

TORMARTON PARISH ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018

The Parish Council met on 10 occasions during the year and dealt with numerous items of correspondence, including written responses to 18 planning applications.

The June parish council meeting was attended by many members of the public who had come to voice their objections to a retrospective planning application for a gypsy/traveller site on Norley Lane, Tormarton (PK17/2008/F). In their response to SGC the councillors objected robustly to this application. Further representation from the councillors and a significant number of parishioners was made at a site meeting on the 15th December and at the SGC Planning Committee meeting at the Kingswood Offices on the 11th January 2018. Despite the large number of objections this application was approved by the Planning Committee and the procedure followed by SGC is now being legally challenged by a very dissatisfied group of Tormarton residents called the Tormarton Action Group.

Vehicles speeding through in the village, mainly in Church Road and Marshfield Road, continue to be a significant problem. Speed monitoring data supplied the police confirm there is an ongoing speeding problem in Tormarton and various options to counter this issue are currently under consideration. This includes the installation of vehicle activated signs.

On 14th December Cllrs. David Williams and John Wells accompanied by Cllr. Sue Hope met Alice Jennings and another officer from the SGC Strategic Transport Policy Team to discuss the proposed Park & Share scheme at Tormarton. The councillors were informed that this facility was not a high priority and there was no money available to fund it. However, SGC were considering a scheme whereby this facility could be paid for by a commercial development, such as a shop or petrol station, on the Highways England/SGC site south of the J18 of the M4. Arrangements have been made for Alice Jennings to attend the April parish council meeting to provide further information about the plans of this scheme.

With the introduction of a dedicated Tormarton Parish Council website, Tormarton and West Littleton now have their own independent websites. The webmasters of these websites are: parish council - Gill Penberth; Tormarton village – Janet Wells and Simon Stevens and West Littleton village – Alan Creighton.

Following the occurrence of a medical emergency in Tormarton people now realise that we are very vulnerable when a person needs immediate treatment for a heart attack or a similar illness. Consequently, the parish council has arranged for Louise Cooper, an Assistant Community Responder Officer for Gloucestershire and South Gloucestershire, to run a session on “Understanding your Community Defibrillator” on 18th April in the Parish Hall. Providing there is a good level of attendance at this session the PC will arrange for defibrillators to be installed in both Tormarton and West Littleton.

At the March PC meeting Cllr. Horgan announced his intention to retire from the PC. Mike has served on the PC for 11 years and during this time the committee has benefitted from his wise remarks and accountancy skills. Mike leaves the PC with our best wishes for the future.

The Chairman wishes to thank Cllr. Sue Hope for her regular attendance at Parish Council meetings during the year and for her much valued input. He would also like to express his appreciation to Ros Wilson for carrying out the internal audit on the accounts, to Gill Penberth for her work as Clerk to the Parish Council and to Cllr. Horgan for preparing the 2018/2019 budget. Finally, he would like to thank all the Parish Councillors for regularly attending Parish Council meetings and for their support throughout the year.