

Planning and Environment Committee Report

To ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

8 May 2006

Planning Applications

The residents of the Parish continue to enlarge and improve their properties by adding side extensions, rear extensions, conservatories, porches and dormers. Looking at plans and sites and preparing our 'observations' for the Planning Office occupies approximately half of our time. This year we have considered and commented on 37 sets of plans.

We do our best to respond objectively to each application, with the overall aim of protecting 'our local distinctiveness from erosion'. This phrase comes from the Village Design Statement, finished this year and adopted by BANES as part of the formal planning process. We have already found it useful in identifying what is appreciated by local people about the different areas of the Parish.

Information about local applications now appears on the Bathford Parish website, making it easy to read all the documentation, to add to it, and to follow the progress of the application through to decision.

Park and Ride?

Another major focus of attention has been the various plans affecting the east of Bath, for the Lambridge Park and Ride (permitted), the new Rugby Club Ground (deferred), the Flood Alleviation Scheme (rejected), the Charmy Down Park and Ride (submitted but not yet adjudicated), and the Link Road options (still a live issue, but after 2011). With the backing of Parish Plan statistics we gave full support to the Batheaston-initiated Charmy Down Park and Ride plan.

Listed Buildings

We have started a review of the Listed Buildings in the Parish. We have almost completed a collection of photos, and have started collating the listing details, most of which dates from 1981 and prior. We hope to make the information more accessible, and ultimately to review whether any other buildings should be added to the list. Some of this work may be taken on by the new Environmental Focus Group (see next).

Parish Plan items

We have started the process of implementing items arising from the Parish Plan. On Tuesday 9 May the first meeting of the Environmental Focus Group will take place in the Legion. Issues identified by the Parish Plan are cycle paths, environmental improvements e.g. planting, aircraft noise, a survey of the Parish landscape, and monitoring the maintenance of historic buildings.

Miscellaneous and ongoing

- Keeping greenfield sites clear, e.g. Lavington's Yard
- Monitoring Bristol International Airport Master Plan
- Monitoring the travellers' camp at Conkwell (just over the Wiltshire border)
- Responding to complaints about possible planning infringements
- Responding where possible to numerous consultation documents, e.g. on 'Area Committees', the 'New Delegation Scheme' etc.

Jan Hooker, Chair