



# Cam Parish Council

## Annual Reports 2022

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## **Chair's Annual Report**

Chair of Cam Parish Council Cllr Jonathan Fulcher

While Cam Parish Council returned to face-to-face council meetings, remaining pandemic restrictions continued to pose challenges, venues having to match the size of gathering and public interest while keeping everybody as safe as possible.

One of the biggest challenges faced was the continuing threat of development. As Box Road enters its final phase we wait for the Stroud Local Plan to pass inspection stage before the next strategic sites move forward. Our Neighbourhood Plan finally passed into law providing a layer of protection against poor design, unsuitable building practices and maintaining Cam's green spaces plus other elements that make up a local identity. This highlights the work of our committees; the efforts of the Planning & Highways committee in producing traffic reports and scrutiny of both strategic and ad hoc building plans supported by hard work and expert knowledge of four staff members led by a qualified clerk and deputy to whom I am very grateful.

With an exciting and productive year enjoyed by our Recreation and Leisure committee the achievements include a new footpath diversion and security measures at Jubilee Fields as well as intensive planning and public consultation for the imminent additional play areas and car park upgrades there.

This highlights the importance of a project officer and how lucky we have been in having continuity of staff and almost a full complement of councillors who bring a satisfying blend of experience and fresh ideas to the demands of council. Personally, I must thank the deputy chair for her support this year and the cooperation between different agencies such as GL11 and Stroud Valleys Project as we strive to rebuild confidence and progress in Cam's community post-Covid.

**County Councillor Report**  
Councillor Victoria Gray

Talks with the trustees of Cam Sports Club and Hartley's Investments is still on going.

Siobhan Ballie MP has attended meetings with myself and both parties and has voiced support to us expanding the site as a state of the art sports facility.

It has been recorded many times in meetings about the hard work and due diligence Cam Parish Council put in to protect this land as green space for our community. This absolute vital peace of information has enabled us to keep negotiations open for us to purchase the rest of the site which are still on going.

We hope in time, that the current owners will sell and we can create an amazing sports facility for our community with the backing of Sport England and valuable input from Cam Parish Council.

## **Patient Participation Group**

Councillor Jon Fulcher

Since no meeting was held this year of the Patient Participation Group and therefore my membership on this body could not be confirmed I have nothing to report in an official capacity.

It is fair to say the PPG was heavily involved in the decision by the Cam and Uley practice to abandon plans, for now at least, to close the Uley practice and to review the use of the building at Uley and staffing across both sites.

## ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22

### Overview of the committee

- The Committee is external to Cam Parish Council, Dursley Town Council and Uley Parish Council
- It was set up in 1994 in a contract with Stroud District Council (the owners)

### The Function of the Committee

The governance agreement with SDC delegated powers to the Cam, Dursley and Uley Joint Woodlands Committee to manage woodlands and grasslands:

- 40 Hectares of woodland in Dursley and Cam
- 31 Hectares grassland Cam Long Down and Cam Peak
- 5 Hectares grassland and woodland at Uley Bury

### The Management requirement is to:

- Maintain paths, gates, fences, cattle grids, trees, ponds and parking areas
- Provide and operate the conservation plan

### Objectives of Management Plan:

- To maintain lands under management according to best practice for the recreation and exercise of local residents and visitors
- High level Stewardship of environmentally sensitive areas

### Membership of the Committee:

- Two councillors from each of the three Parish

### Supporting officers:

- Clerk/Finance officer – honoraria payment
- Part time paid Land Manager – contracted
- Footpath Warden – honoraria payment
- Officer from SDC

### Funding Sources:

- Stroud District Council Grant
- RPA Grant (Rural Payments Agency)
- Cam Parish Council
- Dursley Town Council
- Uley Parish Council
- Donations in kind from Cotswold Wardens
- Others where available

### Meetings

- Quarterly meetings are held usually on a Monday evening at 7 pm
- Extra meetings may be necessary occasionally

## General Report

Regular jobs have been carried out throughout the year dealing with broken fences and gates, fallen trees, blocked footpaths, scrub cutting, bracken cutting and general conservation and maintenance tasks.

Regular reports, by our Footpath Warden, on the state of footpaths across the land within our responsibility are invaluable. They mean that issues such as fallen trees can be assessed quickly, by our land manager, and dealt with appropriately.

