



Cam Parish Council

Annual Reports 2023

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Chair's Annual Report

Chair of Cam Parish Council Cllr Jonathan Fulcher

This year has largely been a positive one with some major national events featuring heavily along the way.

In June 2022 we celebrated Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee with a day of events on Friday 3rd culminating in lighting a beacon on Cam Peak. This contrasted with the more sombre events that marked the Queen's State Funeral on the 19th of September and the inauguration of King Charles III just days before.

In October we could finally officially open our new play areas in the Jubilee Playing Field. The weather was smiling on us and the event, led by our new Project Officer, ably supported by officers and a good representation of councillors was a huge success and well attended by residents far and wide.

This was followed by the most ambitious Christmas celebration we have organised for some years (thanks to the pandemic) and again was enjoyed by good crowds under favourable skies.

Other highlights have been the increasing awareness by Cam residents of matters affecting us all such as development and infrastructure needs with our council's public engagement reflecting this alongside the first public survey in recent times which attempted to reach as many local people as possible. Our offices have played host to developers presenting ideas to both councillors and parishioners and we have welcomed the growing involvement of District councillors in our meetings as we go through the process of legal challenge and scrutiny of Stroud District Council's new Local Development Plan.

Against the backdrop of the first war in Europe for over 75 years, a cost-of-living crisis and the ongoing existential challenges of climate change our Parish Council has been mindful of remaining relevant and helping the community through events, grants and donations. It has to be noted with regret that some excellent councillors have left our ranks this year but we are lucky that guiding us through and providing continuity are our officers who, with the addition of the aforementioned project officer, have steered council through another momentous year and have faced all challenges, including several illegal occupations, with fairness and good humour. As Chair, I thank them for all their hard work this year. I also welcome the new councillors that have stepped into the breach to lend us their energy and talents.

Personally, with the gratefully received cooperation of agencies like Stroud Valleys Project and GL11, I have taken part in public engagement events with a strong environmental theme such as a bat walk and bird nesting box making session while combining volunteering with work parties at the Rackleaze site near Cam Memorial Hall with overseeing this green space for the parish council as we aim to improve the area for nature and people.

Another example of cooperative ventures overseen by Cam PC has been the initiation of a Monday "Munch Club" at the Woodfield Community Centre whereby participants from Cam's youth took part in sessions organised by our Youth provision contractor, The Door, supported by Kerry Foods, concentrating on nutrition, budgeting and life skills.

It is just left for me to thank my fellow councillors and the residents of Cam for rising to the challenges 2022/23 has posed and making such a positive contribution.

Vice Chair's Annual Report

Councillor Mark Morton

Wow where has the last 12 months gone since I was voted to be Vice Chair

Lots has changed over those 12 months, we have lost people from the council and thankfully gained people. I think more younger people should join us to have a voice and be heard and to represent the youth within our ever-growing parish

We have used our flagpole to raise St Georges flag and also having a period of flag at half-mast due to the passing of Queen Elizabeth II.

We had a fabulous Christmas Fayre that seemed to be well liked by the Parish and all involved.

I have supported the Chair when required standing in for the Chair when he was unable to attend.

I feel in the last 12 months I have learned a lot but still willing to learn more to make me efficient in my roles.

Patient Participation Group

Councillor Jon Fulcher

We have met three times so far this year with Jonathan Pape serving as chair, hosted each time by the Cam and Uley practice near Glebelands.

The year has been dominated by new appointments with a new practice manager and many incoming staff from doctors to a paramedic and an increase in administration support staff and frontline nurses. We have had valuable feedback regarding the challenges faced, had the ability to question and correct certain aspects of policy, overcome difficulties around covid vaccination clinics and made suggestions about how to face the challenges facing Cam posed by new development in our part of the district. The recent sudden resignation of the latest practice manager has delayed the last meeting of the committee and we still wait for an opportunity to conclude the calendar year as of the date of writing this report.

Cam, Dursley and Uley Joint Woodlands Management Committee
ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23, Chair Christina Carter

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 (SDC – the land 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 – all of which are environmentally sensitive:

- 40 Hectares of woodland in Dursley (Cockshoot Wood) and Cam (Sheep Path Wood & Westfield Wood) that comprise of rare ancient woodland
- 31 Hectares of grassland at Cam Long Down and Cam Peak
- 5 Hectares of 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 a 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 Parishes

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
- RPA (Rural Payments Agency)
- Cam Parish Council
- Dursley Town Council
- Uley Parish Council
- Donations in kind from Cotswold Wardens
- Occasional donations

Meetings

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

General Report

The management committee has spent the year addressing regular maintenance tasks such as dealing with broken fences and gates, fallen trees (many this year caused by storms), blocked footpaths, scrub cutting, bracken cutting, supervising grazing arrangements, and general conservation.

