



# Pilning & Severn Beach Parish Council

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## PILNING AND SEVERN BEACH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN



Our very first **Neighbourhood Plan working group meeting** was held online on 11 January. We were joined by Danny Dixon from the Planning Department of South Gloucestershire Council, who provided initial guidance as to how the group should set planning and land use policies for the parish, working within the framework of strategic policies in the South Gloucestershire Local Plan 2020.

Whilst rural planning may seem like a dry matter, we hope that we can still whet your appetite to join our small but dedicated group. There are still vacancies, and we would like to ensure that all local opinions are taken into consideration when we discuss local development. Do we need more green spaces? Where should we build more houses? What kind of local transport would benefit our parish? Please contact the parish clerk if you would like to join us at the next meeting in March!

## LOW FREQUENCY NOISE POLLUTION

The Abatement Notice issued by South Gloucestershire Council Environmental Health Department with regards to SUEZ expired in January. We are led to believe that the issue with the noise pollution should have been resolved. However, we are still aware that some local residents continue to monitor the situation. Please be reminded that any disturbance should be reported to the Environment Agency on their 24-hour pollution helpline – **0800 80 70 60**.

## UNAUTHORISED TRAVELLERS CAMP IN NORTHWICK

Since the middle of January, the Parish Council have been inundated with phone calls from the residents of Northwick, with regards to a new settlement in the field behind the cemetery. The speed at which our new neighbours set up their camp was astonishing. Within a fortnight, a field with access through a narrow security gate was transformed into a fully lit caravan park behind a high (newly erected) wooden fence, with a wide entrance and about half a dozen caravans and vans parked on the hard standing. However, the neighbourhood did not find the breath-taking speed, at which the land was encroached, impressive. As much as we are open to new people choosing to make our quiet village their home, we feel that this particular development violates the planning rules. South Gloucestershire Council added the site to their Enforcement List. The investigation is ongoing.



## **NOISY TRAINS AT SEVERN BEACH STATION**

We are well aware that there have been a number of complaints concerning stationary trains keeping their engines running for up to 30 minutes until their departure. The parish council contacted the train operating company GWR, and we understand that the engines are kept running to keep trains warm in cold weather. GWR agreed that keeping the noisy and polluting diesel engines running for over 15 minutes should only be permitted when absolutely necessary.

On the other hand, hopefully with the imminent introduction of an improved service at Severn Beach, there is a hope that the time table will improve, and there will be no need for trains to idle at the station for such a long time!

## **MEETING WITH SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNCIL**

On 3 February 2021 a meeting was held with representatives of South Gloucestershire Council. Initially we requested the meeting to discuss the ongoing transport issues in our parish.

Numerous Pilning and Severn Beach highways issues were raised, including visitors' car parking arrangements, monitoring effectiveness of the new speed bumps at Pilning, updating the plans for the traffic calming scheme in Severn Beach, and concerns about new rat-runs being created (in particular, the one through Northwick and along Bank Road). We had a debate regarding the new contraflow cycle lane proposed alongside Station Road. Please look out for the consultation.



In practice, it will mean that car drivers turning right into Beach Road or left into Station Road will have to look both ways expecting to see cyclists moving in both directions.

You can read more about the discussion on the Parish Council website. We are hoping that this was the first of many meetings with South Gloucestershire Council as we need to work together for the benefit of all residents.

## **SEVERN BEACH 100 – CENTENARY CELEBRATION TEAM**

There is still time to join the Centenary Celebration Team! If you want to be on the team, your age, knowledge or ability do not matter. What we need is your enthusiasm to help us turn this very important milestone into an uplifting event that brings our community together. Please contact the parish clerk for more details.

## **NEW EMAIL ADDRESSES**

Please note that the parish councillors' email addresses have been unified. If you would like to contact us individually, please use our new email addresses set up in the format of [parish councillor's initials]@pilningsevernbeach-pc.go.uk, e.g., [ot@pilningsevernbeach-pc.gov.uk](mailto:ot@pilningsevernbeach-pc.gov.uk), with the exception of the parish clerk, whose new email address can be found at the top of this article.

The full list of our new email addresses has been published on the parish council's website under Councillors & Staff.

*Article by Olga Taylor on behalf of the Parish Council*