



# Pilning & Severn Beach Parish Council

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## PILNING AND SEVERN BEACH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has been formed as follows: Hon Chairperson – Olga Taylor, Hon Vice Chairperson – Richard Edwards, Hon secretary – Jonathan Edwardes, Hon treasurer – Gary Sheppard. We thank all the people who stepped forward for these roles.

It is the Group's intention to keep you well informed of the plans and developments. There will be a dedicated area on the current P&SB PC website that will contain documentation and useful materials. We will also look to create regular e-newsletters for the parishioners. If you would like to be on the mailing list, please pass your contact details to the Parish Clerk.

## MENTAL HEALTH – WELLBEING THERAPY SERVICES

Did you know that there is a helpline that provides one-off immediate emotional and practical support 24/7 365 days a year and is dedicated to adults (18+) who are registered to a GP in Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire? The helpline is not a crisis line; if a caller requires further support, they will be put in touch with local support services. Take note of this number should you need it one day – 0333 200 1893. Further information is on the website

<https://www.bristolmentalhealth.org/services/wellbeing-therapy-services>

## PILNING AND NORTHWICK CEMETERIES

Please note that from March the 31<sup>st</sup> the Cemetery Committee will be removing any Christmas Decorations remaining on graves at Pilning and Northwick Cemeteries.

## LITTER ON THE COAST ROAD A403

One of the Parish Councillors approached Jack Lopresti MP to ask what can be done about the appalling state of the verges along the A403. He received a prompt response from Mark King, Head of StreetCare at South Gloucestershire Council, forwarded back from Jack Lopresti's office, explaining that due to the amount of litter, the Council were struggling to keep up with the clean-up of this area. The main reason was that traffic management had to be used, so the clean-up could be done safely for their workmen. Closures were planned for early March, so by the time you read this article, the verges along the coast road should have returned to their natural clean state.

## ORCHARD POOLS

The legal argument around the ongoing development of Orchard Pools continues. In late February we contacted South Gloucestershire Council to report that contractors were starting to fill in the pools, thus destroying the remains of the natural habitat of the area. In response, South Gloucestershire Council insisted that all had been done within the law and the 1957 planning permission; however, our lawyers at Environmental Law Foundation (ELF) appear to think that there is still a case to be heard, and they are treating the issue as serious.

Thanks to the parishioners who took part in our Orchard Pools survey last year, we know that the destruction of nature for the sake of new commercial development is of concern to us all. Therefore, our current objective is to probe whether the situation can be called in to the Secretary of State, with the view that they investigate the matter and give us their verdict.

## SEA WALL CLOSURE

On 18 February 2021 a meeting was held between the Parish Council and representatives of the ASEA Public Liaison team. The main objective of the meeting was to discuss the plans for the Sea Wall closure, following enquiries from the parishioners, who were not impressed with the signs notifying them that the Sea Wall will be closed to pedestrians for the duration of the construction works. Whilst the Parish Council recognise that the work is necessary and unavoidable, we put pressure onto the contractors to only close the Sea Wall in sections, as their work progresses, and make the path accessible again as soon as it is practical. We are looking to have regular meetings with the contractors, next one being scheduled for June.

## WEST OF ENGLAND COMBINED AUTHORITY (WECA) SURVEY RESULTS

The results of the *Future of the Region* survey (InView, December 2020) have been published by WECA. The received feedback showed high levels of support of WECA's Spatial Development Strategy. We note that both Pilning and Severn Beach railway stations feature in the results, as well as the dire parking situation in Severn Beach.

The full report can be accessed online - <https://www.westofengland-ca.gov.uk/west-of-england-strategic-planning/>

## CAR PARKING AT WEEKENDS

This will be of no surprise to you that our clerk's inbox has seen many complaints from residents right across the parish, who live near to the Severn. The main concerns are that there has been an increase in visitor numbers to the villages, many come in their cars, park irresponsibly and leave litter behind. If you feel that their parking is dangerous or causing an obstruction, you should report the vehicle to Avon & Somerset Police. If there is an immediate risk to life, dial 999, otherwise 101. To learn what exactly constitutes an obstruction or hazard, visit A&S Police website - [www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/report/parking-issues/](http://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/report/parking-issues/)

Before you report a parking issue or offence, make sure that you have the following details to hand: vehicle registration number, make and model, colour and location.

We hope that you will also find it possible to keep a diary of these offences, so that when the Parish Council are in a position to request further evidence to bolster the case for parking improvements around Severn Beach, people would be able to provide it to us. However, please remember that safety is paramount – do not put yourself in any danger when collecting the evidence!

## SEVERN BEACH 100 – CENTENARY CELEBRATION TEAM

It's not often a village can attribute its origins to one specific date in history, however the village of Severn Beach is in the enviable position of being able to do just that!

Whilst it's still relatively early days, some ideas so far include special train visits, a traditional funfair, local interest stalls and displays, as well as plenty of opportunities for groups or individuals to showcase their talents. More and more details will be announced as the time gets nearer, which may hopefully include one or two extremely special plans indeed. And – did we say? – there is still a vacancy on the team to join us help shape those special plans.

But for now, we need to decide whether or not we would like a Royal visit to the village, and we would like YOU to tell us what you think! If you have an opinion on the matter, please drop the Parish Clerk a note to say who you would like to represent the Royal family on their trip to Severn Beach in its centenary year to commence the celebration events!

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