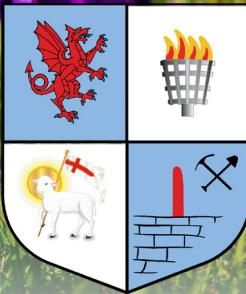


SPRING 2023



Your Newsletter

For residents of Braysdown, Carlingcott, Peasedown St John and Woodborough

Published by Peasedown St John Parish Council

Beacon Hall, French Close, Peasedown St. John, BA2 8SN ~ 01761 433686 ~ clerk@peasedownstjohnparishcouncil.gov.uk

Parish Map & Signage Project

As part of their Parish Map and Signage Project, councillors have been putting together a Walking Heritage Trail which will be detailed on display boards around the parish (similar to that shown on the right) to highlight the impressive history of this area.

To gather as much information as possible for the project, councillors held a drop-in at Beacon Hall on Saturday 18th February (pictured below), asking local residents to provide any information they may have about older properties in the village and to bring in any photos that we may be able to use. Cllr Kathy Thomas, who has been leading the project, said: *"We were pleased with the response to our appeal for information, which has provided us with some new content which we can use on our interpretation boards,*

particularly for the Carlingcott area. However,

we still need more details for the other areas, especially photographs. We are hoping to hold another session where residents can see the draft designs before the boards are made." Councillors plan to install a total of 8 boards, positioned around the village, which will focus on different points of interest in the immediate area. A larger map on the side of Beacon Hall will provide a guide to the whole route for those wishing to walk around the whole Heritage Trail, and will list all the different points of interest.

If you were unable to attend the drop-in on 18th February, but have some information you would like to share with us, please get in touch with the Parish Office by phone or email (see above).

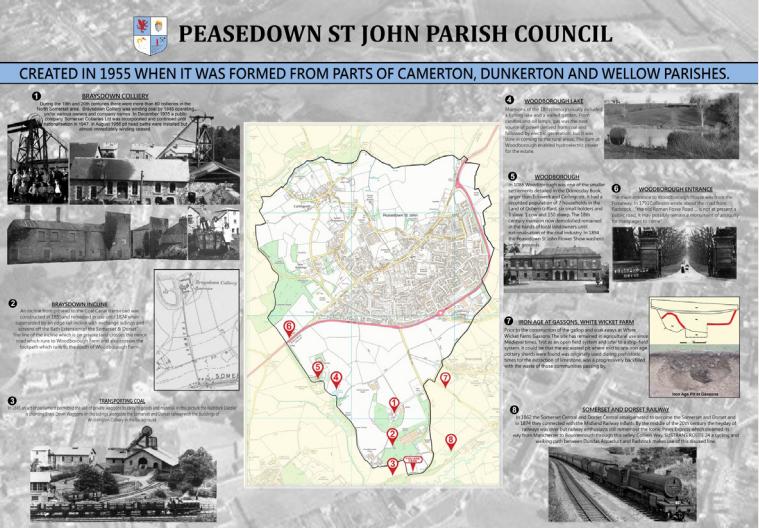


Photo shows (L to R): Local resident Mike Gregory, Cllr Kathy Thomas and Cllr Audrey Gillard-Sprake

Councillor Highways Review



Councillors are currently undertaking a Parish Highways Strategy Review following a recent meeting with Stefan Chiffers, Area Traffic Engineer for B&NES Council. The aim is to identify specific issues throughout the village, so that a plan of suggested actions can be put forward to B&NES Council.

Councillors have established an Advisory Panel to take this issue forward and **they would love to hear some feedback from village residents on highway-related issues they encounter and any suggested improvements they have**, so as to capture them all as part of the holistic plan.

If there is an issue you would like to raise, please get in touch with the Parish Office by email or phone (see above) or if you would prefer to meet with us to raise a problem or idea in person, we can arrange for members of the Advisory Panel to meet you. Photo shows Councillors Barbara Bailey (L) and Gill Auld (R) looking at the confusing signage at the entrance to the village, where both 20mph and 30pmh signs are present on the road surface.

How is your money spent?

Peasedown St John Parish Council provides, manages and maintains a number of facilities and services in the village, including:

- Public open spaces (the Village Green, the Carlingcott Tump and Ecewiche Green)
- Beacon Field and Beacon Field play areas
- Ashgrove Cemetery
- The Recreation Field, including the football changing rooms, canteen, toilet and play areas
- BMX track and skate park
- Braysdown Lane Allotments
- Beacon Hall
- Street lighting (126 lights are owned and funded by the Parish Council)
- Maintenance of footpaths
- The Council Office
- Parish newsletters
- Maintenance of roundabouts and flower beds
- Floral displays in hanging baskets and planters
- Festive lights and decorations
- Funding for the School Crossing Patrol
- Parish Council website and Facebook page
- Winter support for all residents - supplying and refilling grit bins
- Litter picking around the village
- Staff and Councillor training
- Community grant scheme
- Civic events



Council Staff

The Parish Council employs a mixture of full-time and part-time staff.

