End of year P&H report 2017

As Chair of the Planning and Highways Committee, may I first thank my vice Chair for his support and a massive thank you to all the members of this Committee. Applications that come before this Council have in many cases to be commented on within fairly tight timescales. Fortunately, the enthusiasm and reliability of our members help us maintain our commitment both to you as residents, the applicants and to SDC planning authority.

Cam Parish Council continues to support the need for additional housing and seeks to encourage delivery of employment allocations. It’s hugely supportive Planning and Highways Committee have and continue to do an enormous amount of work to ensure that what you presently see in Cam from the new dwellings through to the changes planned for this area remain wherever possible as part of the pleasurable aspect of Cam. When local planning applications are submitted either by large or small Developers or individuals, the P&H committee encourage involvement with parishioners in responding to their concerns or objections when responding to submitted applications.

Rest assured, this council does listen and we do ensure that these queries, proposals and objections are fully discussed. However as much as we might both recognise and sympathise with many of the objections and as much as we realise that these objections are most sincere and genuine - we ourselves have specific guidelines to follow and the bottom line is always the written policies, we cannot act in any way against the written policies. We are equally committed to ensure wherever possible that the residents of Cam are supported and guided through sometimes difficult positions. Furthermore, it is not CPC that has the final word on this subject. Each month from the outcome of our meetings, any objections or concerns raised are always submitted to Stroud District Council as our observation. Frequently, because these concerns are supported by a team of dedicated Councillors who are all local and know the area so very well, we can make the changes discussed at our meetings actually work and this in turn can cause a change to the submitted proposals from what might be wanted to something that Cam and local residents would much prefer.

My most sincere thanks go to all concerned especially our Deputy Clerk who keeps us so well informed of proposals and to all our Councillors on this Committee for their commitment and dedication associated with the task of keeping Cam as a most pleasant place to live.

B.J.Whatling ,

Chairman, Planning and Highways.

Finance & General Purposes Committee end of year report 2017.

As Chair of Council the Finance and General Purposes committee fall under my remit, each year it is the responsibility of this committee to set both the Precept and the overall Council budget for the forthcoming period, this is never easy and requires a great deal of work to reach a situation that suits all requirements, this year has been particularly difficult with changes to legislation and the present extensive updating of our IT equipment.

The setting of the Precept for Cam is a legal requirement. It is a most complex document that this Council produces annually, it requires a great deal of information and a great deal of forward planning, the information on present performance and that of the past are availiable for reference, however forecasting for the future requirements of Cam and its residents is far from easy.

From the attached budget it can be seen that consideration has to be given to a vast number of items, ultimately it has to add up to a figure that is realistic and achievable. The permutations are endless, however above all else it must result in it being a workable solution to so many problems, priorities must be given to some at the expense of others, we would of course like to please all.

This year’s Budget is attached to this report, it is the result of a great deal of work by Councillors and Staff it is supported for consideration by information and facts presented to this Committee by our RFO (Responsible Financial Officer).

The vast expansion of Cam is already well underway with several hundred houses being planned for this area, with the housing comes the needs of people and children, and it also brings to us the added responsibility to ensure that the facilities within our jurisdiction are availiable both now and for the future to meet these demands. We have done our best in this year budget to hopefully to meet the present requirements of this Council and to address where possible the futuristic requirements of Cam to accommodate the inevitable expansions

In closing this report, I most sincerely thank those who have work so very hard on producing this Budget for 2017-18

B. J. Whatling

Chairman, Finance & General Purposes.

End of year report – 2017

Fellow Councillors, Staff & All Parishioners

Once again, it’s the end of this Fiscal year and as your Chairman, it is again my pleasure and responsibility to say a huge thank you firstly to my Vice Chair, Cllr Miranda Clifton for all her help and support throughout the year and then to all staff and councillors for all of for your support, loyalty and help to myself and this Council.

The position of Chair of Council is a great honour, however with the position comes a great deal of responsibility. Please believe me, it’s not just the honour of wearing the Chain of Office. In my view, it remains one of the most rewarding jobs available.