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 plants and wildlife. They require specialist knowledge to maintain and conserve them. Advice is taken from our Land Manager, the Forestry Commission and other bodies. Grazing at Cam Peak and Uley Bury is an important element of the conservation programme.

Some of the issues that have challenged us in previous years continue. This includes ash dieback, a disease that is killing ash trees across the nation and as a result stretching land owners and managers' resources.

Anti-social behaviour such as littering, illegal camping and damage to trees, the forest floor and grasslands, although less than during the pandemic, continues to be a concern also.

Income over the year totalled 17917.64. Expenditure has been well within funds available over the year but is expected to rise over the coming year particularly in order to address ash dieback.

Specific events

Summary report on rules when using open access land

Councillor Martin, representing Uley on the committee, produced a welcomed report on the Country and Rights of Way Acts that apply to our land and what visitors can and cannot do there. It was useful for committee members to have the information presented in such an accessible way. For readers of this annual report, here are the main points of his report that highlight what visitors may and may not do on open access land such as that the committee looks after:

The CROW Act has a list of general restrictions that limit what people using their open access rights may do, unless permission to do something on the list is given, or the right to do something already exists.

They cannot:

- ride a horse or bicycle – except on a bridleway
- drive a vehicle
- bring an animal, other than a dog
- camp
- play organised games
- hang-glide or paraglide
- use a metal detector
- run commercial activities on the land such as:
 - trade or sell
 - charge other visitors for things they do on your land o
film, photograph or make maps
- remove, damage, or destroy any plant, shrub, tree or root with intent
- light, cause or risk a fire
- damage hedges, fences, walls, crops or anything else on the land
- leave gates open, that are not propped or fastened open
- leave litter
- disturb livestock, wildlife or habitats with intent
- post any notices
- commit any criminal offence

What people can do on your land:

- walk
- sightsee
- bird-watch
- climb
- run

There's a general rule that visitors using their open access rights **must keep dogs on a short lead of no more than 2 metres between 1 March and 31 July each year** during the nesting season and at all times near livestock.

Cam Peak at Easter 2022



The procession and the placing of the cross on Cam Peak by Churches Together at Easter 2022 went smoothly.

The committee is not responsible for the safety of this popular and traditional procession but had strengthened the 100 year old flag staff to which the cross is attached as part of its general maintenance work at Cam Peak and to ensure that it is preserved as part of the area's historical heritage.

There was a bumper crop of bluebells on the Peak this year – attracting many walkers and visitors.

Resignations and new members

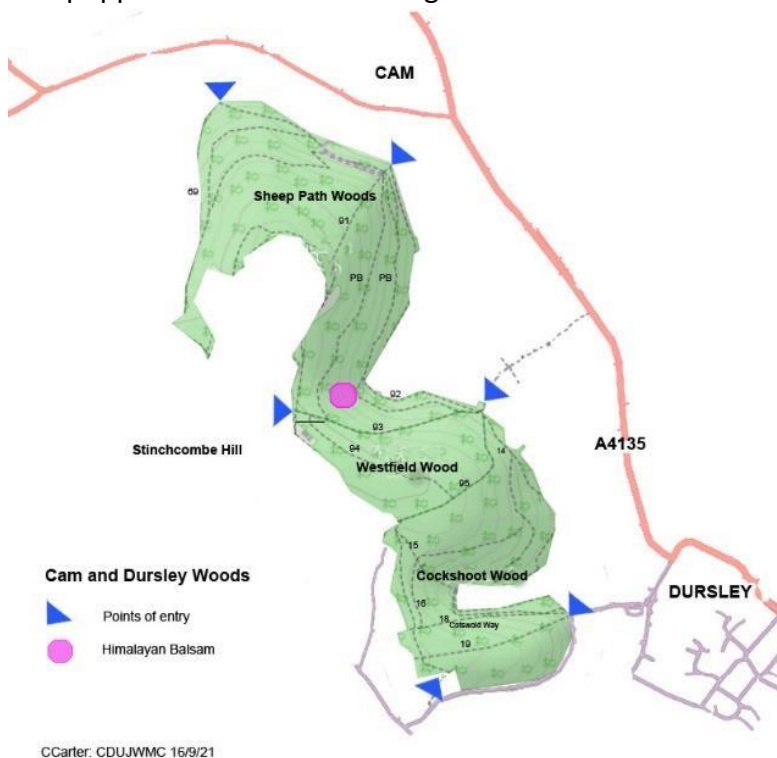
Thanks were given to Cllr Mike Grimshaw, representing Cam, who resigned after several years of contributing to CDUJWMC. A new member was voted onto the committee from Cam Parish Council and the committee welcomed Cllr Jon Fulcher (who is also Chairman at Cam PC).