- Staff work closely with the Councillors to deliver:
- Day to day running of all the Parish Council facilities and services (see above list)
 - Attending all Council meetings to provide administrative support and to ensure that all legislation and policies are complied with
 - Up-dating financial records and preparation of financial reports
 - Providing the first point of contact for enquiries from residents of the village
 - Maintaining and filing all parish administrative records
 - Beacon Hall bookings, invoicing, caretaking and cleaning
 - Implementation of projects agreed by the Parish Council
 - Co-ordinating with contractors to assist with delivering the Council's objectives

PEASEDOWN ST JOHN PARISH COUNCIL

The Beacon Hall, French Close, Peasedown St John, BA2 8SN
Tel: 01761 433688 E-mail: clerk@peasedownstjohnparishcouncil.gov.uk

Statement of Proposed Financial Activities 2023-24



The Parish Council of Peasedown St John was formed in 1955 and represents the interests of the communities of Peasedown St John, Carlingcott and Braysdown. The current Council consists of seventeen Parish Councillors who are local residents and give their time voluntarily.

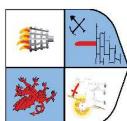
The Parish Council's main role is to ensure that the delivery of services to meet local needs is maintained and that the quality of life in the community and the environment of the Parish are improved. To operate effectively, the Parish Council requires an annual income and the majority of this is obtained through a levy on each household - this levy is known as the "Precept" and forms a small percentage of the Council Tax that each household pays.

The Parish Council ensures that its finances are well managed, by scrutinising the accounts at every meeting of the Finance & Amenities Committee and quarterly at Full Council meetings (all of which are open to the public). Detailed spending plans for the coming year must be provided to Council Tax payers when the precept requirement reaches a certain level.

What has been achieved in 2022/23?

Some major achievements for 2022/23 have been:

- Installation of the Jubilee Garden next to Beacon Hall
- Jubilee Celebration Event
- Continued maintenance of our open green spaces
- Tree planting with the Mini Police
- Installation of a Canteen and Accessible Toilet at the Recreation Ground
- Improvements to the dugouts on the Recreation Ground Football Pitch
- A new vehicle for our Caretakers to carry out their duties
- Replacement of the heating/hot water boiler in the Parish Office at Beacon Hall
- Continuation of phase 2 of the cremated remains plots at Ashgrove Cemetery
- Replacement of fence around the play area at the Recreation Ground
- Return of the Christmas Tea Party for older residents



What is different this year?

Our long-serving caretaker, who used his own vehicle, left us towards the end of 2022. We have also had an increase in both the facilities that we manage and, due to taking on land previously managed by the housing developer, the area of outdoor space that we are responsible for. We have needed to source a vehicle for our caretaking staff to use, and we are looking to fund a full-time caretaker (in addition to our remaining staff). This, combined with national staff pay increases and rising fuel/energy costs, has meant that we have had to increase our operational budgets for these areas.

The Parish Council closely monitors tasks to ensure we have the correct balance between our employed staff and contracted works. So although some budgets remain fluid, this will not affect the overall budget.

We also continually review services, budgets and suppliers to reduce the day to day running costs when possible, and this year has been no exception. Taking all factors into consideration, including the long-term view of the Council's finances, we report that we have been able to maintain the precept at the same level this year as for 2022/23. This has been possible due to using underspend from the Covid years. However, this year our income is very close to our total expenditure and so an increase in the precept will be likely for 2024/25.



Forthcoming Projects and Ear-marked Reserves

In addition to its normal activities and routine expenditure, the Parish Council also needs to raise finance for the long-term development and enhancement of the facilities in the village. This is done by allocating funds from the precept, which can be used during the same year, or built up over a number of years (Ear-marked Reserves). Although several larger projects have been actioned over the last year, some are still in progress.

