

**Welcome** to our Winter 2021 newsletter. In this edition we focus on progress since August, 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! We hope that you enjoyed Christmas and wish everyone a safe, prosperous and Happy New Year.

## Wyman's Brook

The defibrillator donated by the family of a Tewkesbury man who tragically died while playing football has now been installed at St Nicholas Church. A commemorative plaque will be installed soon. We continue to pursue the erection of signs marking the parish boundary on Windyridge Road.

## Open Spaces

In response to public requests, PPC has decided to install a new bench on **Robson Field**, and is awaiting a quote to cut back low-hanging branches. The **sensory garden** on the **Barley Road Public Open Space** has been jointly funded by Cheltenham Borough Council and Bovis Homes. The success of the under-10 football pitches has brought an increase in the use of the **Playing Field** car park. Extra gravel was recently laid to mitigate weather damage, and resurfacing and an extension are under consideration. A



A bike rack has been installed near the PPC office and Whiskers coffee shack. In response to issues arising from use of powered vehicles and drones, PPC is drawing up a policy that will assure safety and security for all users of these spaces. Other recent enhancements include the main Parish noticeboard and a bench donated by Cllr John Payne in memory of his late wife, Janet.



PPC will take on management of the **tennis courts** from 1 April 2022, and is currently negotiating arrangements for coaching and a new booking system. Sadly, abuse of the **MUGA** has become a problem: padlocks were damaged twice in a short space of time and unauthorised access to the playing area and floodlights has increased. Those responsible were identified and have reimbursed PPC for replacement locks. MUGA users are reminded not to share the padlock combination with non-payers; anyone found to have done so will be banned from the facility.

## Build Back Better

PPC has recently benefited from two grant schemes:

- County Councillor Scheme: £15k from Cllr Stephan Fifield and £2k from Gloucestershire Playing Fields Association towards extension and refurbishment of the playground, to be ready by Easter weekend 2022.
- Market Towns Fund: £15k towards funding a Village Festival next summer. The event will be a day for the whole Parish to come together post COVID, and to promote our many local businesses.

## Remembrance



This year's service on 14 November was very well attended and the first since the war memorial was cleaned. Thanks are due to those who arranged the event and tidied up the area (Cllr Peter Weir and our groundsman, Craig Kinsey), as well as those who took part on the day, especially the bugler, the police and electricity suppliers.

## Other developments

The PPC **litter picking** initiative on the last Saturday of each month will reach its first anniversary in March: thanks are due to all participants, and to Cllr Gordon Griffiths for his continued leadership of this activity. As ever, new volunteers are welcome: <https://prestbury-pc.gov.uk/litter-picking-volunteer/> Since the last newsletter we have welcomed new and returning councillors Helen Eagger and Peter Weir.

**Please participate in your Parish Council: we still have a vacancy for one new councillor. 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/> Details of meetings can be found at <https://prestbury-pc.gov.uk/events/>