A new clerk who had come into position in Jan 22 resigned in October 22 due to other commitments. Our thanks and best wishes were given to her. The role of the clerk has been carried out by the chair for the rest of the year.

Our officer and main contact with Stroud District Council retired at the end of March 23. Thanks, and best wishes, were given to her at a final meeting in which the chair and vice chair, the Path Warden and Land Manager met with her and her two SDC colleagues including the new incoming Biodiversity officer. The opportunity to network and to discuss future management of the areas we look after, post covid and in the light of the climate change crisis, was welcomed and valued by all that attended.

Conservation work: controlling Himalayan balsam in Cam and Dursley Woods

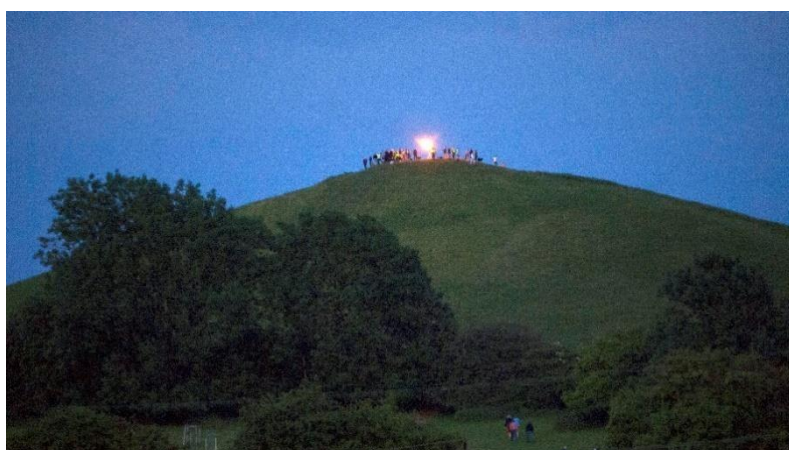
The committee's Path Warden had observed an increase, annually, in Himalayan balsam in the woods and it was decided that work over and above the normal amount required to address the issue was necessary and this was approved by the committee. Together with the land manager and the Chair, the Path Warden organised working parties approximately once a week from April onwards to get as much pulled before it flowered and popped out seeds all over again.



The plant is problematic because it is invasive, spreads fast and competes with native plants for light, nutrients pollinators and space, reducing biodiversity rapidly.

We are grateful to all the volunteers from the committee, the Cotswolds Wardens and the Stinchcombe Hill Trust and other members of the public who attended these working parties. It is estimated that the crop before the work parties started may have covered an area as big as 2 acres and work will take place to contain further spread on an annual basis.

Beacon for the Queen's Jubilee



A Beacon was lit on Cam Peak for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. This was organised by Cam Parish Council who were mindful of the regeneration of grass project there. It was a spectacular sight. All went well – no problems were reported.

Long Down wildflowers



The wildflowers on all of our sites were spectacular this year. The picture shows pyramidal orchids on the Long Down.

The conservation work carried out by the committee through our land manager is designed to encourage an environment in which native wild flowers, butterflies and wild life can flourish. The committee gives thanks for the enormous expertise he brings to the work we do.

Tree Survey in Cam and Dursley Woods

Stroud District Council, under the supervision of our committee's SDC officer, carried out a tree survey to identify dangerous trees and ash dieback in the woods. This has provided an order of priority for a felling programme over the next year. Visitors will observe many trees marked up for removal especially where they are near paths or roads.