Part of the CDUJW management committee's job is to protect the natural landscape. Cam and Dursley Woods, a rare, ancient woodland, Cam Peak and Uley Bury are all Environmentally Sensitive areas which offer a rich diversity of habitats that provide refuges and corridors for wildlife. They require specialist knowledge to maintain and conserve them. Advice is taken from our Land Manager, the Forestry Commission and other bodies.

Some of the issues that have challenged us in previous years continue. This would include Ash dieback for example, and anti-social behaviour, like littering and damage to trees and forest floor – although this has reduced slightly, recently, after reaching a perceived peak during the pandemic.

Expenditure has been well within income throughout the year although spend to address fallen trees and ash dieback is likely to rise as spring goes into summer.

## Specific events

### Cam Peak: Loss of grass and erosion April 21



The top of Cam Peak became devoid of all grass during the period of the pandemic due to more visitors than normal. The committee arranged to fill an area of erosion, which meant finding a local source of the same soil makeup.

At the same time we took the opportunity to strengthen the 120 year old flag staff. This has been standing since a rifle range was established there in 1898.

The committee then started to look into a way of regenerating the grass.



Some top local botanists volunteered their time and advice on this, at no charge, and spent an afternoon at the Peak auditing the plants growing around the top of the hill and affirmed its status as a priority environment.

They found that previously discovered rare plants growing in the grassland continue to thrive there. This meant that regeneration of the grass would need to take place naturally.

#### Ragwort on Uley Bury July 21



Councillors and other volunteers gave their time, many hours in some cases, clearing ragwort from Uley Bury.

#### Bridle gates replaced August 21

Three bridle gates at Cam Peak were replaced. The committee's Footpath Warden acted as liaison with different groups, to achieve this, including the Cotswold Wardens who installed the gates. Mid Cotswolds Tracks and Trails Group awarded a £200 grant towards the gates.





#### Information Board at Cam Peak Aug-Oct 21



The Information Board was retrieved after going missing and was back in place in October thanks to the help of the Cotswold wardens who built a new frame.

#### Horse Box home, Cam Peak Sept 21- current



The horse box camper reported by several residents remains at Cam Peak parking area. The Neighbourhood Warden met the camper to offer help to move from the site. SDC have started legal proceedings for removal.

#### Cockshoot Wood, Dursley, Improvements

Our Footpath Warden has worked closely with the Cotswold Wardens, GCC Rights of Way officer and other relevant persons to organise improvements at different sites:



The much used stile and steep steps on the lower path has been fixed and made safe.



The Jackdaw Quarry fence, which our committee is not responsible for but, in order to make that area of the woods safe, has

coordinated, through our Footpath Warden, to mend it.



## Community Grant payments

Organisation	Grant received	Summary of spend and project update
Cam Sports Club	£2,000.00	There have been a few delays but I am pleased to inform you that the work is now expected to be completed in the next 6 weeks.
Cotswold Vale Talking Newspaper	£75.00	<p>The Cotswold Vale Talking Newspaper volunteers have been recording the news for disabled and visually impaired listeners in Cam all through the last 2 years, mostly from their own homes. Last autumn we wished to return to the studio in Kingshill House to read - many of the volunteers don't have the technical devices to record at home and listeners get used to hearing familiar voices reading to them.</p> <p>So they have been returning to the studio gradually. However, we are very aware that many of our volunteers are of retired age and older and we wished to provide a safe environment for them to return to. For this, we needed a Carbon Dioxide monitor that tells you how well the room is ventilated and when rising carbon dioxide levels indicate that the air needs to be circulated and refreshed. A grant from Cam PC enabled us to buy one. It is used every week and reassures us that we are operating at a safe level with the window open. When the level rises, already bundled up in our warm coats this winter, we open more doors and switch on the heater,</p> <p>Thank you for this, our listeners have really appreciated the return of their friendly newsreaders and our volunteers are now all taking turns to come in again and take part.</p>
Sunset Drop-in	£350.00	
Arthur S Winterbotham Memorial Hall	£1,000.00	<p>The Grant was received December 2021 to pay for the insulation of the Side Corridor on Memorial Hall. The Grant applied for was £1800 and you agreed to a grant of £1000 so we had to put the project into our schedule of work and find a slot for the work to be done with the least disruption to the Hirers of the Hall.</p> <p>The first slot was taken up because the top coat of the main Hall refreshment we had done had to be repeated. Next slot wasn't used because of our Hall Manager having Covid which then went into melt down because our heating system failed. This took all our attention and rescheduling several weeks of visits by the heating engineers.</p> <p>Anyway we now have to seek a slot convenient to us when the builder is available. Not easy because they are all so busy. We will concentrate on it but it is unlikely to be for a month or two.</p> <p>The Grant is reserved in our accounts and will be used for the purpose it was intended.</p>
Woodfield Community Centre	£1,500.00	We received quotes and have appointed a contractor to do the re-pointing work. It was agreed it would be wise to wait until

		the worst of the frosty weather had passed before getting the work done, so we are now waiting for the builder to give us a date to start in the fairly near future.
Dursley & District Assoc. for Transport of Frail & Elderly	£500.00	
Holding Hands at GL11	£71.41	