It is usual, at this time of year that thoughts of the past year are recalled and just what has occurred during this period. We were sad to say goodbye to many Councillors, some having been with us for many years and have been greatly missed by us all. We have been lucky enough to fill several vacancies - welcome to Cllr Barbara Poskett and Cllr Christina Carter. Our most sincere thanks go to those who have either left or have joined this Council.

Members of the local community, traders and our Parish Councillors led by Chair Cllr Terry Grocutt are together working very hard to present a NDP document which once ratified will ensure that any planning application in the parish intending to build homes will legally meet our stringent rules and conditions. This will assist to ensure that Cam retains its identity and ensures that any future planned changes to the area are what you as parishioners would like to see delivered.

It is recognised that Cam is developing extremely fast, with several hundred new homes planned over the next few years and further applications already in the pipeline. We have completed a transport survey to assist with our investigations on the proposed infrastructure but it is still ongoing with discussions with the highway authority/SDC planning officers. The proposed changes to alleviate the concerns of traffic flow will make travelling in Cam a very different experience. The parking at the train station still raises many concerns and this is very often taken up with assistance of the County Councillor, Brian Tipper and working closely with Network Rail, we have managed secure funding for additional parking spaces. We appreciate that it still not enough, hopefully further negotiations can be made to pursue more in the future.

This year, our new Sports Pavilion has been completed and now in demand by various clubs and organisations. The Jubilee Field is now being more widely used more than ever before and our concerns for this year mainly involve dealing with a great deal of essential improvements of our play and sports facilities. The area is considered important and will ultimately provide a long-term benefit for our community.

This year will prove again that there seems to be insufficient weeks in the year to accomplish the plans or needs of this community. We have accomplished a great deal but never enough! Once again, this year has seen unprecedented calls on our resources/. Visitors to our Resource Centre have again far exceeded our expectation and the demands on our staff has reached our limit on time. To help make this work, we rely greatly on technology. Unfortunately, this has presented its own problems and It systems has called for an update. Our outdated website is another casualty very soon to be revived with a new comprehensive replacement expected within the next couple of months. Work is being done behind the scenes to enable the website to go live and a launch date will be advertised on social media/notice boards when available.

In closing this report, I deliberately left out comments regarding our Staff. Whatever occurs in Council one way or another goes through our office and without the dedication, help and flexibility of all our staff, much less would get done. On behalf of all concerned, please accept our grateful thanks for a job well done.

B.J.Whatling,

Chairman. Cam Parish Council.

**Cam Annual Parish Assembly 2017**

**Stroud District Councillor’s Report - Cam East representative**

For the past two years Stroud District Council has been run by a co-operative alliance of Labour, the Green party & Liberal Democrats. The chair of council for 2016-17 was Green, and the political leader was (and still is) Steve Lydon, the Labour councillor for Dursley.

Among this year’s achievements by the council are the following:

* the highest ever public and business satisfaction with the Council (80% and 70% respectively)
* a council house building programme delivering to timetable and budget (236 homes at cost of £19m over 5 years) - homes at Minchinhampton, Littlecombe and the ones just being completed in Chapel Street
* new ‘invest to earn’ capital investment completed at The Pulse, Dursley and underway at Littlecombe - membership at both leisure centres at record levels (good for residents’ health and well-being, good for the council’s income)
* Gloucestershire’s only local plan adopted under the National Planning Policy Framework and the first Community Infrastructure Levy scheme in the county, which has been shortlisted for a national award
* successful management of the single largest regeneration site in Gloucestershire - Littlecombe
* substantial reduction in waste to landfill - already half the countywide target for 2020 - and a substantial increase in recycling (the success of which has brought issues and increased cost)
* a successful carbon management programme - SDC was the first in Europe to be ‘carbon neutral’

This year I have served on two committees: the housing committee, for a second year, and for the first time, the development control committee, which has quasi-judicial powers and requires councillors to undertake specific training. This year the significant applications DCC has looked at have included a large development West of Stonehouse, potential supermarkets in Stroud, the development in our fields NE of Cam as well as several small housing developments and domestic applications.

