



Cam Parish Council

Annual Reports 2025

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Chair's Annual Report – Councillor Jerry Fowler

It is with great pleasure and pride that I present this annual report summarising the work of Cam Parish Council over the past 12 months. As you can see from the numerous reports enclosed, it has been a busy and productive year. I would like to thank all the Councillors and representatives for their submissions which I read with interest. Each report demonstrates that this has been a year of meaningful progress across our parish.

Community Infrastructure and Green Spaces

A key area of focus this year has been the development and preservation of our green spaces. One of our most significant achievements was the joint effort with Cam Sports Club to secure the Everlands sports ground. This acquisition is vital for ensuring that this important green space remains accessible and protected for community use long into the future. We also implemented a new Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) policy to help channel developer contributions directly into community-benefiting projects. This policy now enables residents and community groups to apply for funding for community initiatives.

Community Engagement and Development

In response to our growing parish, especially the expansion around Box Road, we have created a new parish map. This updated map better reflects the realities of our expanding community across all areas of Cam. Furthermore, we established new working parties - **Events and Community Development, biodiversity and Environment, Jubilee and Playground Development, Strategic Development and Heritage Assets** – these working parties will develop concepts and details associated with project priorities before reporting through the formal democratic process.

Environmental and Infrastructure Maintenance

Maintaining and improving the physical environment of Cam remains a top priority. We have continued our program of regular ground maintenance, enhancing the overall appearance and usability of public spaces. Investments have also been made in street signage, making our parish more appealing for new and existing residents, and we are actively pursuing funding to upgrade our bus stops, enhancing public transport access for all.

Community Events

This year's Christmas Lights Switch-On was a wonderful celebration that brought residents together and highlighted the strong sense of community we enjoy in Cam. Events like this are a reminder of the importance of shared experiences and the role of the council in fostering community spirit.

In conclusion, the past year has been one of proactive engagement and forward-thinking investment. I would like to personally thank all members of the council, our partners, and especially the residents of Cam for their contributions, ideas, and continued support. Looking forward to what next year brings.

Vice-Chair's Annual Report – Councillor Jon Fulcher

As vice-chairman, it has been my pleasure to support the chairman, Jerry Fowler, in his first year of leading Cam Council, and to contribute to many exciting projects from the health hub, which has grown into a possible centre and heart of Cam to the prospective purchase of the Everlands Sports Club.

Given the legal and staffing constraints that have acted as a drag on resources and time, this year has been a positive and exciting time which hopefully we can build on over the next few years. The time put in by many councillors, especially our chairman, despite their own busy lives has been inspiring and the staff team under our new clerk, Lucy Biddle, has given us all the belief that the future can be rosy and that people who live in and around Cam will find a thriving and dynamic community despite the many challenges we face.

I add my own voice of thanks to all the staff who work so hard and are embedded in the community, who care about what happens in our area, who greet people in our office, talk to people on the phones, reply by email and are so helpful no matter whether the issue is within our scope or not. The enthusiasm and calmness of all the officers, their ability to enlist talent and funding from both inside and outside our area should not go unnoticed.

A council at town or parish level can only do so much and it's voice is often not heard or listened to but I believe our more strategic and inclusive approach has put Cam firmly on the map in terms of the organisations that affect and shape our community whether it be developers, district planners or councillors and staff who make decisions in Ebley Mill or Shire Hall. Our voice is further amplified by organisations and residents who care about what happens to the people who reside locally and want a better quality of life for all. We can only achieve that in collaboration with our parishioners, district and county councillors, and organisations like GL11 and our local action groups, but it is important to recognise those individuals that go above and beyond which we attempt to recognise through the Clifton Community Award, now in its second year.

We still have much to achieve, not least more diverse representation amongst our councillors, the integration of new staff members joining our team (we wish them well) and seeing through the projects we have begun but we have already shown that where there is a will there is a way!

Jon Fulcher

Chair Of Recreation & Leisure Report – Glyn Gough

In the last 12 months R&L have met six times, most of the meeting time is taken up by the action plan, a system introduced a year ago to help us - the council - to be accountable and more efficient with the council funds

Some of the highlights from the last 12 months are: -

- Through our amazing project officer, we have managed to secure enough funding through the CIL program to secure the purchase of Everland's sports field, to ensure the future of the sports club which I'm sure you all agree is a major achievement for the council and the community of Cam.
- Xmas lights switch on was a massive success and an improvement from the previous year, we had a footfall of around 8,000 people that passed through Cam during the few hours that the party was on, with no negative incidents during the event, we even had a good-looking Polar bear.
- Last summer we held a few children's activities at Jubilee playing fields which were a great success and sponsored by a local food company at no cost to Cam Parish Council.
- Working with Everside youth football club and the hard work of our grounds contractor I think you will all agree that the Jubilee playing fields have looked fantastic all year round.
- The council continues to work with Stroud Valley Project (SVP) headed mainly by Cllr Fulcher to maintain the nature area behind Tesco's. They have improved the walkway with gripper strips to increase the visitation to the area for the community. Further improvements to the woodchip footpaths have been welcomed.
- The Youth engagement project was a massive undertaking by the council to try and determine what the youth of Cam want from us in this area. The original objective was to find a design for a new youth shelter up at Jubilee, but the report turned out to be something much bigger and consequently gives us the council a point of reference when allocating funds for the youth in our community.
- The pavilion at Jubilee has not only been used by the football teams on match day it has also been used by a charity organization to raise money for good causes such as breast cancer awareness.
- Kissing gate improvement project and route development almost complete.
- Due to a number of plumbing issues at Jubilee Pavilion the council decided to undergo improvement works which will prevent further issues.
- VE day beacon lighting on Cam Peak
- New height restriction barriers and gates have prevented unauthorized access.