Regeneration of grass on top of Cam Peak



The grass on Cam Peak has continued to regenerate well – see inside the fence in LH picture. It shows also that the path outside the fence is very bald. The fence has been reversed to continue the regeneration of grass there also. It needs to be done this way because of the ecological importance of the area. It is unimproved acidic grassland which is a 'priority habitat' under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. The acid soils of Cam Peak are uncommon in this part of Gloucestershire and contain interesting and some rare plants such as Sheep's-sorrel, Bird's-foot, Sea Mouse-ear, Early Hair-grass, Trailing Tormentil, Heath Bedstraw and Western Gorse.



Other repair work has been carried out on the Peak including filling holes that have been deliberately dug by visitors perhaps unaware that this is not allowed or of the damage it causes to this sensitive environment.

Uley Bury: removal of young hazel and ash

This is an ongoing project particularly on the SW bank carried out by a volunteer group in collaboration with our land manager. Help has also been offered by the Cotswold Wardens group in the area. Thanks go to all involved including the Uley footpath warden.

The volunteer group also carried out some coppicing and bramble clearance and our land manager spot treated ragwort following a fairly extensive pull last year.

Cam, Dursley and Uley Joint Woodlands Management Committee

Councillor Jonathan Fulcher

I fully endorse and support the annual report composed by Christina Carter. Since joining this external committee as Cam's second representative I have experienced Cllr Carter's resignation from Cam Parish Council leaving me as the sole Cam PC member (this will be addressed at the forthcoming Cam Annual Parish Assembly) with Christina remaining as chair of the CDUJWMC and me becoming vice-chair.

The recent loss of the latest clerk was a blow and thanks should be extended to Christina for stepping into the breach with the support of the committee and Stroud District Council. I thank the retiring SDC officer who has sat on this committee as their rep and all my other fellow committee members for their welcome and encouragement as I begin a familiarisation process involving the processes and areas under the committee's control in order to make a more effective contribution.

The financial position of the committee is stable and healthy with the land manager's efforts being reflected in new land management grant agreements being secured through the rural payment scheme.

Stinchcombe Hill Trust Annual Report 2022-23

Christina Carter

The Cotswold AONB is now known as the Cotswold Natural Landscape and the Trust owns a small part of this landscape managing it in partnership with the historic Stinchcombe Hill Golf club and local parishes. The land includes three SSSI that are notable habitats for butterflies, invertebrates and associated flora.

Over 200 acres of Stinchcombe Hill are registered with the Charity Commissioners and administered by the Trust which promotes conservation as well as public access for walking and horse-riding.

Conservation

The Vice-Chair gives a conservation report at every meeting. He coordinates a conservation volunteer group that provide many hours of conservation work every year. Tasks undertaken this year included grass cutting, brush and scrub cutting, bridleway/path clearance and conservation activities (butterfly surveys and habitat maintenance for the Rock Beetle) continued. Extra tree felling is being addressed as a result of ash dieback and a special collaborative project identified the boundary stones between the Hill and Stancombe Park Estate (SPE).

The golf club also works with the Trust, forging links between the club and walkers but also in respect of conservation and have contributed time and resources to grass cutting certain areas, some tree felling and rewilding. The Trust licenced the club to install a water bore hole and will benefit from its installed by being able to access water if required in the future. This could be important if cattle are grazed on the land because they need 36-50 litres a day.

Ash Dieback

Ash dieback continues to be a problem across the country. A survey by the Trust showed 1829 trees were affected on Stinchcombe Hill. These trees have been marked with blue or red paint. Felling is being carried out on an almost daily basis, prioritising those that could become dangerous first, predominantly by a contractor who also removes the timber from the sites. Only 7 ash trees showed no sign of disease; these will not be felled.

Grazing

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.

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

Signage on the Hill

The Trust committee has erected an Information Board about the Hill at the edge of the public car parking area. Another is planned for an area near Drake Stone point

Stinchcombe Hill Trust Annual Report 2022-23

Skylarks

Temporary signs will be go up every year now to request that dog walkers keep dogs on a lead during the nesting season for skylarks.

Stancombe Park

The trust is working closely with a representative trustee from Stancombe Park to pool resources in an area of SSI land that they share to the benefit of both groups.

Website

The SHT website is being developed and maintained by a volunteer supporter of Stinchcombe Hill.

Accessible pathway

A project to make a pathway that is accessible for wheel chairs, across the north side of the Hill to the Stanley Tubbs Memorial shelter view point, has sadly had to be postponed for the time being. This is in large part to do with the amount of ash felling along the proposed route. The hope is that funding will be available to proceed with this in the future.

