

PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE **REPORT TO ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – 20th APRIL 2009**

I am gratefully indebted to all the Committee, 4 Parish Councillors in addition to myself, Shirley Beazer, Ian Plain, Paul Faulkner and John Lloyd, and four co-opted members, Steve MacKerness, Tony Cox, Peter Martin and Philip Harris for their efforts over the last year. We are very fortunate to have such a wide range of experience and expertise in the village. As we only have a maximum of 21 days to return our response to an application (and often less than that by the time it actually arrives) it has generally been necessary to meet fortnightly, which is a considerable time commitment for all those concerned.

Over the past 12 months the Committee has considered 36 applications (summary attached), which is 4 more than the previous 12 months. Of the application considered the great majority were supported with only 4 being opposed. The objections were largely made on the grounds of the detrimental effect on the Green Belt and Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, or in one case on the unsuitability of the site for the proposed development. In the main the Committee's views were in accord with those of the BaNES planners with only three applications at variance with the views of the Parish Council, all refusals, two of which were permitted after revised applications.

Plans for the development of the Tyndale site have undergone fundamental changes. The original proposal by Future Heritage, which I reported on last year, was to demolish the existing building and replace it with 9 dwellings. Last summer an application was submitted to convert the existing building for use as a nursing home, which was supported by the Parish Council and subsequently permitted by BaNES. Very recently a new application has been submitted returning to the original proposal for 9 dwellings.

The eastern Park and Ride saga has continued to rumble on, finally culminating in a formal application to develop the Bathampton Meadows site as a 1400 capacity park and ride site. This has been vigorously opposed by all the affected Parish Councils, Batheaston and Bathampton as well as Bathford. We await the final decision by BaNES Planning Department.

As I reported last year we had been actively concerned in challenging the issues raised by the future development of the Bath area as, under the Regional Spatial Strategy, some 21 000 new houses are being proposed for the BaNES area, including, most worryingly, 1500 in the Green Belt to the south-west of the city. Since then the numbers have increased again and we will continue to do all we can in support of the affected Parishes, and any effort by BaNES to oppose these totally unrealistic plans. Letters have been sent on behalf of the Parish Council the authorities concerned, including the Secretary of State.

Cllr Hugh Baker –
Chair, Planning and Environment Committee.