In the next 12 months there are a few projects among others that the council would like to achieve: -

- Install a new bespoke youth shelter and youth zone at the Jubilee Field.
- Develop a new carpark at the far end of Jubilee playing field to allow greater access and improvement pedestrian safety.
- Install a free WiFi connection at the Jubilee Pavilion.
- Commence a biodiversity audit of the Parish.

On a personal note, I would like to acknowledge my thanks to Lucy and her team for the hard work that they have put in over the past 12 months and long may it continue, I think we are very fortunate as a council to have a great group of people employed and looking after our community.

Chair of Planning & Highways Report – Dennis Andrewartha

The Planning and Highways committee generally meets once a Month in order to comply with statutory time frames on local planning applications. These meetings are open to the public who are welcomed to contribute for part of the meeting.

During the past year we have spent much of our time in attempting to gather support for more effective planning of the major developments which are proposed for Cam and surrounding Parishes. We have long been concerned over the lack of attention to highway and other infrastructure shortcomings that appear to be acceptable to our District and County Councils. This concern is intensified by the District Councils attitude to the issues arising around the Local Plan. Believing that constructive dialogue is better than conflict much of our approach is in establishing good relationships with both our senior Councils.

Much of our efforts have been put into improving the infrastructure we are responsible for and some where others have inadequate resources to do enough. The latter is demonstrated by the replacement/repair of all our street signs, a project to be completed this year. We have plans for our bus shelters, litter bins, and benches plus hopefully a partnership with the County Council to start a repair programme for our crumbling pavements.

County Council Reports – Councillor Brian Tipper

POTHLES

No doubt you are aware that new equipment has been tried and tested to decide what to buy. Pothole repair procedure has been reviewed, and Pothole Plus has been introduced. That is those that need repairing plus what needs repairing in close proximity. This has lead to higher repair figures. What is most noticeable is 100 miles of road have been resurfaced. £100 million additional money into Highways. The Fix my Street system has improved all reporting of Highways issues leading to more prompt repairs. I am very aware of the problems in Lynch Rd not forgetting that closing it for repairs causes a lot of difficulties.

CLIMATE CHANGE

The County has planted 500,000 trees.

Solar Panels at Shire Hall, Coroners Court, Schools and Arle Court.

Eight Million for Bus Improvements and Zero Emission Buses

Robin has arrived in in our area with dial a ride facilities as announced in the Budget.

CHILDRENS SERVICES

The Care Leavers Programme has recently been inspected with positive progress and continued improvement.

ADULT SOCIAL CARE

An Inspection last year found Improvements were needed. Since then, progress has been made together with a Budget £57 million for three new Care Homes along with Tech Enabled Care that will help people remain in their own homes which they prefer to do.

SOLVENT

Contrary to claims made the County is one of the few Authorities that is Solvent. I am pleased with that as I served on the Audit & Governance and Environment Committee.

UNITARY AUTHORITY

I am not going to comment too much on this subject as a lot of it would be conjecture and it would be wrong to talk about if buts and maybes. Fact is County Council did write to Government not to have an Election this year to save £500,000. The Government said we had to have one and apparently there will be one next year as well.

Dursley Environmental Land Management Group, Annual Report – Councillor Jon Fulcher

Purpose:

To increase biodiversity and public involvement at key green spaces in Dursley by drawing up management plans for areas identified by the group.

Structure, aims, and progress.

The group aims to meet every 3rd Thursday every month. The role of the Cam representative within the group is to monitor aims, objectives and methodology, to pass on knowledge to Cam Council, and comment on progress made through this annual report.

Initially 5 areas were identified as suitable sites for action plans to be developed and put to Dursley Town Council (DTC) for consideration. The plans would suggest altering the management regimes for the different areas, involving the ground maintenance teams and councillors leading to greater public awareness and education, and eventually volunteers to be involved formally and informally.

The sites were Highfields Play Area, Kingshill Cemetery, Kingshill Play Area, Long Street Car Park, and the War Memorial Recreation Ground. The latter two were chosen by DTC as priority sites to move forward initially. Work would begin with surveys to determine baseline fauna and flora species identification (quality/quantity) and then tailor specific management regimes shaped by experts on the committee for each and monitor effects on the wildlife as the seasons go by.

The next stage will be talking with employed ground maintenance teams to modify cut regimes, etc, and publicise aims and progress to the public via Dursley Town Council and other mediums such as Dursley Natters, the Herb Network and Discover Dursley. A list of species that may benefit from better management is being developed (e.g slow worms, hedgehogs, bats, and birds under threat such as House Sparrows, Starlings, Swifts, Barn Swallows, and House Martins).