Benches

New benches are not generally approved by the trust but exceptions can be made where a space is already available. An anonymous donor has requested permission to install and maintain one at their own cost. It is proposed to be sited 100 metres to the west of the entrance to Stinchcombe Hill House. This proposal was approved by Trustees.

Financial update

The trust continues to operate within the limits of its income. Further funding is being sought to aid conservation projects and the felling programme.

Dursley Welcomes Walkers

Richard, Treasurer

Dursley Welcomes Walkers (DWW) constitutional objectives are to promote Dursley, Cam and the surrounding area as an interesting and enjoyable place to visit and enjoy the excellent walking that this area offers. We operate in partnership with the local town council to maintain and progress the Dursley Welcomes Walkers national accreditation.

The DWW Steering Group has three Sub Groups; Walking Festival, Projects and Commercial to address these objectives.

Walking Festival

The Walking Festival Sub Group organised the Annual Festival, held as normal in the first week of October. We wanted to continue with the success of our previous 10th Anniversary Festival. The strategy was to concentrate on walking activities with a smaller walk programme but to introduce new ideas into the schedule. Again, through the diligence of the Steering Group members and Walk Leader volunteers the Festival proved a great success.

The walk programme provided for 29 walks which were carried out over the 5 days attended by approximately 432 walkers. This year we introduced linear walks based on compass points from Dursley with transport provided. This proved very popular, and we will continue with the concept next year by changing the compass points. The Teas & Cakes served on the Sunday for returning walkers and general public alike were again well received with record numbers joining the social get-together.

The Festival ran smoothly with no incidents except for a last minute illness with one of our walk leaders which was difficult to mitigate. DWW was very pleased with the extremely favourable feedback from the public through the media and on the day. Analysis of attendees show that 50% had not previously booked a festival walk before and that 70% were female.

Projects

The Projects Sub Group focused on initiatives to improve access to walking facilities in the Community e.g. year round walks and footpath improvements.

A number of guided walks were organised throughout the year based around the many footpaths close to the Town to encourage people to feel comfortable to explore. This has proved popular and resulted in DWW documenting with maps a number of walks on the DWW website including the keystone walks, the 14 mile Lantern Way and the 16 mile Figure of Eight.

Whilst DWW rely on the volunteer Cotswold Wardens and their working groups to carry out footpath repairs and improvements we highlighted areas requiring work and where possible provided funding for their execution.

In addition, there are plans afoot to gain the necessary approvals to fund and aid installation of more kissing gates and benches in the locality. Sometimes this can be time consuming due to compliance with District Council processes.

Commercial

The Commercial Sub Group provided an additional extension to the new DWW website to facilitate booking for the Walking Festival. This enabled a more personal experience allowing information feedback to walkers through the booking process and during the Festival.

Establishing a social media presence, Dursley Walkers, has enabled community interaction on all things walking and DWW has used this presence to advertise the Walking Festival and collate early interest in attending this event.

This year there was an investment in designing and manufacturing new banners advertising the Walking Festival and hopefully these will last another 10 years. I am sure you would have seen these around the area before and during the Festival and agree they have a great presence.

Our annual application for re-accreditation as a Walkers are Welcome Town once again received some excellent feedback in recognition of our work and confirmation of our continued status. They have asked that we provide a degree of coaching to other areas which would benefit from our successful approach.

2023 Plans

DWW have plans to improve our reach wider afield through better marketing. It is also important we continue to improve our internal IT and processes to support our constitutional objectives.

DWW recognise the need to ensure sustainability and would be interested in hearing from anyone who is interested in working with Dursley Welcomes Walkers.

DWW is available via:

Email: info@dursleywelcomeswalkers.org.uk

Website: www.dursleywelcomeswalkers.org.uk

Social Media: facebook.com/dursleywelcomeswalkers

Stroud Community Safer Partnership

Councillor Jonathan Bishop

This consists of the Town and Parish Information Network, led by Stroud District Council, Stronger Gloucestershire, led by the Police and Crime Commissioner, and Stronger and Safer Communities, led by the Gloucestershire Constabulary. The purpose of the partnership is to bring together local organisations with the shared goals of reducing crime and the fear of crime, anti-social behaviour, alcohol and drug misuse and reducing re-offending. It monitors the performance of the police and other emergency services and helps gain the cooperation of the public with them in preventing crime and enhancing local community safety. Achievements over the last year include hosting a knife sculpture at Gloucester Cathedral. Meetings are held at Ebley Mills in Stroud and the Police Headquarters in Berkeley Green up to one meeting per month.

