



Pilning & Severn Beach Parish Council

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PARISH COUNCIL ONLINE MEETINGS

Meeting online is becoming the new normal. So far, we have held three successful online meetings. It was suggested that when we eventually reconvene face-to-face, we could arrange “hybrid” meetings, so those who need to shield or self-isolate would still be able to join us from the safety of their homes.

We are grateful to the members of the public, who joined us for the September meeting, along with South Gloucestershire Head of Safe Strong Communities and the planning agent, who is currently providing advice to the Parish Council. We had an excellent debate, and we are pleased that the South Gloucestershire Council representative was able to offer some commentary on the present issues, as well as take notes of our concerns.

Our next meeting is going to be held online on Monday, 5 October 2020, starting at 7pm.

NEW MEMBER CO-OPTED ONTO PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council welcomes Jacqs Graham, who became the latest member to join us on Monday 7 September. Jacqs has lived in Pilning since 1984, and having recently taken early retirement, made a generous decision to offer her time to the community by serving on the Parish Council. Jacqs’s appointment closes the last vacancy on the Parish Council.

ORCHARD POOLS

Thank you to all the parishioners who took part in the questionnaire concerning development at Orchard Pools. We received 192 responses, 190 of which were in favour of the Parish Council continuing to investigate the legitimacy of the commercial development and trying to stop it, if it is at all possible. We note strong opposition from the parishioners to the destruction of the habitat at the site, as well as the loss of the buffer zone between the village and the industrial site, which is now having a negative impact on the local environment (including a significant increase in the number of complaints about noise). We are pursuing this matter with various agencies, and we will keep you updated.

SUEZ NOISE PROBLEMS

As previously reported, both South Gloucestershire Council and SUEZ (where the noise was recorded at its loudest) are now investigating their acoustic reports. SUEZ are not disputing that they may be contributing to the noise; however, there is a possibility that the noise is emanating for more than one site. We understand that Jack Lopresti MP would be willing to debate the issue at the Parliament if this becomes necessary. It has been noted that the nuisance low frequency sound in our area was first reported nearly a year ago (which incidentally coincides with the destruction of woodland at Orchard Pools), yet little progress has been made until recently. We are concerned about the effects of low frequency sound on the people living and working in our parish; these may include headaches, unusual tiredness, lack of concentration, irritation and pressure of the eardrum. We do not know if low frequency noise affects pets and wildlife creatures, due to the absence of any in-depth scientific research on the subject.

PILNING AND SEVERN BEACH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

We have agreed to establish a Neighbourhood Plan for our area. In accordance with the Localism Act, neighbourhood planning would give our community direct power to create a shared vision for our parish, its development and growth. We strongly feel that the parishioners, led by the Parish Council, should have a greater influence over where new developments should be, what they should look like and what infrastructure should be provided.

Neighbourhood planning is not a legal requirement. It is a right that our community can choose to use, and it is a very good tool to use if we wish to play a much stronger role in shaping our area. If you would like to find out more, neighbourhood planning guidance is available on the UK Government website - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/neighbourhood-planning--2>

We are now looking for volunteers who would like to get involved with the creation the Plan. Please contact the Parish Clerk or one of the Parish Councillors if you wish to discuss this opportunity.

TRAFFIC CALMING IN PILNING AND SEVERN BEACH

We are receiving numerous enquiries concerning traffic calming schemes in the parish. As you know, the delayed works at Pilning are anticipated to start soon, with Severn Beach to follow.

According to South Gloucestershire Council, the traffic calming scheme installed in Easter Compton, has been a success, as it brought down the speed of the vehicles travelling through the village to 20-25mph (compared to the previous 31mph). However, the Parish Council were made aware of concerns that the scheme did not quite address the issues raised by the residents and that a lot of people felt that the money allocated by South Gloucestershire Council to road safety improvements in our Ward could have been spent better.

We also hear that residents are not convinced that the Easter Compton scheme will work well in other villages. We therefore feel that we should step in and help South Gloucestershire Council find the solution that will benefit our community.

Please help us by taking a short survey at piln.in/traffic2020

PAVEMENT PARKING – CONSULTATION

Addressing cars parked on pavements in small rural communities, such as ours, may not have been at the top of the UK Government's agenda when they launched the consultation on managing pavement parking, but it does not mean that we will be excluded from following the rules once they have been adopted nationwide. We know that there are certain areas in the parish, where one can regularly find a dozen or so vehicles parked on the pavement.

If you want to find out more and have your say on the matter, please visit the Department for Transport's website at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/managing-pavement-parking>. The consultation closes 22 November 2020.

NORTHWICK CEMETERY

A Cemetery meeting was held in September. It was noted that the Cemetery was looking tidy and well cared for. It is open for burials; please visit our website for further details.

Article by Olga Taylor on behalf of the Parish Council