The longer term aims for Cam will be for greater cross-cooperation and exchange of ideas, and as progress is made on Dursley sites, to look at sites within Cam to apply similar logic leading to our own biodiversity uplift. This could include allotments or new sites not yet under Cam's influence.

Patient Participation Group – Annual Report 2024-25 - Councillor Jon Fulcher

Purpose:

As Cam Council's representative within the group, to liaise between our council and the Cam and Uley Family Practice who provide for the health and wellbeing of Cam residents as a private GP business provider under the NHS, while participating in the activities of the group and practice outreach as a member of the group itself.

Report:

In what turned out to be a vital and significant year the practice declared its intent to be the leading stakeholder in a new health hub, identified within the NHS as necessary to provide for the residents of Cam and surrounding areas into the future. Current facilities, including the existing rented premises, are near capacity already, and with a growing population, the local Clinical Commissioning Group, now renamed the Integrated Care Board, signalled the need for a new health facility in our area. This decision goes back some years, was included in the Stroud local plan, and first discussed when I became chair of Cam Parish Council in 2021. Therefore, it is very exciting to see the project, with a delivery date of 2029/30, enter the early phase of planning and conception.

With feasibility studies by the practice and Cam Council due to be carried out over the coming year and stakeholder meetings already held, this project will occupy much of the PPG's attention over coming years.

The practice continues to hold regular Covid vaccination clinics and PPG members now help to coordinate volunteer support for these as well as providing volunteers from our membership. Another matter on this year's agendas has been the future of the Uley operation with ongoing attempts to secure the practice premises there through ownership rather than renting. The practice shares matters like staff changes, operational and care provision improvements, while listening and responding to the observations of PPG members. Under our chair, Jonathan Pape, we also hear about events throughout the wider region, and from the practice partners and Practice Manager we get a glimpse of how governmental contract changes translate to patient care on the ground.

As well as the possible influence of AI on patient care, particularly initial triage assessments, the group has discussed Cam's patient demographic, housebound patient care and changes in how nurses and doctors alike are adapting to the post-Covid care expectations of patients and carers. One notable PPG achievement of late has been the establishment of a new practice quarterly newsletter.

Arthur Winterbotham Hall Report – Councillor Mark Morton

Another year of continued improvements and general upkeeping has gone on at the hall, most of which is behind the scenes.

Problems with the main door push to enter has now been sorted and working well.

The committee arranged for skips to be filled with general rubbish that has accumulated of a long time.

The stage curtains have at last been replaced and looking the part.

Professional help was used to clean the high beams of dust and debris

Two old pianos have now found new homes as they were deemed as no longer required.

Like all halls the committee has had to face rising cost to run the building and to this end a rise of 6% in hall hire has been introduced with little complaints from the current hirers.

The committee like most volunteer groups, has a huge problem in getting more people on the committee and are always searching for new blood on the committee.

The hall remains an asset to the local community and regularly sees a high occupancy of the hall.

Cam District Councillors Reports – Milly Hill

Since being elected last May we have had extensive training by SDC to help us understand local government and to fulfil our roles.

We have also attended CPC meetings where clashes with that training have allowed.

We've all worked to help residents with their concerns, both individual and more general ones relating to the impacts of the previous national government and Stroud district's planning policy.

As residents will know there has been a great deal of road related concern, particularly in relation to both traffic flow and traffic calming through Cam with which we have been dealing almost monthly since last May.

One of the biggest frustrations is, that as district councillors, we have limited influence over Highways because everything related to them is a county councillor level responsibility.

The following is a summary of groups, projects and issues that we've been involved with and or are helping to address.

We have established regular surgeries on the first Thursday of each month at the CPC offices 10:00-12:00. These have now gained momentum with regular and varied attendance. It's a walk-in service (no booking required) and is promoted on the CPC website.

We've worked with Cam PC on three stakeholder engagement workshops to map out requirements for a feasibility study on the ambitious Cam Campus/Village Centre/Heath Centre concept for Employment 01. We continue to work closely with CPC on this.

Cllrs have started to look at ways that might be considered to upgrade the insulation and heating systems on local housing stock in Cam East to improve quality of life, decarbonise the environment and reduce bills. We are working with the head of the SDC Housing Committee and have commissioned some research with the help of UWE.

We have now managed nearly 50 items of casework - most successfully resolved. Key themes continue to be housing settlement, housing maintenance and repairs, clearance and upgrading the facilities of communal areas, boundary disputes, local democracy queries, planning applications and enforcement.

We have: -

- Assisted residents with disabled access and parking concerns.
- Been engaged to help in numerous safeguarding incidents working with the relevant authorities to resolve these.
- Guided residents or self-reported several issues to the 'Fix My Street' service at GCC.
- Arranged for the installation of multiple bike racks across Cam.
- Listened to LCIC members various concerns and coordinated with SDC where possible and with our Dursley colleagues.
- We have also listened to the concerns of our local veteran's group when they have kindly invited us to join them at their regular social breakfasts. It has also been our pleasure to help serve the tea!

