



CAM COUNCIL

Meeting:	Annual Parish Assembly
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Chair's Annual Report – Councillor Jerry Fowler

It is with great pleasure 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 yet another 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 and partnership building throughout our parish.

Development in Cam and future expansion

Cam is undergoing a period of rapid transformation, the council recognises that whilst this growth brings with it opportunities, including increased economic activity and social diversity, it must also be accompanied by essential infrastructure to ensure the impact on the wider community is mitigated and the parish remains a desirable place to live. Our focus is on making sure development is fit for purpose. We continue to work with local authorities, developers and the community (including Cam Community Action Group) to ensure it is in the right place.

The Parish Council has therefore created a strategy, rooted in community consultation and guided by Local Plan policy, to set out a bold vision to ensure our entire community can thrive together.

We have focussed on –

- Creating much needed and accessible primary care services and community facilities, through proposing the creation of a new village centre
- Expanded transport links, including the potential transport interchange at the railway station
- Increasing recreational space through ongoing negotiations to secure much needed additional green space

Through consultation, collaboration and shared purpose, we are laying the foundations for a healthier, better-connected future with the aim of creating a place to live well, grow together, and call home.

Community Engagement and Development

In response to our growing parish, especially the expansion around Box Road and Draycott, we have significantly increased our community involvement opportunities. Part funded through grants and partnership funding, we have successfully held –

- Community craft workshops in the parish council office
- Outdoor Cinema night at Cam Everlands Sports Ground
- Easter event and consultation at Woodfields
- Outdoor family yoga sessions at Jubilee Playing Fields
- HAF sessions at Woodfields
- Christmas light switch on

This programme of events helps to unite our expanding community across all areas of Cam. If as a parishioner you have any ideas of what else we could focus on or would like to get more involved, please get in touch with the office.



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, painting our bus stops, refurbishment of one of the iconic red telephone kiosks. These small things, together make our parish more appealing for new and existing residents.

Promotion opportunities for local businesses

The Cam Otter Trail is a new community project designed to encourage families to explore the parish while raising the profile of local businesses. Participating businesses will host one of the fibreglass otters for the duration of the summer and be included on the Cam Otter Trail map. Optional sponsorship is available for businesses willing and able to provide additional support.

In conclusion, I would like to personally thank all members of the parish council, Stroud District Council and Gloucestershire County Council, our partners, and especially the residents of Cam for their contributions, ideas, and continued support. The past year has been one of proactive engagement and forward-thinking investment. As you will see from our new website and branding, we have been working hard on our image and accessibility as a council. If this has appealed to you, and our work has inspired you, there are currently vacancies on the council which need to be filled.

Looking forward to what next year brings.



Vice-Chair's Annual Report 2025-26 – Councillor Jon Fulcher



This year my efforts have centred around the following areas:

Strategic development

Infrastructure to support current and expected development is essential. Therefore, a project I have held dear for the best part of 5 years has gathered pace over the last year. With the current medical practice already over 40% oversubscribed, the Integrated Care Board had previously identified Cam as requiring a larger facility. This was acknowledged in Stroud District Council's existing Local Plan. Once the Cam & Uley Family Practice stepped up with its willingness to produce the business case for a new, larger facility, the work could really begin. A feasibility study sponsored by the practice was followed by one jointly funded by Cam Parish Council and the District Council through community infrastructure levy (CIL) funding. It is envisioned that a new medical centre will be at the heart of a health hub providing Cam and surrounding parishes with joined up medical services on one accessible site with adequate parking. This in turn has led to the hope that such a site would also host a series of community facilities that would provide the area with a centre, a heart which is clearly needed given the extra housing on the horizon.

Biodiversity and nature recovery

With a background of working for nature charities and an association with the Rackleaze area for nature on behalf of the Parish Council, as well as being a representative and latterly chair of the Cam, Dursley, and Uley Joint Woodland Committee, I have taken the lead amongst the councillors on matters pertaining to biodiversity net gain and projects to protect the green spaces we have control of. I also advocate acquiring further natural and recreational green areas for wildlife and community to thrive in and enjoy.

Youth Services

I have always been keen for younger people to have a voice, and for that voice to be heard. Therefore, I was pleased to join the Youth Forum Group for Cam and Dursley and to continue the interaction with The Door who are employed by the Parish Council to run youth sessions and wider young people engagement, including being active within Rednock School.

General committee and working party involvement

Balancing full-time work as a carer with being on all the Parish Council internal committees such as Planning & Highways and Recreation & Leisure is demanding but rewarding. Through these, working groups, and external committees such as the Cam & Uley Patient Participation Group, I have seen the value of collaboration with various local groups and neighbouring parishes as well as public engagement and hope this cooperation will grow to face the challenges ahead. Everybody on Cam



Parish Council, officers and councillors alike, current and past, have worked incredibly hard towards the goal of making Cam a better place to live and will continue to do so, but we can only succeed with the help and support of the community we serve. All the councillors are volunteers and many of the groups and organisations we engage with such as the Cam Community Action Group and Stroud Valleys Project depend on volunteers themselves. We are also lucky to share close working relationships with elected representatives from District and County Councils. All share the same goal, taking pride in what they do and always striving to protect the natural environment and quality of life for fellow residents. I give my thanks to them all.

Jon Fulcher



Recreation and Leisure Annual report 2025/26

The last 12 months have been another good year for the Recreation and Leisure section of Cam Parish Council as we continuously strive to make Cam a nicer place for our residents to live.

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

- We managed to secure enough funding through the CIL program to develop the far car park up at Jubilee Playing field, lots of local residents complained about parking on the nearby housing estate on match day so hopefully the new car park and access road will alleviate that issue.
- The footfall at Jubilee has increased which is our aim. We want people to enjoy our open green spaces; to that end the council will be improving the perimeter footpath and the play area paths, we intend to upgrade the outdoor gym facilities.
- Westend footpath was widened and resurfaced giving better access to walkers.
- The Christmas lights switch on was again a big success with the introduction of Lazer lights as opposed to fireworks display in past years, we had a footfall of more than 8,000 people that passed through Cam during the few hours that the celebration was on.
- Last summer we held a few children's activities at different venues around Cam which was very successful and sponsored by a local food company at no cost to Cam Parish Council.
- The council continues to work with Stroud Valley Project (SVP) headed mainly by Cllr Jon Fulcher of the council to maintain the nature area behind Tesco's; like replacing the walkway gripper strips to raise the awareness and increase the visitation to the area for the community.