Dursley & Cam Youth Services

Councillor Stewart Angell and Councillor Ben Wilkes

Group continues to meet on a quarterly basis. Reports from "The Door" - our provider are circulated prior to the review. Good attendance from all members, with meeting now being held at different locations to help understand some of the delivery frustrations. Good progress has been made on the engagement front both within the Dursley environment and externally within Cam. Most notable change in the last year has been the introduction of the Monday Munch club, which allows young members to cook at the Cam Woodfield centre after school - this has been jointly funded by Kerry foods. More recently Cam Parish authorised the purchase of some new games consoles to further attract more young people to the Cam community centre. The process of retendering has commenced with a new Requirements document now ready for distribution to existing and potentially new suppliers

Funding:

Victoria to supply financial cost details of anxiety workshop, revision sessions and key cafe for consideration by Vibe Trustees. 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:

Victoria confirmed that Noah had taken over as lead youth worker following Kathleen's departure and there had been a smooth transition with good behaviour in the 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.

Dursley United Charities
Councillor Miranda Clifton

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. Having last year merged with the Dursley based Twemlow Trust, the charity recently has recently incorporated the Cam parochial charity whose funds had become too small to make it a viable body on its own, the objectives of the two bodies being broadly the same. The DUC provides various 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. This year the charity received a large donation from a local benefactor in recognition of the cost of living crisis; this will enable the disbursement of grants to a greater number of residents experiencing particular hardship (on the recommendation of a recognised body).

As well as grants to individuals the following organisations received grants from DUC this year: Cotswold Vale Talking Newspaper, GL11 Community Hub and Churches together (to support the Christmas lunch for lonely or vulnerable residents of Cam & Dursley).

Woodfield Youth & Community Centre
Councillor Miranda Clifton

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

The Door youth worker continues to be based in the centre and holds two youth sessions a week; the army and air cadets meet regularly on three evenings. Woodfield Tots which provides parent support classes, soft play for local toddlers and a place for a chat for their carers is a regular daytime booking. The centre is also available for hire for private parties and events. At Christmas a very popular children's party, and a 3 course lunch for older residents are also held – organised and run by the committee.

After several years when there was very little income, the revenue from the cadets has given a welcome boost to funds, and the committee is considering how to greatly improve what is now looking a rather tired building.

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

Blooming Cam

Councillor Miranda Clifton

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 3 or 4 of us we have limited our attention to 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; we planted a new shrub and hope it can become a flower bed rather than a trampled play area.

As well as appreciative comments from passers-by we were grateful to receive a grant from Magnox which enabled 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, and to commission the new raised bed which has just been installed near the war memorial; it has made the area more attractive and easier to maintain.

Thanks are due to the parish council for funding and allowing us to use its premises - and water.

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.

Cam Institute Charity

Councillor Miranda Clifton

This is a small charity which derives its income from capital acquired from the sale (many years ago) 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; they meet two or three times a year and give out relatively small grants to local organisations once a year – preferring that funding directly benefit residents of Cam. 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; Allsorts Gloucestershire; Sunset Drop in Café; Cam and Dursley Armed Forces; Winterbotham Memorial Hall; GL11; Gloucestershire Young Carers.

Community Grant payments

Organisation	Grant received	Summary of spend and project update
Dursley and District Good Neighbour	£500	Good Neighbour Scheme
Quarry Chapel	£1,616	Subsidised classes at the Quarry Chapel
British Red Cross	£250	Donation
DEC Ukraine Fund	£250	Donation
Dursley and District Community Association	£1,000	To assist with Warm Hubs
Dursley Rugby football club	£1,000	Upgrades to club house and car park
Cam Youth and Community Centre	£300	Christmas lunches
Arthur S Winterbotham Memorial Hall	£1,000	Provision of warm HUBS. Unfortunately, there have been some issues with the logistics of this project. The plan is to isolate affected radiators when the decoration work is carried out.
Parkinson's UK	£180	Room hire. Support group continues to be a success with new members joining most weeks.
Dursley Running Club	£500	Long Jump pit. The rugby club were intending to be doing some ground works over the summer in our field, so we aligned our pit install with those works. They're now doing the ground works later but we're still planning to go ahead over the summer season. We have been in discussion with the supplier over specifications, and we've agreed the positioning with the rugby club.
Quarry Chapel	£800	Running costs and refreshments
Churches Together	£200	Christmas Event
Cam Traders Association	£500	Christmas trees and lights for Christmas event
1 st Cam Scouts Group	£425	Electronic heating controls installation
GL11 Community Project	£2,079	Delivery of Warm Hubs
Cam Cricket Club	£400	Youth Training programme
Dursley Tabernacle URC	£1,500	To assist with Warm Hubs