Some of the projects to be completed over the coming year are:

- Extension of the accessible allotment plots
- Beacon Hall - install audio-visual equipment for streaming meetings and events
- Persimmon Homes land transfer
- King's Coronation celebration
- Asset signage and historical informative signage project
- Refurbishment of telephone kiosk in Carlingcott

We also have some larger operational works to include in the budget to plan for future funding, including:

- Ashgrove Cemetery pathways
- Beacon Field play area resurfacing
- Pension deficit and staff costs

Further suggested projects on the Council's wish list may include:

- Installation of an irrigation system at Ashgrove Cemetery
- Village War Memorial - moving the existing memorial or funding a new memorial
- Water fountain installations around the village
- Outdoor adult gym equipment
- Lighting for the MUGA on Beacon Field
- A dog area on the Recreation Ground
- Improvements to Ashgrove/Bath Road to tackle speeding

Where does the money come from?

| | Budget 2022/23 | Budget 2023/24 |
|------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Income | £ | £ |
| Precept* | 251,452 | 251,452 |
| Interest | 0 | 100 |
| Donations | 700 | 1,000 |
| Environment | 580 | 605 |
| Allotments (rents) | 1,115 | 1,269 |
| Cemetery (burial & memorial fees) | 5,830 | 5,830 |
| Beacon Hall (hire fees) | 15,000 | 18,000 |
| Total | 274,677 | 278,256 |
| Expenditure | £ | £ |
| Staff Costs** | 106,472 | 145,857 |
| General admin | 23,670 | 24,600 |
| Community Grants/Village Events | 10,593 | 10,593 |
| Newsletters/Website | 3,000 | 3,000 |
| Amenities | 8,800 | 10,200 |
| Parish Council Vehicle | 0 | 6,559 |
| Lighting | 5,500 | 6,500 |
| Environment | 7,000 | 7,000 |
| Cemetery | 7,150 | 7,450 |
| Recreation Ground | 12,750 | 13,500 |
| Beacon Hall & Field | 21,740 | 26,440 |
| Infrequent Operational Expenditure | 15,000 | 15,000 |
| Contracted Amenities Works** | 13,000 | 1,500 |
| Total | 234,675 | 278,199 |

Income less expenditure ***

* For explanation of the precept, see front page.

** There may be some fluidity between budgets for Staff Costs, Contracted Amenities Works and Beacon Hall cleaning.

*** This balance is used for projects and Ear-Marked Reserves. For a full explanation see left.
For further details of the Parish Council's plans and activities and actual spend against budget reports, please refer to its website and look out for the regular newsletters.



Contingency Reserves

In addition to the above listed figures the Parish Council is obliged to maintain funds in reserve for emergency/contingency purposes. The Parish Council's contingency reserves are £65,000 which may need increasing slightly to maintain levels in line with the Auditor's recommendations of the amount of money required to operate the Council, in the event of an emergency situation, for a period of three months. This level will continue to be monitored.

Thoughts from the Chair



This will be the last "Thoughts from the Chair" before the election in May 2023, and I would like to take the opportunity to thank my fellow councillors for all their hard work for our community, and to look forward to an exciting year ahead. When you go to vote, please remember that photo ID is now required to obtain your ballot paper.

We plan to hold an event on Sunday 7th May 2023 on Beacon Field to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III, which will take place on Saturday May 6th. Further details are to follow, but in line with his wish to focus on community, we hope to give community groups the opportunity to promote what they do, and to encourage others to join them. Please keep the date free in your diaries.

Later in the spring you may see our new Parish Council vehicle out and about around the village.

We hope this will help our caretakers to keep our village looking even more beautiful!

Best wishes, Jonathan.

New Playground Fence

Councillors have recently agreed to remove the rotten fence around the Recreation Ground play area (pictured), and to install a replacement. The fence was picked up as a problem in our annual independent play inspection and our caretakers had also flagged it as an issue. The fence will be replaced with low-maintenance metal bow-top fencing, which we hope will be there for many years to come.



ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING

For all residents of
Peasedown St John,
Braysdown, Carlingcott & Woodborough

BEACON HALL

28 MARCH 2023

7.00 PM

**Find out what's been going on
in your village!**

The Parish Meeting is an opportunity for the electorate of the village to raise any queries or matters of concern relating to their local community. Please raise your concerns or questions **before 24th March 2023** by contacting the clerk on 01761 433686 or by e-mailing clerk@peasedownstjohnparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Due to time constraints, questions not submitted in advance may not be answered at the meeting, but will receive a written response as soon as possible after the meeting.

**Keep the date
for our**

Community Coronation Picnic

Beacon Field

Sunday 7th May 2023



Further details to follow...

Please note:

Due to the delivery method we are using for our newsletter it is far more cost effective for us to include some properties just outside our Parish boundary which happen to be in the same postcode area. If you have received a copy of the newsletter but don't live in Peasedown St John, we hope you will not mind reading it or recycling it - thank you.