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

- Continue to improve access to Jubilee Playing Field
- Install WiFi at the Pavilion for all users and monitor live events at the Pavilion.
- We are looking at further developing Cam Green play area to make it a safer place and provide greater accessibility for all people of different abilities.
- Continue to investigate the options available to adopt Holywell Orchard
- Explore options of a nature/pond area at our allotments
- Continuous improvements at our allotment sites (eg fencing, plot numbering etc)

Cllr Glyn Gough
Chair Recreation and Leisure



Pederson Way

A cycling legend has helped open a new walking and cycling route in Dursley. Olympic cyclist Chris Boardman and Stroud MP Simon Opher joined the project team, councillors, and school pupils in Dursley on Friday, to celebrate the launch of the Pedersen Way.

The newly named route goes through the Littlecombe development and is designed to improve active travel options for all ages and abilities.

Boardman - who is an Olympic gold medallist, a national active travel commissioner and chair of Sport England - was joined by cycling groups, schoolchildren, and Pedersen cycle owners who gathered for the occasion, which included speeches and a ribbon-cutting ceremony under sunny spring skies.

Phil Littleford, project lead, said: "The team and I are delighted that our team member Simon Opher, along with Chris Boardman were able to join us and Verne opening of this important section of the route linking Cam & Dursley. To have so many local people here showing their support is really gratifying and we'll continue to pursue the plan to link Cam & Dursley Station to Dursley, Uley, Conley and eventually connect with National Cycle Network Route 41 in Slimbridge. The feedback we've received about our new name, logo and Friday's event has been overwhelmingly positive from many people of all ages and abilities. With the publicity this event created and our new signage we expect more and more people to use this safe and accessible route."

Since its inception in 2007, the project and its route have been known as the Cam, Dursley & Uley Greenway.

The name was originally chosen to reflect the proposed route from Cam & Dursley Station along the former railway line into the centre of Dursley.

However, after extensive planning and assessment, it became clear that most of the original railway route could not be used.

As a result, significant work was undertaken to identify an alternative route that would deliver the project's goals.

Over time, the scope of the project has expanded. Uley was added, and work is underway to explore connections to Coaley and Slimbridge.

It was recently announced at a Gloucestershire County Council meeting that the 8km route would also receive a £110,000 funding boost.



Dursley United Charities & Cam Sports Club

Councillor Jonathan Dormer Report

Dursley United Charities

I have attended all scheduled meetings since taking over from Miranda Clifton.

Meetings are scheduled approximately each quarter. Meeting is in May

I am now a trustee of this organisation.

I have attended meetings in November 2025 and January 2026, and voted on such items as:

- Helping to provide phone pouches (which block phone signals) for each pupil of Rednock School
- Christmas Benefactions – comprising of distribution of monies to approximately 75 local families (Nominated individuals and 146 children with those families)
- Support for the local elderly

Cam Sports Club

I attend in the capacity as an honorary sports club member. To fulfil the requirements CPC have a member on the Sport club committee, when CPC purchased the land the sports clubs uses for cricket, football and tennis, with the intent that this is given Fields in Trust status in the fullness of time.

Attended meeting in October, November, January, February. Next meeting is in May

- I have facilitated support via CPC for planning applications for a new shed, tree preservation orders and the new pavilion
- Facilitating through the SDC district councillors attempted resolution of a boundary dispute with a neighbour of the sports ground



Dursley Welcomes Walkers

Our vice- chair Anne Roberts attended a regional get-together of Walkers are Welcome towns a year ago.

Our 5-day Festival in October had over 500 walkers, a record for us. One walk that was so,popular that we did it twice was one from the site of former Coaley Junction station along as much of the trackbed as was accessible, to finish at a specially mounted railway display at The Heritage Centre. The week finished with tea and cakes provided by and for Cotswold Vale Talking Newspaper.

We have updated the 14-mile Lantern Way but need to rebuild our website to display the revised map and are currently planning this year's October Walking Festival.

We funded the installation of a new seat on Cam Long Down.

Our front-window Facebook Page "Dursley Walkers" promotes walks by local groups almost every week.



Cam Youth & Community Centre

Firstly, Thankyou Cam Parish Council for your continued support.

The Centre continues to be well used with our long running groups;

- Cadets (Air & Army) Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings
- Tots (by Beth Guest) Monday to Thursday
- The Door Youth Group 3pm until 5.30pm Mondays
- Friday Night Bingo 6.45pm until 9pm
- Private hires for parties etc

The toilets have all been fully refurbished with new toilets, sinks and panelling giving them a modern look. The lighting has also been changed for LED bulbs and striplights. The only job left is to complete this job is the painting of the walls in said toilets. All aspects of our Health & Safety are up to date with the legionella risk assessment having been carried out. We do however have a need for the fire doors to be repaired/replaced in a timely manner. This is a priority program of work at this time.

The list of works/projects we would like to have done to improve the centre is always growing. We would love to improve the outside space to the rear of the building which is currently out of bounds for all users of the hall as the ground is uneven. Having this done would give a large safe space to have outside activities for everyone to enjoy.

We had our Christmas afternoon tea that had 30 people local and not so local people attending. This event was enjoyed by those who came. We repeated this at Easter and again was well attended with 28 people having a pleasant afternoon. We are currently thinking about holding a summer community event such a BBQ or Hog Roast. This will be dependant on the weather and uptake of the event by the community.

The committee and myself will continue to work hard for the centre and keep it in a safe accessible space for the community.

We can now show you how the grants we have received from the Parish Council have been put to use. In Sept 2024 you granted a sum of £24,320.00 to have solar panels installed at the centre. The total installation cost was £24,320.78.

