



FAIRFORD TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT

2013-14

Mayor's Introduction



Cllr Caroline
Mumford

Fairford Town
Mayor

Tel 01285
712702

I am pleased to say that membership of Fairford Town Council has been relatively stable over the past year. We have three new Councillors: Jonathan Cumpstey, Johnny Dallow, and Barry Fenby. Barry replaces Geof Willis who resigned due to ill health. I would like to formally welcome them to the Council. Clare Muir resigned recently due to work and family commitments, and we thank her for her contribution. We are now looking for a new councillor. Please do consider standing, and speak to the clerks or any councillor if you would like more information

The committee chairs will be reporting later on activities that have taken place this last year. I would just like to highlight a few items.

Much Town Council time has been taken up with planning issues. The Council has responded to Cotswold District Council's consultations on the Local Plan and related documents. As most people will be aware, four planning applications for residential development have been submitted, in addition to the two developments currently under construction on the western edge of the town. The Council has met with developers, held two public meetings, and engaged planning consultants to assist in preparing responses on the two larger developments.

The Town Council's position is it does not disagree with the need to provide housing development in the long term, broadly in accordance with the emerging Cotswold Local Plan, so long as the infrastructure of the town will not be adversely affected. The Town Council has objected to the applications on the basis that existing housing commitments should be absorbed and the implications for local infrastructure properly assessed before further development is permitted, particularly in the light of flooding and waste water issues over the winter. Fairford Town

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Town Council will continue to put its case at the appeal by Gladman Developments which is due to commence in July.

A community plan, Fairford Horizons 2016, was adopted by the Council in January 2011. The Town Council is currently engaged in updating this plan to identify what we treasure about Fairford, and how we would like to see the town develop in the future. Questionnaires were sent to all households, and public consultations held. There will be a further opportunity to comment on the plan before it is adopted later this year.

Work on the flood alleviation works in the Milton Street area has been completed by the Environment Agency, and work on the next phase to cover Back Lane / Gas Lane / Courtbrook has begun. Although Fairford did not suffer from river flooding last winter, parts of Fairford have suffered from sewage flooding when pumping stations failed due to the volume of water ingress into the system. The problems have been reported to various agencies and our local MP and it is hoped to meet with Thames Water to agree a solution, irrespective of planning proposals in the town.

The Town Council is in consultation with Gloucestershire Highways on introducing a 40mph speed limit from the Marston Meysey turning on the Cirencester approach to Fairford, funded by Bloor Homes as part of their development. Gloucestershire County Council has also carried out a consultation on amending the parking restrictions in the Market Place and High Street, which would result in no restriction north of Croft Alley, and would allow parking for one hour between Croft Alley and the A417. We hope to hear the outcome soon. The Town Council has accepted a quotation for resurfacing the car park at the top of the Market Place, including the provision of two lengths of footpath. Work is expected to start in July after the Air Tattoo. We hope that the new surface will encourage more people to use the car park.

This year has seen an Italian Market and French Market in Fairford, in addition to the Christmas Festive Market, the Wednesday markets, the Food and Drink Festival arranged by the Business Club and the Fairford Festival. The Town Council has also re-introduced the Flag Festival to the town centre.

Finally thanks must go to our Clerks Vanessa Lawrence and Roz Capps, to Albert Alder and volunteers who keep the town looking neat and tidy, and to everyone who has helped with the many events that keep Fairford such a vibrant community.

Caroline Mumford, Mayor

Town Councillors

<p>Mayor: Cllr Caroline Mumford 11 Leafield Road Fairford Tel: 712702 e-mail: caroline.mumford@live.co.uk</p>	<p>Deputy Mayor: Cllr Jennie Sanford 2 Prince Charles Road Fairford Tel: 01285 713671 e-mail: jenniesan- ford@btinternet.com</p>
<p>Cllr Stephen Boulton 1 Coach House Cottage, Fairford Park Fairford Tel: 07767 445857 e-mail: stephenboul- ton89@yahoo.com</p>	<p>Cllr Trevor Hing 33 Courtbrook Fairford Tel: 711122 e-mail: trevor.hing@btconnect.com</p>
<p>Cllr Janet Bowen Three Greens, Park Street Fairford Tel: 01285 712944 e-mail: bowenjanet@hotmail.com</p>	<p>Cllr Robert Winney 36 Lakeside, Horcott, Fairford Tel: 712452 e-mail: winneyr@gmail.com</p>
<p>Cllr Jonathan Cumpstey Draycott, Milton Street Fairford Tel: 01285 712116 e-mail: Cumpstey@me.com from June 2013</p>	<p>Cllr Christine Roberts 11 Crabtree Park Fairford Tel: 712150 e-mail: chris@cotswoldwireless.co.uk</p>
<p>Cllr Johnny Dallow 4 Gable Cottages, East End Fairford Tel: 01285 711007 e-mail: jrdallow@aol.com from June 2013</p>	<p>Cllr Mark Wardle Park Corner House, Park Street Fairford Tel: 07887 707483 e-mail: mark- wardle@heddleworth.co.uk</p>
<p>Cllr Barry Fenby Morgan Hall Fairford Tel: 01285 712235 e-mail: barryfenby@aol.com from November 2013</p>	<p>Cllr Martin Harwood 17 Churchill Place Fairford Tel: 712597 e-mail: martinhar- wood560@btinternet.com</p>

Cllr G Willis resigned during 2013.

