

PRISTON PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman's Report - Annual General Meeting - May 2015

Village Design Statement - The major challenge this year has been beginning the process to develop a Priston Village Design Statement, which will, if successful, give greater authority to our community over planning matters. The Council held a public meeting in November, at which there was general support for the idea, and a second in February at which a Working Party was selected which now has the task of working with BANES and with the support of the Parish Council to develop a VDS. A questionnaire has been produced and distributed throughout the Parish, and so far an 80% return has been achieved. Richard Bottle is carrying out the arduous task of collating the responses.

Finance - the cost of developing our Village Design Statement has led to a further small increase in the Precept this year, which has been accepted by BANES.

Planning - Responses on the following applications have been sent:

Parcel 5856 High Street Priston which now has full planning permission.
5, Sarabeth Drive, Tunley
Land at the junction of Priston Lane and Tunley Hill
Village Farm
Priston Manor House
Tunley Farm, Camerton

The Council have proposed to BANES that, to preserve the open aspect of this area of the village, there should be a change to the Housing Development Boundary to exclude the garden between the apple store at Church Farm and the Village Hall.

Highways and footpaths - At the Parish Council's request BANES have agreed that there should be a formal 20mph limit through Priston Village, which has now arrived. Discussions over the necessary signs are on-going!

With the assistance of our District Councillor David Veale we are still negotiating with Highways for a solution to reduce the flooding by the dairy on Farmborough Lane. We have thankfully not had the floods of last winter, so the drainage arrangements at the bottom of the village have yet to be tested.

Also thank you to Niels and Clare Cross for carrying out a survey of the road drainage of the village, which was forwarded to BANES Highway Department.

With the demise of the Parish Ranger scheme, thanks to PAGE for agreeing to extend their excellent litter-picking to help keep gullies and ditches clear to help reduce flooding.

Defibrillator - Thanks to John Wilkinson for his continuing support to this project, including the arrangements for continuing training.

Priston Website - Once again thanks to Richard Bottle for his efforts on our behalf, and for his assistance with:

Broadband - BT and BANES "Connecting Devon & Somerset" now predict that we will get "fibre to the cabinet" for Priston village (not the Mill) by about October 2015 (currently shown on the website as "coming soon"). This should give us the ability to get much faster broadband, though not superfast.

Thanks - Finally thank you to our Parish Clerk, Christine Hunt, and all of our Councillors for their good work and support over the past year, and particularly those leaving us: Clare Cross for her work in support of planning and the Village Design Statement, and Gathorne Girdlestone for his work on roads.