After the initial installation we have noted that the cost of running the electricity has been greatly reduced. In the financial year of 2023/24 the cost for the electricity was £2,641.17. In 2024/25 this rose to £4,445.70. For the financial year of 2025/26 this is now down to £346.94 the solar panels were installed in November 2024 as you can see they have made a massive improvement, greatly reducing our overall costs and carbon footprint.

Another grant of £500 was granted to the centre for refurbishing the Youth room. This was used to clad the solar panel storage batteries and the wall under the counter to prevent any accidental damage. This also added an element of safety to anyone using the room. The cost for this work was £573.00.



The next phase of work now needed at the centre came to light after reviewing the governments check list for village and community halls/centres.

The fire risk assessment was carried out on 11th December 2025 after receiving this it was noted that

- 1) Fuse boards needed to be inspected
- 2) Extra signage required
- 3) Extra fire exit lighting required
- 4) Fire door inspection required

As you can imagine the cost of this work is expensive so far we have paid

- 1) Fire Risk assessment £432
- 2) Fuseboard certificates £870
- 3) Extra fire exit lights £965
- 4) Fire doors inspection £360

The quote for the repairs for the fire doors in £5845.39 from the company that did the fire door inspection.



Stinchcombe Hill Trust

Stinchcombe Hill Trust manages the Hill for the benefit of the local community and visitors. The Trust's charitable purposes include:

- providing opportunities for recreation and exercise
- maintaining the Hill for the mutual enjoyment of walkers, riders and golfers
- protecting and preserving its historic landscape and wildlife habitats

Parts of Stinchcombe Hill are designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) because of their important grassland habitats and wildlife.

Conservation Grazing

This year conservation grazing is to be introduced on the SSSI. Traditionally, grazing by cattle is one of the most effective ways of managing species-rich grassland. It helps to:

- control scrub and coarse grasses
- maintain open grassland habitats
- support wildflowers and associated wildlife
- improve the long-term ecological condition of the SSSI

The grazing programme forms part of a long-term management plan developed with ecological advisers and supported by conservation funding.

Fencing

Fencing is being installed in order to allow grazing animals to be managed safely and to ensure:

- livestock remain within grazing compartments
- different areas can be grazed at different times
- visitors and livestock can coexist safely

Some fencing is permanent boundary fencing, while other fencing is temporary or seasonal and will only be used when cattle are present.

Access for walkers and other users

The Trust remains committed to maintaining public access to the Hill. Public rights of way remain open. The Trust is also reviewing access arrangements for some informal paths that have historically been used by walkers¹.

Where appropriate, gates or alternative routes may be provided to maintain access while allowing conservation grazing to take place.

Dogs

Dogs are welcome on the Hill. However, when livestock are present, and during the bird-nesting season (March to September), dogs should be kept under close control or on a lead in grazing areas for the safety of both livestock and dogs.

Temporary disruption

Some short-term disturbance can occur during installation of fencing and infrastructure. These works are necessary to establish the grazing programme and will allow the Hill's habitats to be managed more effectively in the long term.

¹ Not all of the hill has been designated as open access to public, notably some of the SSSI. Nevertheless, Trustees welcome the responsible use of the hill and ask people to respect boundary fences, pedestrian gates and temporary fences.



Keeping people informed

The Trust will continue to provide information about management work on the Hill through its website and notices on site. www.stinchcombehill.org.uk

Background Information about the Restoration Project

Stinchcombe Hill Trust have been working, for more than three years, in partnership with adjacent land owner at Stancombe Park and the Stinchcombe Golf Club to bring grazing back, specifically to the SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest). Now, a five-year CES (Conservation & Enhancement Scheme) agreement recently confirmed by Natural England will provide the funding to make this ambition a reality.

Grazing has long been identified as the way to improve the SSSI and to address the issue of encroaching scrub that robo-mowing, which is difficult and expensive, just cannot resolve even when done regularly as is the current practice.

For about 25 years these rare species rich calcareous grasslands formed on Jurassic limestone have not been at their optimum best in terms of biodiversity – the quantity of species of flora and fauna. Trustee Chris Wiltshire, a conservation expert and butterfly specialist has recorded a decline in butterfly species amongst others in his extensive observations over many years.

The Trust were required to commission a comprehensive and future proofed management plan that works for all users of the Hill, its ecology and wildlife. This was funded by FIPL (Farming in a Protected Landscape) and produced by FWAG (Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group) and gave a once in a generation opportunity to provide an important record for future Trustees and users of the Hill.

The Stinchcombe Hill Conservation Volunteers

The Group is made up of Volunteers led by one of the county's top entomologists and Trustee Chris Wiltshire. Tasks involve cutting back, raking and generally dealing with scrub encroachment. Ash dieback has been a major issue for the Trust this year, requiring removal of many trees, some by the group and some by a professional contractor.

Volunteers are always welcome as the work on the Hill expands to include positions such as cow watchers – people who regularly check the cows that will be grazing on the SSSI and trainee botanists with the Stinchcombe Hill Botany Group, led by Dr Kathy Meakin, who are currently carrying out a botanical survey of the Hill. Do get in touch if you are interested.



The Door

The Door Youth Project supports young people in the Stroud and Cotswold Districts. This is primarily through our community youth work, which takes place in various locations throughout the districts, including Cam (and Dursley).

The staple of our community youth work is our youth clubs. In Cam, this is at The Youth and Community Centre in Woodfields. The idea of a youth club is that it is a safe place for young people to come and hang out with trusted adults. There is no sign-up or cost required, and young people can simply turn up. Our youth clubs are open to young people aged 11–17, providing a space where they can relax, socialise, and take part in activities in a supportive environment.

Once there, there is often a variety of things for them to take part in, including a pool table, Nintendo Switch, or some classic board games. A particular favourite this year was playing AmongUs in real life. However, there is no expectation or requirement to join in — they are always free to sit on the sofa or just chat with friends.

