.

Agreed Labour amendments included £50k per year for two years to run a Holiday Hunger scheme to support pupils who get free school meals during term time.

Highway Contracts

An earlier decision was made not to extend the Amey contract, but they could have put in bids for the three new contracts dealing with different highway aspects. These are now in place:

Term Maintenance Contract A seven-year contract for the delivery of routine highways maintenance such as pothole repairs, grass cutting, gully cleansing and the delivery of minor improvement works. Ringway were the successful bidder.

Structural Maintenance Contract providing a direct relationship with a contractor for the delivery of our roads resurfacing work. Tarmac won this two-year contract.

Professional Services Contract which supports the Council's staff in specialised detail design work such as on bridges, geotechnical (landslips), and drainage schemes and also provides design and project management support for our major schemes was won by Atkins.

Ofsted Report on the County Council's Children's Services

Ofsted judged the county council to be inadequate in children's services in March 2017. Their fifth monitoring visit on progress took place this January.

It says that progress has been made in “a number of areas of the refreshed improvement plan”. One main concern continued to be the recruitment and retention of social workers to provide “consistency in their practices”. Also, that “more work is needed to make sure visits to children, young people and their families are regular and purposeful and plans need to be more detailed.”

The County Council has said that it is well on its way to establish a Social Work Academy which will provide training and support to children’s social care staff, in turn improving practices.

Motions at County Council meetings during the year

Twenty motions have come before the council in the last twelve months covering a large range of subjects. I can email further details to anyone interested.

I will mention just two, both to do with roads because of the way they were treated. A Liberal Democrat motion last May called for the Government to increase the amount it spends on roads maintained by the council. The Conservative administration put forward an “amendment” that deleted and replaced all the words of the original motion! A senior officer said that it was up to the chair whether he allowed it, which he did.

At the most recent meeting of the council the administration tabled a self-congratulatory motion on road improvements. It was meant to take up just 20 minutes of the two hours allowed for motions, but they were allowed to filibuster for over an hour, forcing out other motions. They won the subsequent vote. Opposition members were concerned that this motion inevitably congratulated Amey’s less than impressive performance.

LED Street Lighting

Most of the county has now been converted to these energy-efficient lights. The more difficult ones were to be completed by November. In March about 700, including some in Wotton, still remained to be converted out of the total of 58,000. I asked when the programme would be completed as was told that the likely date was now the end of July this year.

Javelin Park Incinerator

The controversial incinerator is due to become fully operational by 29th July, following several months of commissioning tests. Challenges continue on the way the contract was awarded.

Fire and Rescue Service

The Police and Crime Commissioner relaunched his bid to take over part of this service. In response the County Council has pointed out that it would impact on public safety, reduce the level of funding available to the service, minimise public scrutiny of decisions and jeopardise the partnership between the service and the NHS, which currently helps protect some of the most vulnerable people in Gloucestershire

Highways Local

Of the £20k allocated to me in the last financial year I contributed:
£8.5k to footway resurfacing in Cotswold Gardens, Symn Lane and Chipping Gardens;
£1k to the lining and signing of the layby at Bournestream;
£1.5k to carriageway patching in Long Street.

Growing Our Communities Fund

Last year councillors were allocated £30k over three years to support local projects. To date my allocations have included a total of £6.136k to the two primary schools in Wotton.

Stroud District Councillors' Report 2018/19

Affordable Housing

New affordable housing units are under construction, with support from Stroud District Council at two sites in Wotton. On **Fountain Crescent**, SDC's land was sold to Fortis Living, with planning permission for 22 affordable homes for rent and shared ownership—supported by £800k of SDC 'right to buy' receipts.

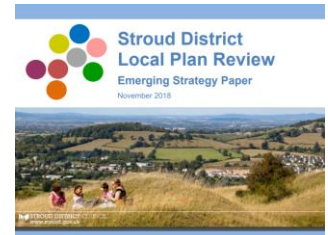


On the site of the **former Full Moon pub**, Two Rivers Housing is building 10 affordable homes for shared ownership, with a contribution of £190,000 from SDC towards the scheme from its *Affordable Housing Capital Programme*, which comprises funding from the Stroud Homebuy Scheme and s106 commuted sums where developers have paid a contribution to the provision of affordable housing elsewhere rather than providing it onsite.



Planning strategy

A public exhibition took place in Wotton in December 2018. There are no proposed sites for housing or employment growth in Wotton due to environmental constraints. Land will need to be allocated in the District to meet the higher Government target for housebuilding, which requires 40% more homes compared to the current Local Plan. SDC continues to work with South Gloucestershire Council in relation to future transport infrastructure.



Community funding New play equipment was installed in 2018 in Bearlands, financed by SDC in partnership with the local Bearlands Play Area Association. The site now provides a fantastic space for children to play safely. For the nearest neighbours, there is work underway to improve privacy and sound proofing as the play area is now in more frequent use. New road safety signs, designed by local school children were part of the project

- **Tourism** - Following a review of funding for tourism, it was agreed in December 2018 that Wotton, along with the 6 other Market Towns in the District will be receiving £2000 to help fund local Tourism.
- **Market Town Initiative Funding** – following extended discussions, SDC agreed in January 2019 that Wotton will receive £40k from this fund for the Town Council to match fund to spend on regeneration in the Town.
- **Temporary accommodation for homeless households** – recognising the increase in homelessness across the District, and unavailability of temporary accommodation, in April 2019, SDC agreed to purchasing and renovate a property in Stroud to provide 9 new units for homeless households from the District.
- **Carbon Neutral 2030** – In November 2018 SDC leaders declared a 'climate emergency' and have assigned funding to put in place a work programme for a Carbon Neutral District.
- **New Chief Executive** – Following the retirement of David Hagg, Kathy O'Leary started in post in November 2018, and had a day visit to meet with Wotton Town Council and local business representatives in January 2019.
- **Council cuts** – due to the reduction in funding from central government, there were further SDC budget cuts in 2018/19, which included a reduction in staff and service efficiency savings, such as a reduction of seasonal grass cuts and an increase in the charges for bulky and garden waste collections.
- **Residents satisfaction** - The 2018 survey showed that residents' satisfaction with Stroud District Council is well above the national average - 80% are satisfied with the way SDC is run (compared to national average of 61%).

District Councillors: Ken Tucker, Catherine Braun, George Butcher

