

Welcome to our Summer 2021 newsletter. In this edition we focus on progress since the start of the financial year, and aspirations and ambitions for the year ahead and beyond. As ever, feedback and ideas on what you would like to see in future editions are appreciated!

A better year ahead?

With the easing of COVID-19 restrictions, it's good to be able to meet members of the public at PPC meetings again. Keep on keeping safe everyone.....

Prestbury Playing Fields – real progress

The multi-use games area (MUGA), outdoor gym, 'mile-a-day' track and tennis courts continue to increase in popularity. MUGA bookings are up, and PPC continues to provide free access to local sports teams and schools at set times each week.



The 'mile-a-day' track and football pitch are often busy with impromptu games, runners and walkers, with or without dogs. For the 21-22 football season, we welcome the return of Prestbury Rovers and the creation of two under-10 pitches for Prestbury Phantoms and Leckhampton Rovers.



Repairs to gates and fencing, additional bins and the PPC litter picking initiative have all improved the look and feel of the playing fields, and Whiskers Coffee Bar has offered a welcome

focal point for those seeking refreshments. In early June the coffee bar suffered a break in; thanks to sterling work by local police and schools, aided by our CCTV camera footage, the perpetrators have been identified and are being dealt with.

Currently available for football, hockey, basketball, netball (posts available), tennis (no nets at present), kids' summer activity programmes and birthday parties, the MUGA is open 8am-9pm every day. It costs £12.50/hour weekends and 8am-5pm Mon-Fri, £30/hour Mon-Fri 5-9pm (floodlights included). Block booking discounts are available.

For bookings, please email bookmuga@prestbury-pc.gov.uk or phone 01242 575129 Monday-Thursday 9.00am-1.00pm.

Prestbury is even more tidy

Tree works and planting continue on the **Barley Road** and **Robson Field** public spaces, more planters of flowers have been installed around the village, and damaged noticeboards have been upgraded. The PPC **litter picking** initiative is now established on the last Saturday of each month: thanks are due to all those who have joined in, and to Councillor Griffiths for his leadership of this activity. New volunteers are always welcome: <https://prestbury-pc.gov.uk/litter-picking-volunteer/>

Planning and other developments

PPC has reached agreement with Father Nick Bromfield to install another **defibrillator** in the parish, at St Nicholas Church. The equipment was donated by the family of a Tewkesbury man who tragically died while playing football at the MUGA. Signage for all defibrillators in the parish is under consideration.

Cheltenham Borough Council (CBC) has recently awarded two **grants** to PPC: £2500 from **Community Pride** towards the cost of the **sensory garden** on the Barley Road public spaces - PPC is seeking sponsors to cover the remaining £2500 match-funding required; and £5000 from **Cheltenham Zero** in support of 2030 carbon neutrality to help implement the recommendations of the **pavilion energy report**. Subject to final approval of plans, PPC will match the remaining £5000.

B&K Building Services are on track to complete the new **doctors' surgery** on Prestbury Road, and have donated and will install a bench for the playing field. Bovis are to build 50 apartments (1 x 2 storey and 2 x 3 storey buildings) on **Starvehall Farm**, beginning August 2021 for completion by Autumn 2022, with 10+ large trees on the public open space and continuation of the metal boundary fencing along the land division.

Consultation on the **Parish Business Plan** has been delayed by COVID-19 restrictions but we intend to be in touch with you about this very soon. Work on revising and updating the PPC **Emergency Plan** and creating a formal support network is ongoing. PPC has offered to buy **Idsall Drive Car Park** from CBC, subject to confirmation of business rates. Once this is resolved with CBC and the Valuation Office, an update will be posted on our website and noticeboards.

Please participate in your Parish Council: we now have vacancies for three new councillors. If you want to help improve Prestbury for the good of the whole community, please consider joining us: <https://prestbury-pc.gov.uk/notices/vacancies-for-prestbury-parish-councillors/>

And please make your views known to your councillors via the website and tell them what is important to you: <https://prestbury-pc.gov.uk/contact/> Our full Parish Council Meetings take place on the second Monday of each month at 7pm in the Prestbury Library or St Nicholas Hall, details at <https://prestbury-pc.gov.uk/events/>