## **Dursley & Cam Youth Services**

Councillor Ben Wilkes

**Funding:** The Door had obtained funding to provide a session for young people on the spectrum, 1 session would be held in Cam/Dursley.

**Equipment Review:** A new games console/games and a hot-chocolate machine were requested for The Vibe

**Update by The Door Youth Project:** There had been some staffing changes but there had been a smooth transition with good behaviour in the youth sessions. Noah is building relationships at Rednock School and the local community.

The young people have been taking ownership of the sessions, creating playlists and session ideas e.g. a comedy evening. Two sessions had been cancelled due to training and covid absences.

## **Cam and Dursley Youth Forum**

### **Summary for Cam Parish Annual Assembly April 2022**

Team has very successfully met virtually for the last 18 months; most recent meeting was held face to face.

Excellent progress has been made on the level and depth of engagement with young people of both Cam and Dursley.

The number of youths engaged has also increased following additional engagement at Cam Woodfield's school.

Work on releasing relevant and targeted social media content has also driven social media interaction higher with a continuous upward trend over the last year.

More centre-based sessions have restarted following the relaxation of Covid rules

The recent memorial event was successfully held at jubilee.

Councillor Stewart Angell

## **Cam and Dursley Transportation Group**

Councillor Ben Wilkes

**Stagecoach** - Gloucestershire County Council are conducting a bus improvement survey for the whole county. This will be followed by a public consultation. GCC will be organising a meeting in October with local councils and local transport groups. It has become apparent that Stagecoach do not inform local councils of changes to bus services. On 22 September Bill Carr (Integrated Transport Unit) met a local resident and County Councillor John Bloxson to discuss whether a dedicated bus service for Cam and Dursley station is feasible.

The Real Time Indicators at Dursley Bus Station and Cam and Dursley Station are out of action, being updated

**Cam and Dursley station photographs** - Funding from GWR for new photographic posters on the station. These will replace the photographs which have been there for a few years. The photographic theme will be people who have made a difference in their communities in the past year. A professional photographer will be used. Local councils will be contacted to ask them to submit names of people in their communities.

### **Report from Wendy Thomas**

Ongoing pandemic restrictions in 2021 prevented CDTG from holding a wider public meeting, but the core committee met in person in September.

Much of our activity in the second half of 2021 related to the devastating impacts of the timetable changes to Stagecoach West's bus service in August. The new timetables saw the withdrawal of any bus service from Cam & Dursley to the railway station, which had a huge and negative impact on commuters and leisure travelers. The new timetables also coincided with a serious worsening of bus service reliability, with months of cancellations and disruption. On some days, as many as 60 services were cancelled in Stroud district, causing huge difficulties for people trying to get to work, school, hospital appointments. The reasons for the chaos included driver shortages, Covid-impacts and pay issues. The disruption was compounded by a lack of communication about the changes overall and on a daily basis—residents without access to Twitter or the Stagecoach app were often left stranded at bus shelters.

CDTG attended a meeting with Gloucestershire County Council's Integrated Transport Unit in October to discuss the Stagecoach crisis. Whilst the services are now somewhat more stable, there are still issues with driver shortages.

CDTG also responded to the two consultations held by GCC on its Bus Service Improvement Plan, which promised vast improvements in local bus provision. Sadly, central government has drastically cut the funding for bus service improvements (from over 3 billion to 1.2 billion) and Gloucestershire is one of many local authorities that will not receive any additional funding at all.

## Stinchcombe Hill Trust Annual Report 2021-22

Stinchcombe Hill is an exceptional Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty noted for superb views from the Cotswold Way above steep slopes in all directions and supporting a wide biodiversity of flora and wildlife. Large areas of the summit and hillsides including three Sites of Special Scientific Interest support important areas of Unimproved Cotswold Limestone Grassland.