Arthur S Winterbotham Memorial Hall

Councillor Mark Morton

I attended the AGM on 24th April 2023

The hall has had many repairs recently with further work to be done in the next 12 months. This includes a repaint of the hall and may also include the adjoining rooms depending on time and costs. The plan is to redecorate the hall during the summer months.

The committee also intend to have Wi-Fi installed within the building.

The hall is currently just breaking even however there is plans to raise the room hire rates in September 2023.

The committee will be seeking grants to install insulation in the roof areas to lower heating costs

Currently a regular 10 groups use the hall with currently running at just below 80% occupancy which is back to pre-pandemic numbers

It was agreed to raise the profile of the hall to gain further new members for committees this will be through measures like social media

Report from District Councillor

Councillor Victoria Gray

The majority of time is spent dealing with individual caseloads. The majority of residents I speak to want help in planning and boundary and civil matters.

Cam Sports Club - New solicitors have been instructed and are now negotiating a new lease.

Cam Community Action Group - continue to be a strong voice and group for the future of Cam. Very involved with the development happening around Cam and the Stroud District Council Local Plan hearings which are currently in process.

GL11 Cost of Living Support

Jan to Mar 2023

Report for Cam Parish Council



Summary

In December 2022, Cam Parish Council kindly gave GL11 a grant of £2,079 towards the ongoing costs of coordinating and delivering the community response to the Cost of Living Crisis.

This comprised daily #WarmGL11 hubs and Cost of Living Support across eight community venues in Cam & Dursley.

This reports on the delivery period from January to end March 2023 covered by the grant.

Beneficiaries

Families and individuals living in the Cam & Dursley GL11 postcode area, and surrounding rural communities, most affected by the Cost of Living Crisis.

Activity

We provided GL11 Project Manager coordination and support for delivery partners and volunteers across the #WarmGL11 community response to the cost of living in the south of Stroud between January and March 2023.

During this period, the eight community partners providing Warm Hubs 6 out of 7 days a week across the Cam & Dursley area, become ten, with Dursley Library and Slimbridge's Pop-Up Cafe joining the #WarmGL11 collective.

GL11's Project Manager facilitated monthly meetings of the group to plan activities and volunteers, respond to changing needs, manage referrals to GL11's specialist Cost of Living advice services each Wednesday, and collate monitoring figures from across the group.

#WarmGL11 held these meetings on 24th January at the Chantry Centre, the 28th February at Dursley Tabernacle, and on the 28th March at St Georges Church.

Although the need for physical Warm Hub spaces will temporarily cease from the end of April, the group's referrals to GL11's specialist Cost of Living advice services and collective food bank work will continue.

During April, #WarmGL11 venues added bunting making activities for May's local coronation events, funded by UKSPF.

Before Christmas, the ground breaking #WarmGL11 initiative featured in the local media, was part of the lead story on the BBC national 6o'clock News (see here - <https://youtu.be/XtN8qOQmbHg>)

and was filmed by the NHS for their Winter Warmer campaign (see here - <https://youtu.be/5AMD-Wpnqyc>).

Outcomes

In the 13 weeks to the end March of 2023, the #WarmGL11 venues collectively welcomed a total of 2,639 people struggling with the Cost of Living Crisis.

These were predominantly older residents and young families with children, although during this period, the venues also started to welcome a small number of Refugees from the former Prince of Wales Hotel which has just been taken over by the Home Office as a temporary housing facility.

Of these attendees, a total of 432 referrals attended one of GL11's specialist Cost of Living Support Wednesdays for additional cost of living help or advice as follows;

- 48 people received digital support (heavily weighted to the over 55s).
- 273 people received Food Pantry help (weighted to young families with children).
- 33 people received specialist housing advice with P3.
- 47 people received specialist money/benefit/debt advice with Sandra Day.
- 31 people received employment support with ESHO.



Report by Paul Rainger, GL11, April 2023.