We've been in continual contact with Highways at GCC mostly with concerns about Hopton Rd/ Everlands junction works and traffic calming measures but also, regarding issues relating to wheelchair safety along Everlands to gain access to The Vale Hospital and the early opening of Lister Road.

We have listened to the concerns of the CCAG in matters relating to sluice gates, traffic flow, planning concerns, the car parks on Box Road and we have attended some of their speed check sessions to gain understanding.

We've helped ensure that the Car Park at Lister Gardens will be adopted by SDC and are pushing for renewables on the HP6 parcel.

A concern was raised about the trash-screen on the culvert through Fairmead. It has flooded several times making the footpath unusable and threatening nearby properties. Residents had been trying to get a solution for about eighteen months. We have now got assurances that the trash screen will not only be cleared twice yearly in spring and autumn but that the entire unit will be lowered which should resolve the flooding problem.

Similarly, the footpaths above Manor Avenue were becoming flooded and blocked by leaves and debris brought down by the wind. These have now been cleared and regular inspections scheduled to keep them open.

As a result of the SDC 'No Spray' policy to protect the environment there are a few places where vegetation has run a little too wild causing issues with footpaths. If residents have an area that they would like to get some attention they can tell us or call it in on the SDC 'Report It' (Dirty Street) function.

<https://www.stroud.gov.uk/report-it/dirty-street/>

Lastly it was a real pleasure to work with his family and Cam PC to get recognition for the dedicated and long service to Cam, at all levels of local government, of the late Cllr. Brian Addle whom many will remember. His name is now on the list for new street names in our parish.

Our SDC Committee Roles

Cllr. Chris Haynes - Cam West Audit and Standards

Cllr. Terri Kinnison - Cam West DCC and Environment

Cllr. Ian Hamilton - Cam East Community Services & Licensing

Cllr. Milly Hill - Cam East DCC and Health & Wellbeing Champion

Deputy SDC representative on GCC Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Our heartfelt thanks to all those on Cam Parish Council who have generously helped us with information and support, answering our endless questions as we learnt the ropes.

Stinchcombe Hill Restoration Project - Overview report by Christina Carter SHT Trustee

In July 2024 the Cotswold National Landscape (CNL) confirmed that a partnership between the Stinchcombe Hill Trust (SHT), Stancombe Park Estate and the Stinchcombe Hill Golf Club (SHGC) had been awarded a Farming in Protected Landscape (FiPL) grant to prepare a Management Plan for Stinchcombe Hill. The Plan would need to adhere to the Trust's vision and charitable objects which are:

1. To maintain Stinchcombe Hill in the interests of social welfare for recreation and exercise for the use of the inhabitants of Dursley, Cam, Stinchcombe and North Nibley in the County of Gloucester, taking note in so far as it is possible to do so, of the wishes of the original benefactor Sir Stanley Tubbs to provide for the mutual enjoyment of golfers, walkers and horse riders.
2. To protect and preserve for the benefit of the public the scheduled monument known as Drakestone Point and other features on the Stinchcombe Hill which are of special historic or archaeological interest.
3. To protect and preserve for the benefit of the public the historic landscape features and habitat of Stinchcombe Hill with particular reference to the registered Site of Special Scientific Interest and its wildlife and vegetation.
4. To increase understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of Stinchcombe Hill so as to encourage the conservation and enhancement of Stinchcombe Hill.

It was important that Stinchcombe Hill Golf Course, whose land is leased from SHT, was in the partnership to ensure practical collaboration and understanding of the vision and shared benefits of the FiPL scheme. For example, restoring wildlife habitats, protecting rare species and restoring views, a natural part of the process, will enhance the experience of golfers – and all Hill users.

The most urgent focus is to improve the SSSIs on the land belonging to the Trust and Stancombe Park. For around 25 years these rare species-rich calcareous grasslands formed on Jurassic limestone geology have not been at their optimum best, in terms of biodiversity, due to lack of funds. Chris Wiltshire, the Trust's conservation expert and butterfly specialist has specifically recorded a decline in butterfly species amongst others in his extensive observations over the past two decades.

Grazing had long been identified as the way to improve these areas and to address the issue of encroaching scrub that robo-mowing even regularly just cannot resolve. To bring cattle onto the hill, though, means a great many aspects of the Hill being taken into account, and a comprehensive future proofed Management Plan to work to. Not least the installation of a track through woodland and along a boundary would be required with fencing both on sides. A water supply is available via the Golf Course bore hole, but funding would be required for troughs and pipe work.

The historic and archaeological features on the Hill, Drakestone Point, possible Medieval agricultural terraces, Victorian gunnery activities, amongst others, were also identified as important to include in a program of restoration and maintenance. Historic England have been supportive in this respect.

The FiPL scheme offered a once in a generation opportunity to monitor and evaluate all aspects of the Hill and provide an important record for future Trustees together with a clear management plan that works for users of the Hill, its ecology and wildlife.

Pip Green of Greens Chartered Surveyors was appointed as Project Manager for the Scheme. She chairs a sub-committee of trustees to oversee the FiPL project with Dr Stephen Pritchard voluntarily giving his expertise and time to act as secretary at this steering group's meetings, which are also attended by the Chair and representatives from the Golf Club.