There can be many reasons why young people come to our youth clubs. It is a chance to socialise and make new friends, try new opportunities, and learn new skills. Last year, we went on two trips, taking a coach full of young people to Drayton Manor and Cotswold Wildlife Park. It can also be a place where young people receive support from our trained youth workers, but most importantly, it is often about being part of a community. “I come to youth club because I feel safe and get to meet new people and get support from youth workers when I need it.”



In the youth club, we have some simple rules and behaviour expectations. These include no swearing or inappropriate language, being polite and respectful, remembering that two wrongs do not make a right, and no age-restricted items. All of our youth workers are trained and DBS-checked, helping to ensure that the space remains safe and supportive for everyone who attends.



For The Door, community youth work is much more than youth club. Our youth workers aim to embed themselves into the fabric of the community and the lives of young people. Noah, the Senior Youth Worker for Cam and Dursley, visits Rednock School every week during lunchtime to walk around and interact with young people. He also spends an afternoon in the school supporting students. Each year, Noah also visits local primary schools to work with Year 6 pupils before they start secondary school, helping them with the transition.

Over the last year, Cam Youth Club experienced a surge in attendance during the spring and summer months; however, this declined once the new school year began. This pattern is not uncommon, as attendance typically drops when the weather becomes colder and school routines resume. Throughout this academic year, we have welcomed over 45 unique



young people, with 9 attending regularly. While this is fewer than at some other youth clubs, there are still many positive outcomes to highlight. A smaller cohort allows youth workers to spend more meaningful time with attendees, building stronger relationships and offering more tailored support. Over the year, we have seen several young people develop significantly, growing in confidence and personal skills—something that has been a pleasure to witness. Moving forward, we will continue to explore ways to reach and support more young people in Cam, with the aim of making a safe space more easily accessible to all.



For more information about The Door and Youth Work in Cam and Dursley go to thedoor.org.uk

Great Western Air Ambulance Charity



Amount of Grant Awarded:

£2,200

GWAAC does not receive any regular government or NHS funding, instead we rely on our wonderful community to raise over £4 million in yearly running costs. Your support is more important than ever as the average cost per mission has risen by 10% to £2,200. It is thanks to wonderful supporters like you that we can continue to be there for those in our shared community. Thank you for believing in our work and for keeping us flying and driving forwards. We really can't thank you enough.

The money helped fund one of our critical care missions. Our specially trained crew responded to 2,344 people in urgent need of medical care in 2025, more than 6 per day on average.

We are truly grateful for your kindness and generosity. Gloucestershire is our busiest region, with 677 people needing the specialist skills of GWAAC's crew in 2025, nearly two a day. Since the funding was received, we have been called to Cam four times to help residents in critical need.



Dursley Tabernacle URC

Amount of Grant Awarded:

£600

Communittea supports twice monthly sessions to target social isolation providing refreshments of coffee, tea and cake. Available activities are tabletop games, arts and crafts, musicians. Transport is available via the DATE minibus. Sessions attract around 50-70 people each week offering a vibrant, inclusive environment that promotes wellbeing.

Money was spent on musicians, transport and art materials for November-April. A small Christmas present was also bought for attendees.



Parent & Carers Alliance C.I.C



Amount of Grant Awarded: £1744.00

This project used this funding to provide specialist sensory play equipment that supports children with additional needs to regulate their emotions, improve motor skills and engage more fully in learning and play. The equipment has created a safe, calming and stimulating environment where children can develop coordination, communication and social interaction skills. By meeting individual sensory needs, the project has reduced anxiety and behavioural difficulties, increased focus and participation, and promoted greater independence and wellbeing, enabling children to access activities and opportunities that may otherwise find challenging.

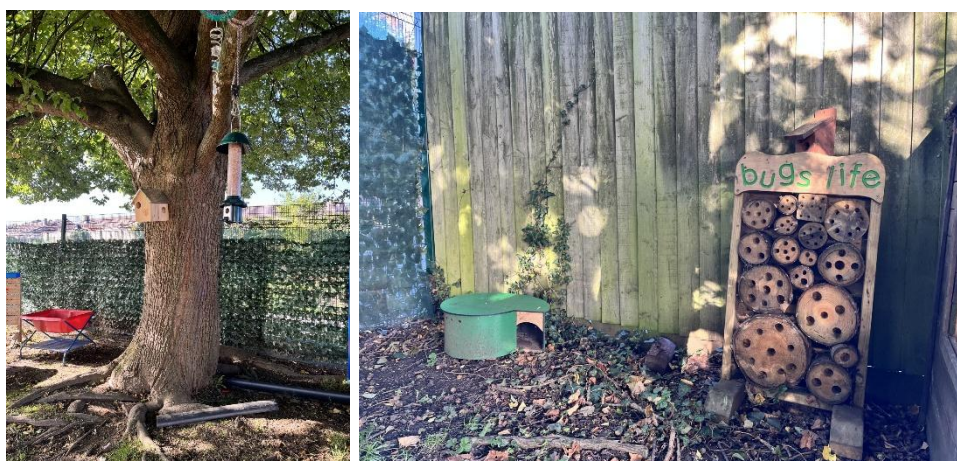
Many Cam residents have joined our sessions and thoroughly enjoyed our sessions. The feedback has been very positive.

We also took the sensory equipment to share at The Big Health Day in Gloucestershire to reach more families.

This funding has been fundamental to helping to set up our sensory play sessions. Without the equipment we would not be able to run.



Pata @ Funbusters



Amount of Grant Awarded: £244.41

The grant supported the redevelopment of the outdoor area at PATA @ Funbusters, with the aim of creating an outdoor learning environment that promotes wildlife, biodiversity and hands on learning for children aged 2 to 4 years.

Grant funding of £244.41 was used to purchase resources that enabled children to explore nature, gardening and local wildlife as part of their early years curriculum. Specifically, the funding paid for a hedgehog home, bird feeders, a squirrel nesting box, child friendly long handled gardening tools, gardening starter tool sets, and binoculars. These resources support practical learning about caring for the environment, growing plants, and observing wildlife within the setting's garden. The resources have enhanced our outdoor provision, helping to create an engaging and inclusive outdoor classroom that benefits children, staff and families, including those experiencing social or economic difficulties and children with additional or special educational needs. The project also supports our wider aim of encouraging children and families to value outdoor spaces, biodiversity and healthy lifestyles both at the setting and at home.