Councillor attendance at meetings

Attendance is for the civic year 2022- 2023. All Councillors are summoned to attend Full Council and certain Councillors are summoned to attend committee meetings of which they are members. The figures below do not account for working parties or steering groups which meet informally based around a specific project or task.

Civic year 2022-2022				
Councillor	Full Council	Planning & Highways	Recreation & Leisure	Finance, Policy & General purpose
	Total	Total	Total	Total
Christina Carter	6 out of 8	0 out of 7		
Jon Fulcher	10 out of 13	10 out of 10	9 out of 10	6 out of 6
Brian Tipper	10 out of 13	5 out of 10		
Miranda Clifton	11 out of 13		9 out of 10	5 out of 6
Fiona Poulter	2 out of 4		3 out of 3	3 out of 3
Jonathan Bishop	13 out of 13		10 out of 10	
Steward Angell	8 out of 13			3 out of 6
Mike Grimshaw	9 out of 13	10 out of 10		2 out of 6
Mark Morton	12 out of 13	8 out of 10	8 out of 10	5 out of 6
Ben Wilkes	2 out of 13	7 out of 10		1 out of 6
Scott Temlett	10 out of 13	8 out of 10		
Richard Lane	6 out of 9		6 out of 7	1 out of 2
Alex McIntyre	8 out of 13			
Dennis Andrewartha	11 out of 13	9 out of 10	6 out of 10	5 out of 6
Julie Sherman	4 out of 6	3 out of 3		
Glyn Gough	9 out of 11	5 out of 5	8 out of 8	0 out of 1
Ben Walker	2 out of 7			
Jeremy Fowler	1 out of 4			
Tegan Munns	new Cllr			

Planning & Highways Committee 2023

Councillor Mike Grimshaw

I have been Chair of Planning and Highways committee since 2020 and I would like to thank my vice-chair, Cllr Ben Wilkes and the other members for their time and support throughout the year. I would like to also express my thanks for the office for their support and fully appreciate all their hard work throughout the year.

The Planning Committee meets monthly to discuss and comment on planning issues affecting the parish. These applications include the development of new dwellings, change of use, extensions, works to listed buildings and trees. We also comment and make representation where necessary on Stroud District Council licensing, street naming and road closure consultations.

We have seen an increase in members of the public attending our meetings and you are most welcome to attend and highlight your concerns. 2022/23 was a busy year for the committee, we considered and commented on many planning applications from house holder application to large scale developments for which we have a pre-application protocol before the actual applications are submitted to Stroud District Council and we abide by our pre application protocol when developers approach us.

We continue to dedicate time to respond to consultations which we hope will shape the way local government plans in the future. In 2022/23 we considered a number of consultations and gave appropriate responses. We continue to refer to our Neighbourhood Development Plan (2019-2031) when we respond to planning application consultations as a statutory planning document.

The Stroud District Council Local Plan has identified Cam as a preferred location for 2 allocations of new homes which total 1080, but developers have already upped this figure to approx. 1500 additional homes in Cam as well as the previous allocations already passed at Box Road of XX. We have employed consultants to respond in legal context to the examiners of the SDC plan, and will continue to fight for the concerns of the community so that they are taken into consideration when rejection/approval is deliberated. We continue to lobby for road improvements - the pot holes and vehicle speeds are always points of contention and we highlight these using the report-it system at Glos Highways. The Greenway (cycleway) has started, and it is anticipated to link with Uley and Sustrans route 41 in Slimbridge eventually but the progress is slow. Check out their website for more information.

The bench replacement program is nearing completion and most older benches have now been replaced with new composite ones. There are a couple of older heritage benches which we would like to renovate and keep but this will be looked at in the future.

After a street sign audit, we agreed that many road signs were dated, unreadable or in a general state of disrepair so embarked on the project to replace those in need in the parish with new. We have since completed approximately 45 new road signs, and these have been installed and welcomed by the residents.

May 2022 welcomed the request by residents to support a Speedwatch campaign. A number of residents underwent training by the police to monitor and report speeding motorists in the parish. A good number of hours has been spent in high viz jackets at various locations and the work is still ongoing. Thank you to all those residents who have given up their time to help make Cam a safer place.

Public transport has proven very problematic this year and much thanks should go to the Cam & Dursley Transport Group for keeping abreast of all the changes. We continue to keep updating the bus timetables when we become aware and these can be collected from the parish office. The addition of the buses attending the train station has been welcomed but recognised it is still rather limited.