The contract for preparing the Management Plan was awarded to the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG) headed up by Jenny Phelps, MBE, Senior Farm Environment Advisor, with James Lunt, Assistant Farm Environment Advisor. FWAG, with many years of experience across Gloucestershire aimed to produce a legacy document for conservation on Stinchcombe Hill for many decades to come.

Early phases, I and II, of the FiPL grant funded scrub clearance plus an aerial and botanical survey carried out by Dr Kathy Meakin. This was completed by March 2024 and the Cotswold National Landscape team confirmed that work on FiPL III (to produce a Management Plan) could go ahead in August 2024 which was approved by SHT. Further scrub clearance, carried out early in February 2025 was funded by Stroud District Council.

Commented [SP1]: This is quite a strong statement ... would it be softer to say "very desirable"? Up to you of course.

Phase III included a feasibility study and widespread public engagement and consultation. The full Plan was submitted to FiPL at the end of March 2025 in keeping with the grant criteria overseen by Natural England. This will be available to view on the Stinchcombe Hill Trust website.

The Partnership awaits the results of current and future grant applications with the hope, in a climate of cutbacks, that this project will reach completion and enable Phase IV: Grazing and removal of vegetation to go ahead, followed by Phase V: A Conservation enhancement scheme.



Cam and Dursley Tennis Club – Phil Morris

The Club used the grant payment to part fund the painting of two permanent Pickleball courts and it put in place the provision of two additional temporary courts. We have also purchased equipment to allow those who do not have their own to get involved in the sport.

We hosted a free Pickleball Open Day on Sunday 6th April, and we are in the advanced stage of introducing a stand-alone Pickleball membership at the Club. Due to safeguarding we will initially make membership available to people aged 16+ but our plan is to involve juniors as soon as possible and we hope to host several events over the summer to promote the Club and the Pickleball activity. Once established, we will look to have Pay and Play, which is currently available to tennis players and makes our courts available to non-members, included as an option.

The costs associated were as follows:

Painting of the lines: £1,160

Equipment (nets, paddles, balls, training aids and other accessories) : £784.96.

Severn Area Rescue Association (SARA) – Deryck Pritchard

I am pleased to confirm that the grant of £1,334.00 which we received in April 2024 from Cam Parish Council enabled us to equip two of our crew members with some essential protective wear.

All our lifeboat crew members need a personal drysuit, specialised lifejacket and helmet with a visor to keep them safe when on boat-related taskings and training exercises. As well as responding to taskings from HMCG for lifeboat work, SARA is part of the DEFRA national flood response arrangements, and those of our crew who are trained flood water specialists (so-called Swiftwater Rescue Technicians) must be equipped, in addition, with a different type of lifejacket and helmet because of the different hazards involved when working in fast flowing floodwaters.

I attach a photo of one of our SRT teams in specialist PPE for floodwater work, funded with the help of your grant.



Blooming Cam Report – Jo Lewis

The five Blooming Cam volunteers meet each Tuesday afternoon with the aim of keeping the centre of Cam tidy and colourful with fresh planting, weeding, cutting back and clearing.

Our main gardening target spots are the large bed running around and in front of Froffy Coffee café on Noel Lee Way, the Lower Cam war memorial garden, the two flower beds at the bottom of Cam Pitch and the flowerpots and ground around Hopton War Memorial. If we had more volunteers then we'd like to spread our gardening efforts further, but our small team are kept busy with these five areas.



In the spring of 2025 new pots were purchased for the seating area in front of the Cam Parish Council building. These were bought from the funding given by Cam Parish Council. The three new pots were planted up with cheerful spring flowers.

An Accolade pink cherry blossom tree was also bought and planted in the central flower bed in the war memorial garden at the bottom of Cam Pitch. We hope this will go on to give years of colourful blossom to brighten up the centre of Cam.



Dursley Male Voice Choir – Laurence Bryant

The grant, for which we were very grateful, was added to other funding and used to purchase choir branded polo shirts. This provided a more casual uniform option for summer use. The shirts have only recently been acquired and issued to members and given the time of year we have not had the opportunity to perform in them. However, one of our members was in Australia over Christmas and new year and modelled the new shirt for us in a warmer setting.



Cam, Dursley & Uley Woodlands Management Committee – Christina Carter, approved by chairman Jon Fulcher

Overview of the committee

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

The Function of the Committee

The 2024 governance agreement with SDC delegated powers to the Cam, Dursley and Uley Woodlands Management 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 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 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 land stewardship

Membership of the Committee:

- Two councillors from Cam Parish Council & Dursley Town Council
- Two expert members can be invited to sit on the committee with an annual review

Supporting officers:

- Clerk/Finance officer – honoraria payment
- Part time paid Woodland Manager – contracted
- Foot paths officer – honoraria payment
- Officer from SDC

Funding Sources:

- Stroud District Council
- RPA Grant (Rural Payments Association)
- Cam Parish Council
- Dursley Town Council
- Donations in kind from Cotswold Way Association
- Others where available and/or 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 had a busy year on top of the regular maintenance tasks such as dealing with broken fences and gates, blocked footpaths, scrub cutting and bracken cutting. Storm Darragh and bad weather and rain caused more than normal number of trees to fall, adding to an already large workload within the woodland areas due to ash dieback.