Over 200 acres are registered with the Charity Commissioners and administered by a Trust which promotes public access for walking and horse-riding plus a full access condition for the Hill Parishes in partnership with the Historic Stinchcombe Hill Golf Course. A joint intensive programme by local conservation volunteers and the Golf Club to restore viewpoints and hillsides to grassland from scrub and tree incursion has enabled the new Cotswold Trail to fully circle The Hill and pass through two lost glades.

### Volunteer input

The volunteer conservation group directed by Dr Wiltshire increased the number of hours worked, on Stinchcombe Hill this year. This included two days of brush cutting and three days of clearing and burning brash from felled Ash trees, some around Drakestone Point.

In August a large area of Hemp Agrimony at the south end of carpark slope was brush cut to prevent further seeding of this rapidly spreading plant.

The village green was moved as was the grass triangle to the south of the Golf Club carpark. This is an important conservation task because grassland can lose some biodiversity if left for too long. The following weeks were spent raking off and cutting back some scrub and low branches along the bridleway on the east side of this area as far as the Clubhouse.

In November the volunteers began a season of clearing and widening footpaths and bridleways all around the Hill. This is something that had not been tackled for many years and consequently will take the rest of the season.

Several dead birch trees at the south end of carpark slope, clearing storm debris and fallen branches and trees from paths after storm *Barra* in December.

A Christmas work party congregated on the north side of the Hill clearing scrub from in front of the shelter.

The search has been on for boundary stones around Drakestone Point and with reasonable success. The search goes on.

In February three big storms hit, *Dudley*, *Eunice* and *Franklin*, and the latter caused the most damage around the Hill resulting in a mass of twigs and small branches and a few small dead trees having to be cleared away.

## Stinchcombe Hill Trust Annual Report 2021-22

### **Contractor input**

A contractor was used to fell infected Ash trees along the southern bridleway to ensure protection of the bridleway and the drystone wall along the edge. The brash was chipped on site and deposited in a quarry within the woods outside of the SSSI. The timber was removed from the site.

### **Ash Dieback**

Ash dieback continues to be a problem and is getting worse and further felling will be needed in certain places to ensure safety.

### **Natural England inspection**

Natural England inspected all the SSSI areas on the Hill in Oct 21 and investigated the NE boundary of Sheep Path Wood SSSI where it joins Cam and Dursley Woods. The outcome of the inspection was satisfactory.

### **Back from the Brink – Limestone living grasslands**

In 2017 Back from the Brink funded some work on the Hill to benefit the endangered Rockrose Pot-Beetle. The work was interrupted due to the pandemic but a residual funding has been sourced to complete the work.

### **Grazing**

Grazing on Stinchcombe Hill has taken place in the past successfully and from a conservation point of view is encouraged by Natural England.

There may be an opportunity to reinstate grazing through a scheme with the National Trust who have a herd of Belted Galloway cows. Further talks are taking place and issues such as water supply and volunteers are under discussion.

### **Tools**

The conservation has managed for a long time with borrowed tools to which he no longer has access and therefore the Trust will be required to purchase some hand tools.

### **Signage on the Hill**

The Trust committee has been working on an Information Board to be placed on the Hill.

### **Skylarks**

Temporary signs are being put up every year now to request that dog walkers keep dogs on a lead during the nesting season for skylarks.

### **Website**

A new website is under construction for the Trust by a volunteer supporter of Stinchcombe Hill.



## **Woodfield Youth & Community Centre**

The Woodfield Youth & Community Centre is owned by the community and run by a group of trustees representing Woodfield Residents' Association, the parish council and local residents, who meet every couple of months to oversee the management.

Having been closed for months due to Covid, the centre opened its doors again last summer. The Door youth worker continues to be based there and holds two youth sessions a week and we have been pleased to welcome the army and air cadets on three evenings. Another new regular hirer is Woodfield Tots which provides soft play for local toddlers and a place for a chat for their carers. There is now a monthly community market with a variety of stalls and the centre is also available for hire for private parties and events.

Relaxing of Covid restrictions has enabled the management committee to catch up on necessary works to the building. Grants from the Parish Council have helped with works including the purchase of new fire doors, and long needed repairs to the building's pointing and roof. The grounds are kept under control by a volunteer group (mostly the management committee) who have cut back overgrown shrubs and trimmed and mown the grass.