Approximately 45 to 50 people have directly benefited from the project. This includes around 40 children who attend PATA @ Funbusters, along with our staff team who support learning and care within the setting.

In addition, there have been indirect benefits for families and extended family members, particularly during open days and shared activities, where parents and carers have engaged with the outdoor space and learning resources. As a result, the overall reach of the project is broader, supporting both children and their families within Cam Parish.

Transition Stroud



Amount of Grant Awarded:
£560

Litter Pickers for Little Pickers began as a simple idea in January 2025 and quickly grew into a **district-wide initiative** focused on educating, equipping and empowering children to care for their local environment.

The project set out to provide primary schools with the tools and support needed to tackle litter while embedding positive environmental behaviours from a young age. By placing practical action alongside education, the initiative aims to create lasting cultural change—**encouraging pride, responsibility and community spirit** among the next generation.

Following outreach to primary schools across the district, the response was overwhelmingly positive. A total of **45 schools** signed up to take part, with requests for **1,800 litter pickers** and **4,500 educational books**. In total, **more than 7,000 children (including 774 children from Cam Everlands, Cam Hopton and Cam Woodfield Junior and Infant)** are **expected to benefit** from the project. This scale of engagement demonstrates both the demand for environmental support in schools and the shared commitment to fostering long-term behavioural change through education.

The project successfully surpassed its fundraising target of £13,300, ultimately **raising over £13,550**. This funding was secured through a combination of sources, reflecting a strong community-backed approach:

- Grant applications to Parish and Town Councils
- Allocation from the SDC litter budget
- County-level funding bids
- A successful crowdfunding campaign raising nearly £5,000
- Contributions from local businesses and supporters

This diverse funding model highlights the **collaborative effort behind the project and the widespread belief in its value**.



Cam Methodist Church

Amount of Grant Awarded:

£600

Cam Parish Council use the church in the Christmas Light switch on as the venue for Santa's Grotto, the grant was used for the heating of the Church and also decorating the interior for a 'Winter Forest' theme.

Positive comments have been received from the Cam community, and we really appreciate being able to be part of the lights switch on event.



GL11 Community Hub



Amount of Grant Awarded:

£2000

The Tooth Fairy at GL11

Early access to dental care and preventative oral health guidance can significantly reduce the need for emergency treatment and lower the incidence of caries and tooth decay among young children (Ly-Mapes et al., 2026). In Gloucestershire, only 43.9% of children and young people are registered with an NHS dentist (Gloucestershire County Council Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 2022), and rates of dental decay among 3-year-olds exceed the national average (Office for Health Improvement and Disparities, 2023). In response, the Tooth Fairy Project at GL11 was developed to:

- Provide a route for families with children under 5 to access free, preventative oral health advice in a friendly, non-clinical environment.
- Build on GL11's relational community development approach, using peer support networks and trusted community relationships to reduce the sense of judgement often associated with clinical dental conversations.
- Deliver peer-to-peer learning supported by a professional oral health practitioner, registered dentist and children's nutritionist (from BeeZee Nutrition).
- Strengthen referral pathways for families struggling to access dental services.

How have we used the money so far?

Since September 2025, monthly Tooth Fairy Drop-Ins have been delivered alongside GL11's Family Friday offer and the Health Visitor service. Sessions were themed by the Oral Hygiene Practitioner around practical topics such as toothbrushing, sugar swaps and managing dental emergencies. Families received free toothbrushes, toothpaste, activity packs and information sheets.

During National Smile Day, the Tooth Fairy visited GL11, and the Families Team delivered a themed play session exploring "going to the dentist" and "looking after your smile".



Our Family Support Team identified families who would particularly benefit from deeper support, supplemented by referrals from BUPA Dental Care in Dursley. As a result, four families formed a small cohort attending “Brush Up”, a 5-week group designed to support discussion around oral hygiene routines, healthy habits and nutrition, facilitated by the oral practitioner, dentist and nutritionist.

Funding has also supported project management time, referral coordination and overall delivery.

Outcomes and Impact

- 8 families were referred into the Brush Up closed group
- 4 families attended regularly

Two families were referred by BUPA Dental Care due to struggles with oral hygiene despite being registered at the surgery. The remaining families were identified through Tooth Fairy Drop-Ins and were motivated to establish and maintain healthier oral hygiene routines.

The drop-in model proved particularly impactful. Interactions were natural, relational and embedded in existing community rhythms, resulting in stronger trust and richer engagement. This highlighted that many families face emotional barriers such as fear, stigma, or previous negative experiences which prevent them from seeking dental care or joining structured programmes.

This insight is helping shape the next phase, shifting emphasis from education-focused delivery to reducing barriers to initial engagement.

From the small group, one family has successfully registered with a local dentist, a significant achievement considering the challenges in the area.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Brush Up sessions aimed to support healthy habit formation and encourage peer-led discussion. A “smile selfie” metric using self-disclosing tablets was piloted to help parents visualise their own brushing technique. However, inconsistent attendance and families’ reluctance or difficulty completing the activity at home meant the metric was ultimately inconclusive regarding behaviour change over the short course.

Attendees completed a series of pre-course self-assessment questionnaires around oral health and hygiene, as well as toothbrushing routines and any ‘pinch points’. Additionally, families were supported through a number of activities encouraging them to reflect on lifestyle, current habits and experiences of dental care at home.

These activities were designed based on the work of BeeZee Nutrition, who run a similar programme focused on weight management. However, the tools felt overly formal and were subject to biases in responses, creating limitations in the reliability of self-reported data.



Quarry Chapel



Amount of Grant Awarded:

£1600

You kindly supported the shortfall we had to deliver a 10 week course for children/young people who are unable to attend or struggling to attend school. The course invited the young person to attend with a parent or trusted adult. Over the 10 weeks the team taught the group to cook and make a set of ceramic tableware each. They made delicious meals including Thai curry, vegetable pasties, focaccia and vegetable chow mien. At the end of each session everyone sat down together and ate the wonderful meals.