Stroud District Council carry out a regular survey in Cam and Dursley Woods that lists trees with disease or rot and identifies felling and maintenance priorities for us. Through their own contractors and our own enlisted work this is always addressed according to need as quickly as possible, but the situation changes quickly. It is an issue that focuses our attention and is an ongoing responsibility. Our Path Warden is especially conscientious about reporting potentially problematic trees and over the last year more members of the public have also been helpful in reporting issues. This means fallen and diseased trees can be assessed quickly by our land manager and dealt with appropriately. Naturally, the more felling needing to be done the more resources are stretched.

Planting new trees is an option we take where severe deforestation takes place but so far this has not been required in any major way. We find that as a natural consequence of removing trees saplings can be found growing before too long.

Cam & 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. Decisions made by our committee with regards to any work done there are based on advice from our land manager who has specialist conservationist knowledge. Our aim is to raise biodiversity in these areas while at the same time balancing activity to the benefit visitors as well as flora and fauna and wildlife.

Some issues that have challenged us in previous years continue, such as fly tipping, including dumping of garden waste in the woods; cyclists illegally (i.e. using areas that are not bridle ways) in the woodland has brought public complaints about damage to the forest floor and anti-social behaviour; theft of wood left for conservation purposes; a persistent offender on a motor bike who has killed off several square metres of plant growth on Long Down; motor bikes on Uley Bury; damage to trees. With climate change and the demands of increasing biodiversity and protecting our most valuable natural assets, these challenges are unwelcome and worrying. We sincerely hope all groups and individuals will respect our protected areas, engage in dialogue with us when competing priorities arise, and find less sensitive places to conduct activities.

Changes within the committee

Cllr Jon Fulcher was voted in as ongoing Chair at the annual meeting and new representatives, Scott Temlett from Cam Parish Council and Toby Stride from Dursley Town Council were welcomed.

The contract agreement between Stroud District Council and CDUWMC was reviewed this year. Sadly, Uley Parish Council decided to resign from the new agreement altogether. To counter a smaller than desired voting membership a clause within the agreement allowed for two experts with a positive interest in the work of the committee to be nominated for membership. Under this rule David Lungley who had previously been a Uley PC representative came back on to the committee.

The committee will continue to look after Uley Bury and the name has not been changed except to remove the word joint from the title. The door is always open to Uley PC to return officially to the committee should resources and their circumstances allow.

Financial end of year statement:

Lloyds Treasurer's account:

Opening balance 06/04/24	£23,307.33
Balance at 06/04/25	£11803.98
Deposit Acc. Balance	£20034.54
Income over year:	£32571.13
Expenditure over year:	£21799.34
Reserves agreed in 24/25 budget	£16000.00

The committee was pleasantly surprised to receive significant uplift in RPA payments this year.

Projects

Information signs



The committee were able to complete a long-standing project to introduce information signs into Cam and Dursley woods this year. We are grateful for the help of the Cotswold Wardens for installing five signs at key entrances to the woods.

Feedback tells us that these have been well received and that they give a clear indication of the woodland area looked after by us and that the woodland code for visitors is useful.

One of the signs in Cam & Dursley Woods

Grazing on Cam Peak and Long Down

Grazing at Cam Peak and Uley Bury is an important element of our conservation programme and is a requisite for the Rural Payments Agency grant we receive, grazing being the best way of preserving the rare species-rich calcareous grasslands in those areas along with regular scrub clearance.



Our grazier retired this year after 20 years of taking her cattle on to Cam Peak. The hunt was on for a new cattle owner with around 6 applications coming in. We were delighted to welcome Mr Richard Hales, of Brookside Farm, North Nibley as our new grazier. His animals will be brought back up to Cam Peak in May and leave in October.

Our grazier at Uley Bury continues to be Mr Charles Carter.

A happy cow on Long Down

Pearls and Violets project

The Chairman and the committee have been very keen to promote and look for opportunities to put biodiversity at the heart of our land stewardship.

We were delighted, then, when Julian Jones of Wild Dursley approached CDUWMC for approval for a project, that would not only be in keeping with the work we do but would also bring a biodiversity uplift to the area. Julian had attained a grant from 'Farming in a Protected Landscape' to look at improving the habitat for the potential reintroduction of the Pearl Bordered Fritillary (PBF) butterfly. A group of volunteers from the committee and other conservation groups, led by Julian, did a sterling job planting 2000 violets, the favourite plant of that butterfly, in October and March on Long Down.

In the 1970s the PBF butterfly was common on Cam Peak, Cam and Dursley Woods and Uley Bury but there has been a catastrophic decline over the last 20 years. The butterflies like south facing slopes, violets and bracken cover for warmth. The current management of the area with scrub clearance, creation of rises and glades, being better now than in the 70s, should be attractive to them. The hope is that the violets will create the extra impetus to bring back these wonderful butterflies to the area.