The housing committee now has two new tenant representatives who will help by bringing the tenant’s perspective into discussion; one of those, Sadie Taizewell, is a Cam resident. A continuing major issue for the housing committee is the modernisation of our sheltered dwellings, to bring the homes up to 21st century standards and make them fit for the needs of the people moving into them. Glebelands is of those in most need of improvement and work is scheduled to begin during 2018; tenants will be kept informed at all stages and given whatever support they need when change occurs. We also face a challenge in that government actions have reduced the income we will receive, so we have to look very carefully at how we manage our housing. However, as previously mentioned, we are still managing to build much needed new council homes.

I have attended all the full council and meetings of the committees, of which I am a member.

I am also a member of the planning review panel which looks at strategic planning issues, for example: monitoring how many DCC decisions go to appeal, and whether those decisions are upheld; a retail and town centres study; and a biodiversity checklist for developments amongst others.

I’ve had many requests from residents for help and advice and have answered those as best I can; unfortunately councillors can’t wave a magic wand and the council can’t satisfy all of the people all of the time. However, I’m always willing to try, and am happy for residents to contact me if they think I might be able to make a difference. I look forward to continuing to work for Cam and its residents for the next year.

Miranda Clifton

May 2017

**Cam and Dursley Youth service**

I represent Cam on the joint Cam & Dursley Councils group which carries out a quarterly review of our youth service, which we commission from ‘The Door’. Both a member of the Door management and a youth worker attend the review meetings to give us a full account of their activities and answer any questions.

The Door provides regular youth club sessions, holiday activities, and support for individual young people where it is needed. There are two youth club nights in Cam, at Woodfield Community Centre and further sessions at the Vibe in Parsonage Street. Over the last couple of years numbers at Woodfield have been steadily rising; at Dursley they are at capacity on some evenings. The Woodfield sessions tend mainly to be taken up by younger people, up to about 14, with the young people ‘graduating’ to the Vibe as they get older. As well as providing a space for recreation the sessions also provide an educational focus, one, highlighting mental health, encouraged many in the group to open up including some more challenging people who had previously been quite disengaged. They have also held fun sessions like the Valentines Café. We are lucky in having two excellent regular youth workers to run the sessions; they are backed up by the whole Door team which provides further expertise, advice and help.

The team also works in collaboration with other agencies such as Rednock - currently running revision sessions and the PCSOs with whom they have strong links, for example in work with the young people on issues around sex, drugs, alcohol and also anti-social behaviour. There are now plans to continue the young mums group in Dursley in partnership with Barnado’s Children Centre staff.

Funding for the service is provided by Cam and Dursley councils, with additional funding won by bids - The Door has recently successfully obtained £10k funding over 4 years from the Police and Crime Commissioner to provide youth services across all 7 areas of its work in the district.

Miranda Clifton

May 2017

**Cam Institute Charity**

This is a small Cam based charity which gives out relatively small grants to local organisations once a year. Although charities and organisations are finding finances increasingly tight there was a disappointing number of applications for funding recently. In the last few years we have approved grants to local playgroups, GL11, Golden Age club, Friday Luncheon Club, Dursley & Cam Friendship Club, Cam Youth & Community Centre. Any Cam organisation which is open to the general public may apply for funding.

Miranda Clifton

May 2017

**Dursley United Charities**

This is a small locally based charity formed some years ago from an amalgamation of two or three smaller historical charitable organisations. It provides three types of grants: to help young people with their education e.g. for college or university expenses; Christmas benefactions, which are granted on recommendation from health visitors, social services etc for people in particular need and individual one-off grants which are given to people in cases of emergency - usually referred by a health visitor or other care professional. The number of Christmas benefactions to people from Cam & Dursley has remained fairly constant over the years, as have the applications for educational funding, but we are receiving an increasing number of request for help for people in desperate need - a sad reflection of the times we live in.

Miranda Clifton

May 2017