Although Barnwood Trust had supported us with the main of the costs of the course for the 21 participants, we had had an increase in costs. CPC grant enabled us to cover this shortfall. The £1,600 was split this way:

- £775 half the rent at Tab Community Halls for 10 weeks x 6 rooms
- £100 increased ingredient cost
- £350 increased staffing costs – we needed an extra assistant = 6 sessions
- £175 increased clay and firing costs
- £200 exhibition costs – rental, fixings, paint etc

We were able to exhibit the groups ceramics in two places, in The Engine in Dursley and at Museum in the Park, Stroud. We received incredibly positive feedback and interest in the outcomes and our course, which has enabled us to run a second Cookery/Ceramic course this year which culminates next week in another exhibition in Dursley.

- Your support enabled 10 families in crisis to undertake and succeed. You were part of the change that is needed locally. You enabled us to support and bring energy to help our local young people
- We were able to link directly with the local schools to provide a free course that taught high quality skills.
- Each participant made a diner service – plate, side plate, mug, coaster, name plate, bowl and decorations
- Every week half the group learnt amazing cookery skills. Each week everyone sat down together and ate the food that was made.



Our young people are in crisis. 28-30% of Rednock students are either not or part attending school. There needs to be interventions that allow these vulnerable, anxious children to feel they can learn, be part of a group, be valued and respected. We believe our course has enabled this to happen. We saw incredible changes in the young people and their parent/carers. Elective mutes started speaking, friendships were made, confidence was boosted. Simple tasks like getting up, getting out of the house are becoming impossible for many young people.

We had 21 people take part in the course. We have also delivered pop-up workshops during the exhibition at The Engine where we welcomed a total of 120 people. 100s of people also saw the exhibition when it was at Museum in the Park. We were able to have a celebration event there which the young people were hugely proud of!



Hopton School House

Amount of Grant Awarded:

£300

Hopton School House once again supported Cam Parish Council light switch on with a provision of Santa's Grotto. The staff at HSH volunteered their time to provide a wonderful few hours for children to meet Father Christmas and receive a small gift. The funding we received was used to purchase gifts for each child.

The light switch on was very well attended and Father Christmas met with over 100 children, and we were able to purchase 48 books and 75 gift bags with chocolate for Father Christmas to give to the children.

Feedback was positive with parents carers and children delighted with the event.



Blooming Cam

Blooming Cam's focus for the new gardening season is replenishing and reviving the half-barrel planters which are placed from Froffy Coffee cafe to the Cam Council offices. These wooden planters are being emptied, treated and restocked with both fresh compost and new plants. Ivy had been planted in them in the past and although this originally looked attractive spilling over the sides of the barrels, it quickly took over. This made it difficult to even plant other flowers in the barrels, let alone them having sufficient root space to get established and thrive. Therefore the ivy needs to be reduced or removed. We're looking forward to planting the barrels up with fresh flora to add a welcome splash of summer colour to the area.

The volunteers will also be looking after the flower beds around the war memorial at the bottom of Cam Pitch, the flower bed at the end of Froffy Coffee and weeding the steps at Hopton war memorial.

None of this would be possible without the grant from Cam Parish Council which we ensure covers all the planting costs involved. Thank you Cam Council for this grant.

Blooming Cam is down to just four volunteers this year as one of our founder members, Miranda Clifton, has left the area. Therefore, we've had to scale back our efforts and now look after a smaller patch. We meet for a couple of hours every Tuesday and would welcome new volunteers! We're a friendly bunch of gardeners who aim to make the centre of Cam more cheerful with colourful planting.

If anyone is interested, please contact Jo Lewis on jo.lewis1@hotmail.co.uk



Dursley Environmental Land Management Group, Annual Report

Councillor Jon Fulcher 2025-26

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.

After making lots of progress in previous years, the group has met only sporadically this year. Efforts this year have concentrated on training Dursley green management staff how to adapt practices to suit better management of the 5 or 6 areas identified previously. Volunteer groups continue to make progress in Uley and Dursley and a Dursley Herb Town project is being planned by the National Herb Society.

Plans to support the list of species that may benefit from better management (e.g. slow worms, hedgehogs, bats, and birds under threat such as House Sparrows, Starlings, Swifts, Barn Swallows, and House Martins) have not been advanced despite best intentions behind the scenes.

The group started to speak about Rackleaze in Cam at a meeting last November but no meetings have been called since.



Patient Participation Group

Annual Report 2025-26- Councillor Jon Fulcher

Purpose:

As Cam Council's representative within the group, to liaise between our council and the Cam and Uley Family Practice (CUFP) 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:

It has been another busy and eventful year for the practice and its PPG.

Chronologically, having agreed a constitution, a regular action plan and agenda format the previous year, the first meeting of the group for this report was in June 2025. This consisted of a very brief AGM reviewing the previous year and the announcement that CUFP had been listed for a surgery rebuild within the Glos ICB Infrastructure Plan 2024-31. CUFP had requested funding from SDC to support a feasibility study related to potential locations for a new surgery to support a patient population up to 15000 patients. This primed the PPG to regularly discuss progress of the project at regular meetings into the future. Key items of practice business for the regular meeting that followed were announcements about the reduction of telephone ordering of prescriptions on safety grounds following advice to practices from the NHS, and the rollout of an electronic triage system. Progress was being made to secure the purchase of the Uley practice building and I briefed the PPG on our bid to secure funding from SDC to support our own feasibility study which would look at building a wider ranging 'village centre' and would build on the practice's ongoing study,

The next meeting was in September when the agenda included an update about the triage system going live later in the year and would be hosted on the SystmConnect online platform. Internal reorganisation and staff changes were discussed as normal and dates for the Autumn/Winter Covid clinics were agreed. There was much discussion about the new practice building being planned and its location. I thoroughly briefed the PPG about all Cam strategic planning and current and forthcoming developments and was asked to liaise regularly between the surgery and the Parish Council. We were advised that there were currently 11136 registered patients, a slight rise from 11025 in 2024, with 234 coded as veterans.

