

# Quedgeley Parish Council

## Annual Report 2010

As the new Chair of the Parish Council I am pleased to present my report on the activities of the council over the last year.

In respect of your Parish Council our aim is to help our residents and to be as transparent as possible and there are a number of occasions when you can address your questions to your councillors. We have a public forum during each monthly Council meeting that enables members of the public to ask questions or raise matters. We did hold surgeries at the Community Centre on a Saturday morning with parish, city and county councillors present when anyone was welcome to come along. Unfortunately so few people came along that in the end we reluctantly had to abandon these meetings. The Annual Parish Assembly although not a Parish Council meeting (although we are legally bound to organise it) also provides an opportunity to hear of what your council has been doing over the last year and for you to ask questions. Many people do call in or contact our office in School Lane where we aim to help as much as we can.

During the last year we were pleased to welcome David Southgate as a new Parish Councillor and I hope he will enjoy his time with us helping to represent the people of Quedgeley. David was previously a parish councillor but for personal reasons had to resign so it is a pleasure to have him back again. Regrettably, earlier this month councillors Barbara and Peter Kiddle had to resign for health reasons and I would like to say that we are sorry to lose them, appreciate the work that they did and wish them well for the future.

As you probably know although the 50 year lease promised by Gloucester City Council did not materialise in respect of the Waterwells Sports Centre we were granted a 25 year lease in respect of the land on which the changing rooms and car park are sited and we also have a licence to use the remainder of the land. The changing rooms are managed and maintained by the Parish Council.

After a lot of hard work involving your parish council, city council and Quedgeley Wanderers a multi-use all weather games area was built next to the changing rooms being financed by Quedgeley Urban Village Limited through a planning agreement and by the Parish Council. With the cooperation of Quedgeley Urban Village Limited it was possible to complete this project ahead of schedule and it was brought into use last autumn. This new facility is being well used and indications are that it will continue to be used throughout this summer. It is the intention of the parish council to continue to develop the centre and attract other sports.

Just over a year ago we took over the temporary Kingsway Community Centre that was provided by Quedgeley Urban Village Limited and is managed by the Parish Council. It is available for bookings and several organisations are already using the centre on a regular basis. In particular the Naval Cadet Corps and 2<sup>nd</sup> Quedgeley Brownies use the centre and provide excellent activities for the youngsters in Quedgeley. We look forward to the provision of a permanent centre in Kingsway in the not too distant future.

Many of you will have seen the development of the Memorial Garden on the corner of St James and School Lane. We now have planning permission for a wall in the garden in keeping with the surroundings where suitable memorial plaques can be fixed. This provides a peaceful place where residents can sit and reflect on their loved ones who are no longer with us. Hopefully this improvement will be available later this year.

We are also responsible for the Quedgeley Community Centre that is very popular with local residents, both young and old, who attend the various activities held there varying from playgroups to dancing classes and karate to a luncheon club for the not so young. There is something there to suit almost all tastes and abilities. Over the last year this has generated over £40,000 to help in running and maintaining the centre.

We have replaced many of the wooden doors and windows in PVCU that we hope will keep the building in good order and will have a longer life

Every year we have to find £64,000 to pay off loans for the Community Centre and the cost of running and maintaining the centre forms a significant part of your precept but we do hope that you think it is worth it.

Each week our three play areas, Druid's Oak, Woolstrop and Bristol Road Recreation Ground are inspected to ensure minor problems are reported and dealt with and an annual inspection is carried out by professionals. We do our best to maintain and improve these areas to make them safe and places where children can enjoy themselves. Unfortunately not all young people are well behaved and it has proved necessary to use CCTV to monitor them.

As reported last year the roots to the magnificent oak tree at Druids Oak are causing problems to a nearby property and this is currently in the hands of the insurers. Inevitably where solicitors and insurers become involved negotiations become rather protracted so it is likely to be some considerable time before this matter is resolved.

Our Planning and Development Committee receives copies of all plans concerning your parish that are submitted to Gloucester City Council, that is the local Planning Authority. In addition we receive plans of work to be undertaken by Gloucestershire County Council. We take notice of comments received on planning applications, discuss developments at our committee meetings and return our observations to the City Council. In addition we notify the Development Control team of any unauthorised developments or use of properties. It is our intention to apply as much local influence as possible on decisions that are to be taken affecting your parish by both the County and City Councils and also Government.

During the year we have awarded grants to support a number of organisations providing an immediate service to our community such as 2nd Quedgeley Brownies; Kingsway Residents Association; Equals Youth Centre; Glevum & District Disabled Anglers Association; Quedgeley Badgers; Quedgeley Active Pensioners; Air Cadets; Navy Training Corp.; St Nicholas Junior Choir; St James Church. Regrettably we are unable to award grants to every organisation that applies.

Parish Councillors represent the parish on a number of outside bodies to try and ensure that the views and needs of your area are made known. But it is essential for you to let us know what you want as our aim is "to work with the community for the community".

The organisation of community events is high on our agenda and you may already have heard of the recent Easter Egg Hunt, the Firework Display last November, the Dog Show last summer and the Fun Day. If you have any ideas for other events, are willing to help or can suggest how we can improve the current events then please let us know.

This next year will see us work to maintain and enhance facilities for our community while ensuring value for money. We will make sure that the income we receive, the majority of which comes from the precept that was actually reduced last year, has only increased this year by less than half a percent and is raised through the Council Tax, is spent wisely and in accordance with financial regulations and the parish's financial plan. Full details of the Council's annual income and expenditure are within the statement of accounts currently with our internal auditor. Once checked they will be made available for your inspection, as we are required to do.

We look forward to working with you in the year ahead.

Anna Mozol  
Chair of Quedgeley Parish Council

<http://www.quedgeley-pc.gov.uk/>

Filed in: <http://www.quedgeley-pc.gov.uk/news/annual-parish-meeting-2010/>