Some of the committee have been members since the 1980s, and now wish to step back from their responsibilities; people with enthusiasm and commitment would be welcomed to join the committee and help to keep this valuable community asset going.

Miranda Clifton, March 2022

### **Cam Institute Charity**

This is a small charity which derives its income from capital acquired from the sale of the Cam Institute building in Station Road. Its purpose is “to provide or assist in the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation for the benefit of the inhabitants of the Parish of Cam in the interests of social welfare with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants.”

The trustees are Cam residents, two of whom are nominated by Cam Parish council, who meet two or three times a year. It gives out relatively small grants to local organisations once a year. Any local organisation which is open to the people of Cam may apply for funding. Grants this year were made to the following organisations: Cotswold Vale Talking Newspaper; Hopton School House; All sorts Gloucestershire; Dursley Open Door; Winterbotham Memorial Hall; The DODs.

Miranda Clifton, May 2022

## **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 in Dursley and surrounding parishes. This year the charity merged with the Dursley based Twemlow Trust whose funds had become too small to make it a viable body on its own. The objects of the two charities - relief of poverty and education - were sufficiently similar to make this possible.

The DUC provides three types of grants: to help people with further/higher 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.

As well as the individual education grants and those for immediate relief of poverty, the following organisations received grants from DUC this year: Stroud District Food Bank; All Sorts Charity; Rednock Young Carers; Cotswold Vale Talking Newspaper; Dursley & District Old People's Welfare Committee; Friday Lunch Club; GL11 Community Hub; Treetops Nursery; the Summer Creative Arts Project and the Wonder Wander Trail.

Miranda Clifton, May 2022

## **Blooming Cam**

We are now an established group of volunteers who meet every Wednesday afternoon from March to October with the aim brightening up the centre of Cam. With just five of us we limited our ambitions at first to looking after the flowerbeds around the war memorial and around the parish office and the café. We moved on to the Hopton War Memorial, where this year we spent some time digging out one of the flower beds, where we planted a new shrub and hope it can become a flower bed rather than a play area. Last year the pathway from the pharmacy to the surgery car park was tidied and brightened up with summer blooms and this spring a couple of volunteers spent several hours clearing the 'catwalk' off Hopton Road.

As well as appreciative comments from passers-by we have been grateful to receive a grant from Magnox which will enable us to buy new planters and gardening tools so we don't have to share or bring our own. Funding from the parish council and donations have enabled us to purchase a water butt and compost bins, in order to further our ambition to be 'greener' gardeners. A generous garden centre voucher from Dursley Lions means we can purchase plants, compost and feed to keep Cam looking colourful.

Thanks are due to the parish council for funding and allowing us to use its premises - and water, and to the chair of the Recreation & Leisure committee who grew many of the lovely annual flowers which kept the flowerbeds so colourful well into the autumn.

We would welcome more volunteers; you don't need to be an expert gardener - just to enjoy spending some time outdoors - so if you would like to join us, please contact volunteer Jo Lewis at Cam Parish Council: 01453 548884.

Miranda Clifton, May 2022

## Summary of project work at Cam Parish Council March 2022

### Jubilee Playing Field



Walking is a popular activity at Jubilee Playing Field, but the old footpath cut straight across the skatepark. Cam Parish Council decided to divert this path by creating a 160-metre route around the MUGA which then re-joins the main pathway. A series of drainage pipes have been laid underneath the new path to prevent the puddling issues which the playing field is prone to.

Contractors AP Transport of Cirencester did the work in the summer of 2021 and the new path was officially opened by Cllr Jon Fulcher, the Chair of Cam PC, and Cllr Fiona Poulter, Chair of the Recreation and Leisure Committee.

The pathway diversion was part of Cam Parish Council's Five-Year Plan to improve Jubilee Playing Field, which is the well-used and much-loved 16-hectare site off Everside Lane.

The next, very exciting part of the scheme will see the creation of two new play areas. The first of these will be a fenced area for toddler aged children and the second will be equipment for junior aged children. Cam Parish Council held a series of public consultations asking people whether they supported the proposal to create new children's play areas and what sort of equipment they wanted to see. These results were fed back to play contractors.



We had lots of fun looking at the inspirational ideas put forward by top play designers but in the end, after using a robust scoring system, Cam Parish Council decided to work with Proludic Ltd. It's hoped work will start in June so that the new play areas can be opened ready for this year's school summer holidays.