By December 2025, at our next meeting, there were still 2 medical practice developers in the running to supervise the new build. Redevelopment on the Glebelands' site was in full swing, causing the occasional snag for clinic access and parking. We were primed about the reorganisation, early 2026, of local ICBs (Integrated Care Boards) into larger unitary structures with associated job losses expected. 664 carers like myself were registered with the practice but it was believed the actual number was somewhat higher. Medical Centre Developments (MCD) had been chosen as the preferred partner by the practice partners. There had been very good take up of the covid vaccine through the practice, and the current chair, Jonathan Pape, was thanked on behalf of the practice for steering the



PPG through turbulent waters, with a new chair waiting in the wings. All NHS/CIL funding for the new practice building would be dependent on a business plan to be worked up jointly by the practice partners, the ICB, and MCD. As Cam PC rep, I enlightened the group about the two employment areas within Cam and how important the new Health Hub, including the new practice building was to the wider community and the Parish Council itself.

Finally, in March this year there was good news regarding the Uley surgery building. A mortgage had been secured and the purchase was expected to be completed by the end of the month, securing the future of the Uley operation. Under a new chair, Jack Gritt, we were briefed about the latest practice development progress by Kat Bristol, the partner lead on the project. In return, I passed on news of latest planning applications and Parish Council actions that might affect patient numbers and access to medical services in the area. I also reported on an initial meeting between two MCD directors and our Council, with a walk to the site being particularly useful for the MCD chartered surveyors and an architect. The recently established Practice quarterly Newsletters were proving both popular and useful. We also made a concerted effort to look for more PPG members.

Planning for future joint discussion meetings between the PPG, the ICB, and MCD representatives was discussed and eventually it was decided these should happen as necessary and separately to the quarterly standard PPG gatherings. The new group gained an acronym, PULSE, which nominally stands for Planning & Upgrading Local Services for Everyone but I'm sure we won't recall all that in months to come. So far, two such meetings have taken place before the Annual Parish Assembly and have proved very productive and enlightening. Discussions have ranged from timetable to the funding model for such a project. Early signs are extremely positive with both the ICB and MCD impressed by how proactive the Parish Council is being and how receptive and informed the PPG is. Regular future meetings with statutory bodies and stakeholders will be reported on before public consultations begin but a practice patient survey has been issued which, since going live at the beginning of May, has garnered an astonishing 1300+ replies which the ICB are busy collating as this report is being compiled.



CAM, DURSLEY & ULEY WOODLANDS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2025-26

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



It's been a year of ups and downs with many positive events but equally with many challenges, from the escalation of issues that have arisen over the last five years, particularly in Cam and Dursley Woods.

The stand out 'Pearls and Violets' project on Long Down, aided by our greatly valued group of Conservation Volunteers, continues to inspire but the rise of antisocial behaviour that has led to further damage to our woodland has been disheartening.

While the committee deals with regular maintenance tasks, broken fences, gates, bracken cutting, scrub removal and so on, the number of trees falling in stormy weather, as well as ash dieback causing more trees to need felling, has raised the Committee's work load.

Cam and Dursley Woods

Cam and Dursley Woods is a rare, ancient woodland which offers a rich diversity of habitats for trees, 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, and other experts.

Conservation Volunteers

The amount of extra work experienced this year has brought about a need for more hands on board. Our newly formed **Conservation Voluntary Group** are able to deal with smaller scale trees and branches removal where needed. In just two hours one work party diverted part of the path on the lower perimeter to ensure walkers avoid a large badger set.



The invasive Himalayan Balsam growing in the woods has been brought largely under control through volunteer work parties who continue to tackle it every spring, if spotted.

We encourage anyone who is interested in this kind of outdoor work and would like to join the list of volunteers to get in touch.

Public engagement



The signs erected last year have been received positively and may have helped a greater number of members of the public than usual to come forward to report such things as fallen trees over paths. While we have a Path Warden who looks out for such events, extra eyes are useful to us.

More members of the public than usual have also attended our meetings, bringing concerns about the negative impact some visitors are having on this environmentally sensitive area, such as antisocial behaviour, dangerous mountain bikers, the damaging of trees, wildlife habitats and the forest floor.

Antisocial behaviour

Antisocial behaviour in the woods is an issue that is being raised more frequently by members of the public and the Committee. Incidents include, illegal use of the woods, building of encampments and tracks by mountain bikers, tree damage and soil disturbance.

Mountain bikes

- There have been observations of sapling and mature tree damage, large areas of earth disrupted and dangerous bike trails, some built so that bikes speed down slopes and jump across footpaths including the Cotswold Way. Lighting of fires is also a big concern.



- Observers say younger children are involved as well as older children from Rednock School. They are usually fairly well behaved but there have been reports of adult bikers who are abusive if approached.

- A local resident to the wood has experienced a lot of anti-social behaviour – stripping bark off of trees, using tools, spades and saws. He was able to give the most popular times for the bikers to be in the woods – after school, after ‘tea’ and all weekend. He had asked the local Community PCSO to visit during these periods.

- Another view of the situation, put forward at a meeting, is that the youngsters are actually taking part in a healthy activity – but in the wrong place and with little understanding of the sensitivity of the environment. There was sympathy for the lack of spaces and play provision for young people to be out doors in. Development was blamed for taking away many of these spaces in the area

- Most adult mountain bikers stick to the Countryside Code that says they should use Bridal Paths only. But there is an element that consider they can go anywhere and are willing to be aggressive about the point.

- The Committee, who are volunteers, are powerless to enforce the Countryside Code. Dangerous jumps and trails can be taken out with the right resources. Our move is towards education to at least minimise the damage. If young cyclists



understand about the sensitivity of the ancient woodland they may start to see themselves as custodians of our local woods.

Our committee has liaised with a youth worker at The Door who meets children at Rednock School and who willingly offered to work on an educational approach to understanding why rules need to be kept to protect the woodland.

