

# STOURPAINE PARISH COUNCIL

## CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2014/2015

I would firstly like to welcome our two new council members, David Meaden & Gill Cowie who joined us this month. I hope residents feel more informed as to what is going on, what your council is trying to do on your behalf. The website and the Benefice Magazine both have an update on SPC matters. We also use the telegraph pole technology if an important meeting is happening. I feel sure one day a pole will fall down with pin fatigue. The following is a brief summary of this past year's activities and update on what is ongoing.

### **FLOOD RELIEF:**

Lyle Adlem is still our Flood Warden, who this year has thankfully not got his wellies wet. Through the able assistance of Derek Gardiner all the houses that desired to claim funding for their properties have done so. Sadly to date the EA have resolutely refused any Stourpaine Scheme. They are installing monitor gauges on the River Iwerne which they feel will assist residents in a more accurate early warning. SPC had already looked at their own scheme and have budgeted for its installation in 2015-6. We shall now await the results of the EA scheme before we spend any money.

### **PARISH PLAN/ NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN:**

THE P.P. is still tabled at some SPC Meetings to review what we have been able to do.

### **TRAFFIC / A350 / C13**

With regard to the volume of traffic through the village. Melbury Abbas suggest we have had less since the C13 closed, DCC say no more than before 2008. Whatever the case the A350 is in bad order. The road through Stourpaine is not being resurfaced in 2015, DCC Highways do not have the money, we even had to pay for the two new village signs. Minor maintenance has improved due to the need for the A350 to be kept open.

The C13 /A350 is reported about on a weekly basis in the local press. Melbury Abbas have made demands on DCC before they agree to its re-opening, their list is long, from their perspective they only want light vehicles, full stop. I have joined with the other parishes on the A350, to form the A350 Action Group, started by Cllr Jespersen. We submitted a letter to DCC, CEO on the 6<sup>th</sup> March, demanding the reopening of the C13 to ALL traffic. Since then a sub- group has met to move things forward. We submitted a Statement of 100 words to be circulated to DCC Cabinet

prior to their meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> May. I addressed this statement and gave a short rationale of why the C13 should re-open. This was on behalf of Stourpaine and the Action Group. Melbury Abbas presented a petition and had four speakers. I am pleased to say the outcome was a unanimous vote to re-open the C13 to all traffic. Our thanks to Cllrs Croney & Jespersen for their able assistance. It is our intension to keep the Action Group in place and offer assistance in the development of an infrastructure plan for the economic North /South corridor for the benefit of all Dorset.

### **CHILDRENS PLAY AREAS:**

Cllr Peter Partridge has this responsibility and keeps a watching brief on both areas. As mentioned last year some of the equipment on the Grace Upward site has reached the end of its life. We have budgeted for some replacement in our 2015-6 budget. Members of the village are asked for their suggestions as to the type of equipment we should purchase.

### **WASTE RECYCLING:**

The SPC have received very few comments, we therefore feel the system is working well, is this a naive assumption?

### **BROADBAND:**

Sadly we have moved no further forward. In the last few weeks I have been in constant dialogue with anybody who will listen. DCC refuse to attend a meeting with Stourpaine as do BT. I have escalated the email list to attempt to move forward. It is nine months since we requested a meeting. The new CEO of the Weymouth, West and North Dorset has now taken the matter to our new MP, watch this space.

### **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN:**

SPC had at a recent meeting a presentation on the subject by an officer from NDDC, Cllr Jespersen attended and gave her opinion on the benefits or otherwise. A Neighbourhood Plan has to be driven by residents not the SPC, to date we have had no show of interest. We as a council will watch developments at Pimperne and Shillingstone as they proceed.

### **HOUSING:**

By now most will have heard that the builders on the Clerks Acre site are in liquidation. SPC have asked for an early meeting to discuss the ramifications of the situation with the Housing Association. We wish to protect the site and improve the present visual impact.

You might have noticed the improvements taking place on the flats in Hod View, this will increase the thermal efficiency along with other improvements. SPC worked very hard with the Spectrum Housing to agree a colour and the method statement.

## **PLANNING:**

NDDC turned down the application for the development of five dwellings on land on Manor Road stating that a Section 106 agreement entered into by the landowner should stand, nothing had changed, it should remain a green open space. Since this finding SPC have heard nothing from the landowner nor NDDC Planning Dept. We have

In the past two weeks received an outline planning application 2/2015/0516/OUT for two pairs of semi -detached houses on land at Norton View, Shaston Road. It is a potentially large site please look at the application on line dorsetforyou or North Dorset online applications. If you cannot find this please speak to a council member.

## **THE TRAILWAY & OTHER PATHS:**

In two areas we have moved forward, after months of pressure DCC Rangers have made a great job of the path along the Iwerne towards Hod Hill. The bridal path on the Stour has also been reinstated to an acceptable standard.

DCC have still have no money to resurface areas on the actual Trailway, in this dry weather it is not a problem, and we shall keep pushing. Phase two of the economic review of the Trailway and surrounding area is underway. I am on this group with NDDC, DT11 and others looking at the economic corridor to assist in the development of the Trailway and to generate business.

## **WORKING TOGETHER:**

A great success this year was the saving of the Durweston School Bus. SPC in conjunction with parents, members of the village, Julie Wigg of DT11 , Cllrs Cronney & Jespersen pushed every button available. SPC contacted the BBC, they came and filmed, interviewing parents and children. We asked for the DCC Committee to walk the route, they came and walked. The outcome was that at their next meeting they overturned their previous decision, well done all.

## **WORKING TOGETHER 2:**

Several weeks ago we held a "Litter Pick", surprising what people throw out of their car. Mike & Gyda Warren dodging the traffic at Durweston Bridge: a dropping zone for tired motorists' detritus. At least twenty two people turned up, all in high- viz jackets, pickers at the ready.

## **WORKING TOGETHER 3:**

Our thanks to Stourpaine Gardening Club who planted the peace roses and has since planted shrubs in other areas on the A350. Anyone for bulb planting in the autumn?, Cllr Mark Farwell should be thanked for cutting back the vegetation on the bank below the Shelf on the A350, another job your Parish has had to take on from Dorset County Council.

#### **WORKING TOGETHER 4:**

Also working well under the watchful eye of Joanna Gardiner is the Speed Watch Group, who meets in groups of three to keep a check on the vehicles speeding through our village. The speed gun appears to have a mind of its own at times, 120mph through Stourpaine takes some beating.

#### **COUNCIL REPRESENTATION BY NDDC:**

You might remember SPC had a run-in on the subject of boundaries and representation, we won and Hillforts Ward ended up with three district councillors. The outcome is double edged, we sadly lose Sherry Jespersen, and the good news is we gain Deborah Croney, who is also our DCC member, how lucky. Our thanks to Sherry for all her help and advice both to me and the council, she is always welcome. Deborah has always been of great assistance to Stourpaine, we look forward to our continued relationship.

My final thanks go to our Clerk, Paul Clark, I think I am now on his friends and family telephone numbers. Last but not least my fellow council members for their able assistance.

**Scott Norman**

**Chair – Stourpaine Parish Council**