The plans for the new play areas are on display at Cam Parish Council, 4 Noel Lee Way, Cam, GL11 5PS. Next on our radar is the car park which we hope to resurface, fence and install a height restriction barrier and then leave open for all to use on a daily basis. Expect an update very soon!

## Hedgerow at Woodfield Play Park



The post and rail perimeter fencing at Woodfield Play Park off Hadley Road is crumbling and needed replacing. Rather than replacing it with another fence, Cam Parish Council recognised the ecological value of hedging and decided to plant a native mixed hedge of hazel, hornbeam, field maple and dogwood instead. This mix of hedging is non-poisonous, disease resistant, relatively slow growing and good for pollination. Cam Parish Council worked with the Tree Council on the project and funding to buy the plants was provided from its Community Hedge Fund. The old fence has been left in place for now to give protection to the young hedging which is hoped will be enjoyed by Cam parishioners and wildlife for years to come.

## Celebration Lights

The trees in the centre of Cam are due to be wrapped in warm white celebration lights ready to be switched on for the first time in June in honour of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The festoon lights previously used in the trees were so heavy they had to be removed after each Christmas because they sagged and caused a health and safety issue. The new lights can be left in the trees and switched on for all community celebrations. The lights will be regularly checked and loosened as the trees grow. The lights will go into seven Hawthorn and Beech trees along Noel Lee Way and High Street. Funding for the project was provided by Gloucestershire County Council's Build Back Better scheme.



## Cam stile replacement project



Five crumbling stiles in the Littlecombe to Drake Lane area of Cam are being replaced with kissing gates to create a stile-free route for walkers. The stiles are on public footpaths crossing fields and are part of the Cam Accessible Paths Project which aims to improve access to the countryside and create circular walks for people of all abilities. This is a joint project funded by Cam Parish Council, installed by Cotswold Wardens and supported by the landowners.



## **Rackleaze Nature Area**

Rackleaze Nature Area is owned by Tesco but leased by Cam Parish Council. It's an important feeding site for birds, bats and insects and it's hoped that one day this area will reach the status of a Local Wildlife Area (LWA).

Stroud Valleys Project has the maintenance contract to improve and maintain this important nature area.

Plans for Rackleaze involve encouraging more wildlife and pollinating insects to visit and live at the site. This could mean more planting, digging out a pond and safe viewing points and clearings for wildlife to bask.



Green volunteers are needed to help at Rackleaze and if anyone is interested please contact the Cam Parish Council office.

**Report by Jo Lewis, Project Officer at Cam Parish Council.**

## **Chair's report for Recreation and Leisure Committee, April 2022**

I have been chairing Recreation and Leisure Committee for the last 3 years and to say it has been challenging would be an understatement. May I thank the Clerk and staff for keeping us in line. I would also like to thank our contractor for the extra work he undertook due to the Jubilee Field becoming a much-used asset for our residents.

In the 3 years I have been Chair we started on a 5-year plan of improvements at Jubilee field which has taken longer than expected to execute due to the Covid restrictions

The following improvements have been implemented

1. Cleared away old chain link fencing and installed a new post and rail fence with sheep fencing at the bottom of Jubilee field
2. CCTV installed at the Jubilee pavilion
3. The entrance to the field has been widened with a pedestrian walkway added
4. A major installation of a new section of diverted tarmac perimeter footpath which avoided the section of the path that became waterlogged during the winter, also allowing walkers to walk to the side of the Skatepark and not walk across it
5. After many council meetings and consultations with the residents of Cam Parish we now have the much-awaited Toddler and Junior playgrounds at Jubilee on order with Proludic, which hopefully will be ready for the summer of 2022.
6. We have installed 2 plastic bag dispensers at Jubilee for owner's /dog walkers to remove and dispose of dog waste in the bins located around the park.

At this time, we are considering improvements to the car park This may not be completed until a later date.

As all residents may be aware we have a problem with parking at Jubilee Field, this being mainly because Everside lane is a Restricted Byway and while we have access for our guests, we only have parking for around 35 cars. The field is registered with Fields in Trust which does not allow parking on the field other than the designated areas.

We would ask local residents to walk to the Jubilee field or car share to help with parking.

The Clerk and Councillors have been having exhaustive discussions with Persimmon Builders and the owners of the land on the opposite side of Everside lane to Jubilee field, requesting a dedicated car park for Jubilee field directly opposite the pavilion with access across Everside lane.

This is something the next R&L Chair, staff and committee will be dealing with as an ongoing need for parking increased at Jubilee Field.