SDC are working on an Education Pack that could be shared.

- It has been suggested that the bikers were given an area in a less sensitive part of the woods but the whole of the wood is sensitive and the committee's land manager reiterated the point that Cam and Dursley woods is all ancient woodland and that we receive grant payments from Rural Payment Scheme to conserve the land there. Many consider that there are plenty of bridle ways in the area that can be used.

Other Issues

- A military style encampment built deep in the woods and only visible once the leaves came off the trees was dismantled with the help of SDC community officers, over the winter.

- Reports were received of large mounds of garden waste being dumped in the woods by householders. A letter was distributed to all householders backing on to the woods asking them not to do this as it changes the nature of the soil and habitat in those areas and attracts rats. The situation is being monitored.

- A long chain across the entrance to the woods along the Cotswold Way was stolen by masked men with an angle grinder (witnessed by walker). This has now been replaced.

- Theft of wood piles some of which has been left specifically for conservation purposes.

The Woodland is a wonderful place to walk in and we are lucky to have it on our doorstep. Visitors are welcomed and are encouraged to help us look after it by following the Countryside Code and the Woodland Code that can be found on signs at entrances to the woods.



Cam Peak and Long Down

Pearls and Violets project

The Committee puts biodiversity at the heart of our land stewardship and this project, begun last year, in collaboration with Wild Dursley does just that. Conservation Volunteers, led by Julian Jones recently had their third working party planting violets on Long Down, with the long-term aim of improving the habitat for the potential reintroduction of the Pearl Bordered Fritillary butterfly.



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.

We have received encouragement and advice from the Chair of Butterfly Conservation in the West Midlands, Mel Mason, who has reared PBF butterflies and successfully introduced them back into the wild on the Malvern Hills – where there is a similar habitat to Long Down. The butterflies like south facing slopes, violets and bracken cover for warmth.

Some members of the Committee went with a group of ecologists to visit Mel Mason in Malvern to hear about his work and about his thoughts on Long Down.



Reptiles on Long Down

Stroud District Council did a survey of Long Down to investigate the potential for reptiles, specifically slow worms, to be rehomed there. The area was found to have its own very healthy population already. This was considered a happy result although the site was not then seen as suitable for the rehoming project.

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. Visitors may expect to find up to 20 docile animals there between May and October.



Uley Bury

The Committee continues to look after Uley Bury, with paths, fences and grass maintenance, tree care and scrub clearance. Our Land Manager directs and collaborates with the Uley Conservation Group Volunteers coordinated by Janet Wood.

There was a change in the grazing pattern in 2025. This caused extra growth and scrub which meant extra attention was required that was beyond the means of the volunteers. We thank Uley Parish Council for their donation towards this work. Scrub removal has now taken place in the area of concern.

Changes within the committee

Cllr Jon Fulcher was voted in as ongoing Chair at the annual meeting and a new representative for SDC, Lauren Holbrow, Public Spaces Officer, was welcomed.

Julian Jones, Ecologist, of Wild Dursley has recently been invited to sit on the Committee which he has accepted. He will join David Lungley as one of two experts permitted to join as a voting member under the Committee's new arrangement with SDC.

Rebecca Charley, Strategic Lead for Nature Recovery and Biodiversity at SDC, continues to be a great support and source of advice to the Committee, attending many of our meetings.

Financial end of year statement:

Lloyds Treasurer's account:

Opening balance 06/04/25 £11803.98

Balance at 05/04/26 £25405.39

Deposit Acc. Balance at 5/04/26 £20070.71

Income over year £33121.13

Expenditure over year £19691.57

Reserves agreed in 25/26 budget £16000.00

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.



Chairman's Comment

The work done by this committee on behalf of Stroud District Council in woodland and grassland has become even more significant given the pressures on open spaces from development and the necessity to preserve species of both fauna and flora. This year the committee has expanded its efforts to increase biodiversity and plan for the future by way of the "Pearls and Violets" project to provide habitat that paves the way for the return to a previous local hotspot in the area near Cam Peak of the Pearl-bordered fritillary butterfly. For projects like these which are in addition but complimentary to the work done by our land manager and contractors, the role of volunteers has and will be essential. More and more work is being caused by climate change, ash dieback, and human disturbance. Again, this can only be addressed by our existing partners including landowners and farmers supplemented by willing citizens organised by through this committee and like-minded local groups. I thank these community heroes who give up their own time, and effort, to make our natural spaces a better place for nature and people. I thank all members of the committee, the clerk, our land manager, path warden, and SDC officers for their support and endeavours over the last year.



Councillor Attendance

Recording councillor attendance is an important part of ensuring transparency, accountability, and effective governance. By monitoring participation in meetings and committee work, the council can demonstrate that elected members are actively fulfilling their responsibilities to represent residents and contribute to decision-making. Attendance records also help identify any patterns or issues that may require support or intervention, while providing assurance to the public that council business is conducted with appropriate oversight and engagement.

Councillor	Full Council	Planning & Highways	Recreation & Leisure	Finance, Policies & General Purpose
Cllr Fowler	7 out of 7			4 out of 5
Cllr Fulcher	6 out of 7	9 out of 12	4 out of 5	3 out of 5
Cllr Walker (joined Nov)	4 out of 4	6 out of 8	1 out of 3	2 out of 2
Cllr Gough	6 out of 7		5 out of 5	3 out of 5
Cllr Dormer	6 out of 7		5 out of 5	1 out of 2
Cllr Chandler	7 out of 7		5 out of 5	
Cllr Wiggins (joined July)	5 out of 6	4 out of 10	3 out of 4	
Cllr Rees (joined Dec)	2 out of 2	3 out of 5	0 out of 2	
Cllr Angell	4 out of 7			3 out of 5
Cllr Green	5 out of 7	11 out of 12		
Cllr Grimshaw	4 out of 7	10 out of 12		2 out of 2
Cllr Temlett	7 out of 7	11 out of 12		
Cllr Griffin (joined Dec)	2 out of 2	3 out of 5	1 out of 2	