

Borough and County Councillor Report to Prestbury Parish Council

Monday 10th February.

8th January.
C5 Meeting.

The C5 meeting is a meeting sponsored by CBC and brings together the 5 Parish Councils and representatives of Cheltenham Borough Council. The focus of this meeting was to decide on the agenda items for the coming years. The following were suggested.

1. Climate Change, to include a regular update from CBC officers on the progress of the proposed strategy.
2. Waste and recycling.
3. Cycles routes
4. Tree planting.

A copy of the minutes is attached to this report.

14th January.
Town Centre Public Realm.

CBC have embarked on a programme of Public Realm Improvements, which will enhance the public spaces and minimise the flood risk to the town. Whilst the programme is largely town centre based, consideration is also being given to a transport connectivity strategy and the impact of the West Cheltenham Development which includes the Cyber Park.

Work is being planned to improve The Strand and Cambray Place to match the improvements outside John Lewis. Improvements to Boots Corner, Imperial Circus and Rodney Road are also included in the programme, and it is hoped that work will be completed by Christmas.

Improving the biodiversity throughout the town centre is a strong element within the programme, with 28 identified sites where it is hoped to improve the habitats and food sources, particularly for pollinators.

The budget for the project is £1.2m, 50% funded by the EU.

23rd January.

1. Racecourse Traffic Meeting.

This meeting is held prior to the Gold Cup meeting to update councillors on the traffic arrangements that are in place for the Gold Cup meeting.

Some concern was expressed that the councillors were being briefed separately, whereas in previous years they have been invited to the main meeting together with all the various agencies, police, bus services, taxis etc. It was agreed that in future councillors would be invited to the main meeting.

Apart from the closure of the top part of New Barn Lane there are no new arrangements in place.

The issue of potential unauthorised parking on Barley Road and Broad Arce Road was raised. JP agree to contact Bovis to suggest that they put up notices advising race goers not to park. Bovis agreed to do this, but in the interim the roads have been adopted and The Jockey Club will be funding the signage. In future years both Barley Road and Broad Arce Road will have to be included in the Temporary Traffic Regulation Order that operates for major meetings at the racecourse.

2. Barley Road Bus Gate.

There has over the past few months been considerable confusion about the provision of the Bus Gate on Barley Road. Bloor had submitted an application to amend Condition 30, which provides for the provision of a Bus Gate. Bloor, having completed the majority of the work on site were keen to leave. However, there was a contractual requirement to provide a Bus Gate, whilst this could be constructed it could not be used because the necessary Traffic Regulation Order was not in place. Bloor suggested that they would deposit £95k with GCC to cover the associated costs, and the GCC would be responsible for its construction. This suggestion was not well received by the Starvehall Residents Association.

In an attempt to resolve the situation a meeting was convened at CBC involving representatives from Bloor Homes, Bovis Homes, Gloucestershire County Council Highways, Cheltenham Borough Council, a representative from the Starvehall Residents Association and both local Borough Councillors. The meeting explored in detail the various options available. Due to re-organisation of the Traffic Regulation Order Department the Highways representative was able to offer a solution:

- a. GCC did not want the £95k from Bloor/Bovis and would be content for Bloor/Bovis to undertake the work.
- b. Barley Road would be adopted and would enter into a "Maintenance Phase" for 12 months, during which time it would be an adopted highway, but any maintenance work would be carried out by Bloor/Bovis.
- c. GCC would supply Bloor/Bovis with the specification of the equipment needed to construct the Bus Gate
- d. Due to changes in the TRO office it will now be possible to deliver the required TRO with 12 months.
- e. Bloor/Bovis agreed to withdraw the application to amend Condition 30.