

PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE **REPORT TO ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – 19th APRIL 2010**

I am indebted to all the Committee, 4 Parish Councillors in addition to myself, Shirley Beazer, Ian Plain, John Lloyd and Wendy Chambers, who replaced Paul Faulkner, 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.

At the time of writing, over the past 12 months the Committee has considered 40 applications (summary attached), which is 8 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, the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty or the Conservation Area. In the main the Committee's views were in accord with those of the BaNES planners with only four applications at variance with the views of the Parish Council.

Plans for the development of the Tyndale site have undergone fundamental changes. The original proposal by Future Heritage was to demolish the existing building and replace it with 8 dwellings. A revised application last year for conversion to a nursing home was permitted but the required funding failed to materialise. A new application increased the number of dwellings to 9 and this has recently been permitted by BaNES Planning Department.

The continuing activities of the Whitehaven site are being closely monitored amid concern over possible future developments which may well have a detrimental effect on the village. The state of the bridle-path following recent work there leaves much to be desired and appears to be indicative of the attitude of the developers.

The eastern Park and Ride saga continues to rumble on, finally been passed by BaNES in controversial circumstances. At present the legality of the decision is being challenged. The declared policy of the Parish Council is against the development of the meadows site and is supportive of the efforts of those organisations and individuals who are opposing it.

In February the Valley Parishes Alliance Group was established, representing the 9 parishes in the Avon and Limpley Stoke Valley. The purpose of this group is to provide a unified voice on social, economic and environmental issues which are common to BaNES and Wiltshire parish communities in the valley area. Given the importance of the evolving Core Strategy and transport plans for BaNES and Wiltshire it is essential that these developments are closely monitored and challenged where necessary to protect the unique character of the area. Steve MacKerness is acting as Bathford P C's representative.

I will be happy to answer any questions relating to planning issues, either during the break, or in the second part of the evening.

Cllr Hugh Baker –
Chair, Planning and Environment Committee.