



PILNING AND SEVERN BEACH PARISH COUNCIL

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SEPTEMBER MEETING TO BE HELD ONLINE

The upcoming meeting will take place online **on 7 September 2020**, starting **at 19:00**, a phone-in option will also be available. Please see the joining details on the Parish Council website and the notice boards.

ORCHARD POOLS

You might have noticed a flurry of activities at the Orchard Pools site at the end Ableton Lane. Although strictly not public, the area was popular with dog walkers and bird watchers until the trees and shrubbery were brought down by bulldozers last year.



Most of you will know that Orchard Pools is part of the large plot of land between Severn Beach and Avonmouth, acquired by ICI in 1950s, which received blanket development rights in 1957 (it is worth noting that at the time, the head of ICI was the infamous Dr Beeching also remembered for his work on the British railways). In 1995 a new planning permission was negotiated for Western Approach, and part of the 1957 consent –

notably the one concerning Orchard Pools – was rescinded.

As far as we are aware, the development is going ahead without a planning permission, and we are challenging this with South Gloucestershire Council. As we see it, the industrial encroachment of Orchard Pools Plot 1 will set a precedent, with Plot 2 and Plot 3 (the fields and the foreshore on the other side of the A403) to follow.

In our role as a Parish Council, we are here to work in partnership with other bodies to achieve benefits for the parish, as well as alert relevant authorities to problems that arise. However, the Parish Council can only act upon the mandate given to us by our parishioners. Therefore, we need to hear from you – do we **give up** or do we **keep fighting**, even if it costs us in legal fees? Please submit your response via the online questionnaire found at <http://piln.in/OP2020>

The current decision to raze the Orchard Pools woodlands to the ground echoes the recent report published in the Guardian highlighting the fact that England's biggest landowners are not growing enough trees - <http://piln.in/trees> We, too, find it disturbing to see how nature gets destroyed in our rural community and we believe that South Gloucestershire Council should do more to preserve the already scarce woodlands in our Parish.

If interested, you can download the original documents relating to the 1995 planning permission from our website ('Our Parish' section - <https://www.psbpc.co.uk/parish-facts>), but be prepared for a very long read.

NEW SIGNS FOR THE SEA WALL

The new "priority" signs attached to key points along the Sea Wall path that may catch your eye from early September were arranged by the Parish Council and supported by South Gloucestershire Traffic Management team as a reminder that everyone should respect each other. We hope you approve. We shall be watching to see if the new signs have the desired effect.

NOISE FROM AN INDUSTRIAL SITE

Further to our last month's report (InView, August 2020), on the evening of 6 August Parish Councillor Mike Pruett and two members of the South Gloucestershire Environmental Health team conducted a comprehensive noise sampling survey around Severn Beach and the nearby industrial area. Necessary measurements were taken, and South Gloucestershire Council will now decide on the adequate way forward. We will continue to keep you informed.

Article by Olga Taylor on behalf of the Parish Council

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

As reported last month, Sue Binns has had to step down from the chairmanship of the Parish Council, and I have the honour of being elected by the Council as her successor.

The role of the parish council has changed over time, as former councillors and chairmen will attest, but one thing has been a constant for this parish, and that is that we don't accept others trying to walk over us. We challenged the imposition of the motorways and the new bridge, and got a lot of changes made to benefit the area, and in the same way, now, we are challenging the developers who have cut down what we thought was permanent woodland.

Who will win in the end is yet to be seen, but one thing is more clear now than ever, with this sort of threat all around us: we must have a view to the future, and not take anything for granted or expect anything to be permanent. Others have greater powers than us, but the key here is that we need to make sure our voice is heard. Whilst this awful pandemic is far from over yet, one thing that many people have said is that we don't want to just go back to how things were. This is our opportunity to strike out in a new direction and do things better.

So I am talking with fellow members of the council about drawing up our own plan for how we want the area to be; a modern successor to the old Parish Plan. If there are going to be new developments where do we want them and what do we want them to be? What do we need for our area, to make it an even better place to be? And, as well as that, what things should we try to do differently from here on?

We know Adge Cutler was being ironic when he sang 'a little corner of Heaven, down by the River Severn', but time has moved on and, as well as Adge, many of the things he mentioned have now gone; But now, without the irony, we can say he was right, we truly do live in a very special place.

So I want us to look to the task ahead, and be determined to show those who discount us, that we are every bit as important as Thornbury, Yate or Kingswood, and so we expect the same treatment, if not better.

We are revamping the parish website, where you can find a photo and contact details of each of us, together with a few words about us and our particular interests. We also want to add a rolling calendar of things going on, and include links to the many organisations in the area, and if you are thinking of starting-up something new, perhaps we can help you to get started?

We represent you, so we want to hear from you about your ideas for the area - to paraphrase JFK, don't ask 'what is in it for me' but what can I do to make our area an even better place to live.

Peter.



Alderman Peter Tyzack
Crossings House
Severn Beach