Controlling Himalayan Balsam

For the past three years our Foot Path Warden has led volunteer work parties in pulling up Himalayan Balsam in the woods, over the spring and summer, before it could spread seed. The plant is problematic because it is invasive, spreads fast and competes with native plants for light, nutrients, pollinators and space, reducing biodiversity rapidly.

She has reported that year on year the plant has been reduced and that the ferns and other indigenous plants can now be seen to be recovering. Work parties will continue this spring and summer.



Reptiles rehomed at Long Down

In a project collaboration with Stroud District Council reptiles, specifically slow worms, are to be rehomed on Long Down from sites under development. An extensive ecological survey took place before the assessment was made that this would be suitable site for them.



Chairman's Comment

It is a privilege and honour to oversee the work this committee and its retained officers are responsible for. Our land, the forests and grasslands, the barrows and peaks that are such central to our local identity are natural resources that cannot be replaced and we are merely the current custodians of a landscape that has changed very little over centuries but always requires human care and intervention of the most sensitive and informed kind if we are to hand it on to the next generation. In this spirit, I extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who makes this possible but in particular to our clerk, land manager, path warden, Stroud District Council representative and affiliated members (volunteers) who go above and beyond to ensure that this vital work continues. In the coming year and beyond we will seek to continue this work and look for new opportunities and funding to help increase the natural value of our environment.

Jon Fulcher
Chairman, CDUWMC

Finally

The committee would like to thank Cam and Dursley councils for their generous grants as well as the many supporters, such as the Cotswold Wardens, the biodiversity officer at Stoud DC and the members of the public who help inform us of issues, amongst many others.

Cam Youth & Community Centre, Jenny Powell

We the Committee applied and received a grant of £500.

This project was to renew our outdated and some broken Fire Exit Lights.

A necessity for the building and Health and Safety.

This was promptly carried out to coincide with the installation of our new fire Alarm System.

We had 3 Exit lights fitted, fitting cost and Vat.

With the small amount of the grant that remained, we replaced 2 old strip lights with new LED strip lights, updating the Centre and saving money at the same time.

Parent & Carer Alliance, Louise Arnold

Thank you again for the grant - these funds supported a programme of further development of our advocacy service through the use of technology. We have undertaken the development of a case management system and the purchase of IT equipment, that will help improve efficiency in recording and retrieving data, in particular for the family support workers. This digital infrastructure project, is helping the Alliance to further expand our service delivery, helping more families to get the needs of their vulnerable children met.

The £500 paid for the majority of the cost of a laptop to be used by a family support worker to support families directly through our advocacy service and through our social media groups. Since the laptop was purchased 139 families have applied for support and an average of 1000 members a day have engaged with our social media

The Cam, Dursley & Uley Greenway, Focus Report 2025/26 - Stuart Angell



May 2025

The Cam, Dursley & Uley Greenway (including Slimbridge & Coaley)

The Cam, Dursley & Uley Greenway

Focus for 2025/2026

- Work with Sustrans to complete Dursley to Uley Feasibility Study – funding obtained
- Working with St Modwen to complete (signage etc), and celebrate the opening route through Littlecombe
- Finalising plans for traffic calming on Everlands and junction of Everlands with Church Road
- Continue to work with GCC Highways & SDC to deliver “shovel ready” plans for parts of the route not being built as part of housing developments - the so-called “missing links” eg. Chapel Street, Cam
- Develop & implement solutions for the route in Dursley from end of Littlecombe to Ferney. Much of it is built but there are missing parts, missing/inaccurate signage and cars parked on the route
- Complete actions to enable the project to become a Community Interest Company
- Building a dedicated website
- Ensuring the route continues to be built through NE Cam development (there is good use & feedback from residents using the parts already in place)



2

Grant from CPC

Your generous grant has supported the Quarry Chapel to continue subsidising our classes and enabled us to deliver a new course 'Dye Plants – Growing and using them' and Animation Club

Your Grant supported us to:

- Deliver courses that are heavily subsidized
- Give bursaries to families/individuals that can't afford to take part
- Offer free courses for children and young people – your grant allowed us to pilot Saturday Animation Club and Dye Plants (gardening and creating dyes from plants) This we wish to grow in 2025, linking with GL11s Oral History Project. We believe working outside has many benefits for both physical and mental health

Thank you!

Without your support we can not support our community. We believe we are making an incredible difference to many lives. We pride ourselves in delivering supportive, high-quality activities.

If the council would like to visit – we would love to welcome you!



Exploring Art and Design was fantastic – pushing the boundaries, surprising results!

Several of our child and adult groups created work for the National Gallery Project – we created a giant 3D installation of Van Gogh's Field with Cypresses, which was installed in a Dursley Shop, part of Dursley Festival!



