

Finance, Administration and Communications Committee Report to the  
Annual Parish Meeting  
to be held In The Parish Rooms  
on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2006 at 7.30 p.m.

**Committee:** Councillor Wendy Chambers  
Councillor Richard Wickham  
Councillor Susan Barclay

**1. Budget 2005/2006 and budget for 2006/2007**

We are pleased to say that budgeted funds for 2005/2006 were sufficient for the parish needs whilst still leaving sufficient reserves, A new budget has been set for 2006/2007. Details of the budget have been provided on a separate sheet. For a mid range band D property – the total for 2005/06 was £24.69 and for 2006/07 the total comes to £26.33 per year (51 pence per week).

**2. Improvements to communications**

In the past year, the Parish Council have moved office with regular Thursday evening access from 5.30 – 8 p.m. for Parishioners, created a website to provide information and introduced electronic communication. These contribute towards the Government's quality measures and together with the Parish Plan and Village Design statement, ultimately mean more decisions being made from within the parish rather than from remote district or Government committees

**3. Communications Sub Committee**

Responding to findings in the Parish Plan, a Communications Sub Committee was recently formed to consider current methods of Parish communication, their effectiveness and ways to improve overall awareness of Parish activities.

Three groups are currently enthusiastically considering improvements to:

The Bathford Bulletin

Notice boards and introduction of a Welcome Park

IT and the websites

Any members of the Parish who would like to contribute would be most welcome and should contact a member of the Finance, Administration and Communications Committee.

#### **4. Bathford Parish Council Website**

The Bathford Parish Council website <http://www.bathford.net> was introduced in April 2005 to provide better access to information.

The website administrator, Richard Wickham and Ruth, the Clerk to the Council, regularly update the system with the latest Parish Council minutes, planning committee responses and other information thought to be useful.

In addition a number of organisations within the village have made use of a page of their own. They manage their page very easily without needing specialist knowledge.

The Council are always trying to provide Parishioners with relevant information and would welcome any feedback on the site, particularly with regard to the ease of use and additional requirements.

#### **5. Bus Lobby**

The unexpected news relating to a change in the bus timetable for Bank Holidays and Sunday evenings has naturally met with immense concern. The upgrading to a Showcase route and the recent free 60 plus bus usage does not rest easily with what would appear to be a decision made without local consultation.

The Committee are working with Batheaston Parish Council to ensure maximum effect from a letter campaign prior to proposed introduction of changes at the end of June. The Mobility Group have already written directly to Sir Elgar Jenkins, expressing their disquiet.

Finance, Administration and Communications Committee  
May 2006