### **Rackleaze Nature Area**

We have for many years leased the section of land behind Tesco as a nature reserve. Over the last two years' improvements have been made to the site and this should continue with the help of services of Stroud Valley Projects to oversee the upkeep of the site volunteers.

This is an ongoing project should you wish to become involved in volunteering to help at this site. please enquire at the Council Office.

## **Allotments**

The R&L committee decided to halve some allotments when they became available due to them being on the large size, this allows them to be a more manageable size for modern family requirements. We now have over 100 allotments for our residents in Cam, demand was high during Covid but has now levelled out, so you may be offered an allotment quicker than before.

Unfortunately, people underestimate how much work is involved when taking on an allotment and give up after a year. We would ask allotment holders to hand back allotments to the Council so they can be re-let as soon as possible to avoid them becoming overgrown. The cost to the council to clear allotments for re-letting has become a problem and is a financial burden to the council.

## **Playgrounds**

We improved the climbing frame at Cam Green and had replacement matting at Woodfields.

The new Chair and R&L committee will have more projects coming forward in 2022 and thereafter.

I personally would like to thank Jo Lewis our current Projects Officer who has done such a wonderful job, bringing all the projects we have worked on together to completion. Without Jo I doubt we could have achieved so much.

I would also like to thank Lucy and Jenny for all the work they have done over the last 3 years, together with the Councillors who may have found me demanding at times but hard work brings its own rewards looking at what we have accomplished for the community in my time as Chair.

I will be stepping down as a Councillor for Cam when the playgrounds at Jubilee field have been completed and look forward to time with my family and some quiet time on my allotment, not thinking about meetings, football, playgrounds etc etc. I may at last get some sleep at night.

Councillor Fiona Poulter  
Chair of Recreation & Leisure committee.

## County Council Report

Councillor Brian Tipper

The County has a Conservative lead Council in the Chamber. I serve on the County Council Audit and Governance Police and Crime Panel, Fire and Rescue and Traffic Regulation Committee. I also serve on other Committees when needed or asked.

**Budget** - The predominant aims of the Council have always remained the same. That is the care of the Elderly, the Vulnerable and the Young. Children in care in the County have doubled in the last four years. Every year a draft budget is published to give the public the opportunity to review and to express their viewpoints and to change the priorities. On top of the usual inflation increase of the budget figure for the elderly a ring-fenced figure is added.

**Adoption and Fostering** - has been promoted widely and figures have risen in both cases as a result.

**Schools** - Capacity levels are being looked at almost as we speak. The Secondary Schools are causing concern with the lack of capacity

**Fibre** - No doubt you have all seen and suffered the inconvenience of the fibre installations taking place. The teams always want you to know that they need to do what they need to do. At the same time, they are very apologetic. They are making good progress.

**Highways** - I reported last year that we had fared well from the increased budgets with many of our roads being resurfaced. Wherever possible that is being done. Second to that is patches and lastly potholes. We have had one of those winters where rain freeze, and thaw have wreaked havoc on our roads. We must recognise and accept that underlying water levels in many of our roads are causing the pothole problems. The weather itself prevents repairs to be done. Together with utility repairs badly done. I have identified several roads that need resurfacing and reported them for the work to be done. Junctions are still under review on the A4135. Reporting problems online now have made things a lot easier. The 08000 514 514 number is now used as an emergency number.

**Cam and Dursley Station** - Currently improvement work is being done at the station including making better use of the facilities, more parking spaces, better and more cycle facilities as well as motorcycle space. Increased bus services are still being demanded. We must remember that Stonehouse Station is now becoming more of a reality. We have to watch that space. Late train arrivals from Bristol are still causing problems meeting waiting buses.

**Broadband** - as I have mentioned before Fibre continues to be rolled out throughout the area. I do know that many connections have been made and the existing service has improved immensely.

**Grants** - all grant monies available to me have been taken up. I was successful in everyone applied for. Accepting of course the current Community Grant which has a few years to run yet

## Cam Neighbourhood Development Plan

Councillor Christina Carter

A Referendum relating to the adoption of the Cam Neighbourhood Development Plan was held for the Cam Neighbourhood Area on Thursday 6 May 2021 at the time of local elections.

On that day the people of Cam voted in the majority to adopt the Plan, meaning that Stroud District Council, the Local Planning Authority, will use the Neighbourhood Plan for Cam to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area.