2024



We have incredible professionals who deliver the courses
Here: Clare Mahoney and Nigel Smith

- We have worked with just over 7,000 adults, children and young people
- We have 11 weekly classes
- Plus 2 weekly private hire classes, plus occasional hire
- 70% of participants are living in Cam or Dursley. Others are in surrounding villages, Berkeley, Stonehouse and Quegeley



Summer special workshops – this was Botanical Casting for adults
We are offering high quality courses at affordable prices so that our community feels valued. They develop skills, as well as confidence and increased self-esteem



We have been thrilled at the changes in our families that come to Tuesday or Thursday Creative Club. Most participants attend school (but not all) Everyone is struggling – whether anxiety, mental health or Autism



Xmas markets 2024

- Quarry Collective did an incredible job selling their handmade items and also offering a 'paint your own decoration





They loved the course – we are hoping to get funding to do this again, but around GL11 Oral History Project, but we were unsuccessful at gaining the Thriving Community Grant, so now looking for more help



Our adult courses are a real lifeline. Friendships have been made, some now meet socially. Many site that without the group they would have no contact with the community

Read With Me – Crystal Jones

At the end of 2024, Cam Parish Council awarded us £675 to fund the recruitment, training, resources and management of three reading volunteers at Cam Woodfield School and Cam Hopton C of E Primary School. The aim was to provide one-to-one reading support sessions for children in the local community.

Use of Funds

The grant was used for the following:

- DBS check, induction and safeguarding training for three new volunteers
- Volunteer meetups and training sessions (three sessions delivered)
- Volunteer co-ordination and administration
- Volunteer packs and consumables (stickers and bookmarks)

A full financial breakdown is available upon request.

Outcomes

- Three volunteers were recruited, trained and inducted.
- These volunteers have now delivered 140 reading support sessions across both of our partner schools, helping hundreds of children improve their literacy skills.
- Feedback from the schools indicates improvement in confidence, reading ability and enthusiasm:

" We have really valued having our volunteers coming to support children in our school. They are so friendly and positive. The children love reading with them each week." - Cam Hopton

"The children are really enjoying the sessions with our volunteers. They love the extra engagement with a familiar adult. It was lovely to see one child chatting away about something quite unrelated to their book but as that relationship with the volunteer has now been built and the trust developed so that child's reading will improve. Please extend our thanks to all our volunteers. They are doing a really great job and we are truly grateful." - Cam Woodfield

Impact

This grant represents the beginning of our long-term support efforts. The volunteers we recruited and trained during this period are expected to stay with us for an average of 2.5 years. Their ongoing presence in both schools will enable the children to continue building their literacy skills and confidence week by week, leading to lasting change that will extend well beyond the grant timeline.

We are incredibly grateful to Cam Parish Council for your support. Your funding has made a significant difference not only to the children of Cam but also to the wider community

Cam Everside Sports Club – Kev Davies

Cam Everside applied for help from the council back in the March 24 to assist us with pitch repairs at Jubilee playing fields as we could not gain access for funding from the FA as we don't own the playing field.

Cam Council were very helpful, and we agreed a sum for re seeding the pitches as they get wear and tear not just from Cam Everside YFC but also the local community.

This has help us provide a good standard of football pitches for youth football from the ages u6 up to u16s, and also Cam bulldogs men's team who use the 11aside pitch on a Saturday afternoon.

We carried out the work in late May 24 and are now planning on doing some more re seeding this year, very shortly.

The work is a must because of how much the playing field gets used all year round and without the councils help the pitches would just deteriorate over time.

Dursley RFC – Tracey Angell

As promised please find below update on our project for Car Park and Flood Lighting at the club, unfortunately we are a little behind on timescales due to planning decision being delayed at Stroud.

We will commence the enabling works for the lighting project during May this year. This will provide power and comms to all the planning lighting columns in the car park and on the playing surface. Our next step is to have the car park lights installed over the summer, before the next rugby season starts and the flood lighting on the new pitch to follow later that year early 2026.

From a funding perspective we have been able to successfully gain additional grants from Dursley Town Council, Glos CC (Build back better), along with using reserve club funds.

Total costs for the project have been re-negotiated and are in the region of £75K for which we have been able to attract grants for a significant proportion of this.

We will be able to send photos of the enabling works at the end of May.

Dursley Town Ladies FC – Stephanie Hill

Cam Parish Council Grant of £250

Grant was applied for to help with Training Equipment and a dedicated Ladies storage cage for equipment.

So far, we have bought some poles with heavy bases for use on both artificial training pitches and grass. These have proved extremely beneficial for both fitness training and tactical coaching and are used every week at training. We have also utilised them as corner flags during matches played at Rednock All Weather pitch.

As far as the storage unit is concerned, we still have £130 put aside for this. It was decided that as the shed at Dursley Recreation ground is due to be relocated and upgraded, it would be beneficial to wait until this is complete and we can work out the correct sizing that will fit with everything else kept in the upgraded shed.

Thank you very much for the grant, it has already helped improve our training sessions and will hopefully help with storage in the future.



Some of the equipment purchased with the grant

Hopton School House – Rebecca Sweet

Thank you so much for the contribution of £300 towards the cost of gifts for the Christmas grotto. With your contribution we were able to buy selection boxes and various children's books. Wrapping paper was donated and our volunteers wrapped over 100 parcels The event was very popular, Father Christmas met with approx. 110 children. He listened to their wishes and gave them all a small gift.

Staff from Hopton School house volunteered their time to keep the event running smoothly and it was a roaring success.

Your support with this event was invaluable.