Approval of this NDP puts Cam in an empowering position. Cam Parish Council can use as a constant guide and reference point in pre-application meetings with developers and discuss proposals in the context of the Plan and its highlighted policies.

- So for example – Environment and Sustainability is a priority and the Plan specifies the policy of Protecting and improving our Green Infrastructure network to ensure a high quality environment for residents, including those with mobility issues and wildlife.
- Developers will be supported only where they reinforce locally distinctive characteristics within the village. One of those characteristics is the very sylvan and green nature of the area – that is the extensive number of trees, snickets, road side verges, hedges, valued views and so on.
- Movement and connectivity in the area is key and policies encourage the further promotion of foot paths and cycle ways in particular
- Community Facilities and services must be protected as part of any new development – including Local Green Spaces of course
- Employment sites also must be protected
- Proposals that contribute to the vitality and attractiveness of Cam Village Centre will be supported

The Plan received many compliments and was even short listed for RIBA award. But that's not the end of the story. Councillors and residents need to use it to the benefit of the community.

Our district council are under pressure from government to build 12800 new houses by 2040. Cam is a primary focus for strategic growth and development in the southern half of the Stroud district. Currently in Cam 690 houses have been given the go ahead. There is a pending application in from Persimmon to build 1100, on a site that was identified by Stroud for 700 at Draycott, with an expected application for a further 450 since a landowner has sold his land there.

And further to that the fields behind Tesco, which attract hundreds of walkers, are earmarked for another 150-450 houses. This latter is something that local people seem ardently against does not fit with the NDP. This could be the test then for its strength and of those using it.





## **Stroud and Gloucestershire Parish and Town Charter Groups**

Councillor Jonathan Bishop

These groups give parish and town councillors within the locality the chance to meet - by Zoom since the pandemic - and receive information from and raise questions with council officers. In the case of the Gloucestershire County Council Charter Group there is usually a presentation from an expert followed by questions. In the case of the Stroud Town and Parish Information Network there are usually reports from each head of services followed by questions. I usually ask for an update on Dursley Police and Fire Station and feed this back at council meetings.

## **Gloucestershire and Stroud Stronger and Safer Partnership**

Councillor Jonathan Bishop

This group usually involves meetings between a nominated parish councillors and the local police and crime commissioner, including the annual launch of the police and crime commissioner's strategy and attending other events in which the Gloucestershire Constabulary are present within Stroud. It was originally the main way parish councillors would engage with the Gloucestershire Constabulary, but recent initiatives have included weekly meetings with the police, 'Safer Gloucestershire' and 'Safe Routes to School'.

## **Cam, Dursley & Uley Greenway 2022 Report for Cam Parish Council Annual Assembly**

The last year was another when significant progress was hoped to be made but due to the ongoing impact of the Coronavirus pandemic progress, has quite rightly, slowed with County/District Officers focused elsewhere and developers progress slowed. That said the team have continued to meet regularly and move the project forwards as much as possible.

Key area of focus during the last year have been –

Dursley to Uley section – c.80% of the required £10,000 funding for a full technical survey with costing for building this part of the route has been secured. Following meetings with two prospective consultancy companies Sustrans have been selected. We are acutely aware that many Uley residents are keen for their children to be able to cycle Rednock School and Dursley/Cam generally.

Working with St Modwen to ensure the route is completed through Littlecombe and to plan an opening ceremony later in 2022.

With Stroud District Council we continue to work with the developers of the Northeast Cam Development to ensure that the agreed Greenway route is built including a section alongside the riverside to Cam & Dursley Station. Part of the route is open and being used.

Meetings and site visits held with Gloucestershire County Council Highways Design Team and their contractors Atkins regarding design of on-road sections of the route – Littlecombe to Church Road/Everlands junction; Everlands/Station Road junction via Rowley/Chapel Street to Winterbotham Hall; Ferney to Lister Road and an alternative to Ewelme Close footpath/bridleway.

The entire route has been walked, photographed, and documented to identify issues and support route development activities.

We participated in Gloucestershire County Council consultation regarding their Local Cycling Walking & Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) and will be providing more detailed, written information.

Provided input to Stroud District Council Cycling & Walking Task and Finish Group – the aim of this group is to drive delivery of GCC LWCIP and realise SDC's wider Active Travel ambitions.

An online petition was launched via Change.org and signatures have also been collected via local shops and a stall in Parsonage Street. Nearly a thousand signatures have been collected but more are needed from the local community to give real strength to the petition.

Phil Littleford