Cllr C Muir resigned during 2014

Councillor Attendance at Meetings 2013–14

***joined the Council during the year**

**** resigned from the Council during the year**

Committees	Full Council	Facilities	Planning	Highways	Finance
Meetings in the year	12	11	23	10	7
Councillors					
C Mumford	11	9	19	10	6
J Sanford	11	10	17	8	4
S Boulton	11	n/a	21	10	n/a
J Bowen	10	11	n/a	n/a	n/a
J Cumpstey *	10	n/a	16	n/a	n/a
J Dallow *	9	n/a	18	n/a	6
B Fenby *	5	4	n/a	n/a	n/a
M Harwood	12	10	n/a	n/a	n/a
T Hing	9	n/a	n/a	n/a	6
C Muir	10	n/a	n/a	5	7
C Roberts	10	10	n/a	n/a	n/a
R Winney	9	n/a	n/a	7	n/a
M Wardle	10	n/a	19	n/a	6
G Willis **	3	3	n/a	n/a	n/a

Facilities Committee 2013–14

Committee Members: Councillors:- M Harwood (Chair), C Roberts, G Willis (part), J Bowen (part), B Fenby (part)

It has been a year of consolidation for the Council's Facilities Committee. Work on improving the Walnut Tree Field has progressed with the addition of new equipment. The Council continues to be concerned about the number of people who allow their dogs to foul the grass and fail to clean up after them. There are a number of bins which are there to be used! It is important to point out that not only are dog faeces a health hazard, but not clearing them up is an offence punishable by a fine.

In partnership with the Fairford Preservation Society, the Council supported a bid to a national for a grant to plant more trees in the town. The grant was refused, but the Council and the Preservation Society decided on a limited scheme in the Walnut Tree Field which will add to the field's attraction and provide some welcome shade at the height of summer. The young trees are fragile at the moment so we hope residents will help by keeping an eye on them and reporting any damage.

The Council has also been busy adding to the Christmas lights display in the town centre. The feedback has been entirely positive and, finance permitting, it should be better still this coming Christmas.

It was becoming obvious that Fairford was one of very few towns in the Cotswolds not to have a proactive tourism strategy, so the Facilities Committee set about encouraging the establishment of a group of local representatives charged with increasing the town's profile. The group is to be known as Fairford Tourism with representatives from the Council, the Fairford and Lechlade Business Club and community organisations. Fairford Tourism is keen to hear from local people about ways of attracting visitors to the town and ensuring they enjoy their stay so much that they will want to come back again.

The Town Council has invited French and Italian markets to the town to add to the traditional attractions already available for residents, businesses and visitors. The Italian market took place last October and the French one in March this year. In addition, the Town Council

has re-introduced the popular Flag Festival this year thanks to the Royal International Air Tattoo, who lend the town the flags of all the nations taking part in the Tattoo. The flags make a colourful and vibrant display in the centre.

The Council continues to keep a watching brief on the town's community facilities most notably the Fairford Community Centre and the Palmer Hall – by providing funding towards improvements that will further enhance the attraction of two first-class centres. The Facilities Committee intends to continue to involve local people in what the Council does, but further progress on projects depends on the willingness of people to give of their time and their expertise in the interests of the community.

Cllr M Harwood—Chairman

Planning Committee 2013 - 14

Committee Members: Councillors:- J. Cumpstey (Chair), S Boulton, J Dallow, M Wardle

There were a significant number of applications to be considered for the implementation of the two major developments to the west of Fairford and the Town Council has also investigated how to apply for the new affordable homes for which people with a connection to Fairford have a priority and advice has been posted on our website. Provision of affordable homes for local people was another objective in our Horizons document.

However, it has been the applications by Gladman, Kensington and Edinburgh and Spitfire that have taken up the majority of the committee's time. The Town Council objected to the granting of these applications and these views we believe were instrumental in the Gladman application being rejected by CDC and for the Kensington and Edinburgh application having been rejected at first hearing (even though it was subsequently granted by the closest of votes). We have engaged with planning consultants to help defend the Town's position on Gladman and Kensington and Edinburgh and have made direct representations at the CDC Planning Committee meetings. However we have faced the "presumption of sustainable development" as provided in the National Planning Framework (NPPF), which, without being able to demonstrate one of very finite grounds for rejection assumes that an application will be granted.

Taking into account the existing developments West of Fairford and the outline application at London Road and from Spitfire there will be over 300 new homes in Fairford and the Town Council hopes that this will then be the end of new development for many years to come. CDC have now confirmed that they have a 5 year housing supply which we hope will help to achieve a realistic decision on any future applications that come before us. The appalling conditions experienced by many residents through the flooding over the winter highlighted our stance being the correct one in trying to preserve the infrastructure of the Town for existing residents. A condition of the London Road application has been for Thames Water to commission a report on the impact that this development would have on the existing water and sewerage system. This report is expected in early autumn.

We have also undertaken considerable work on updating our Horizons document into the 2014 Community Plan. We have undertaken a survey of views on the future of the town and received a very pleasing response from nearly 15% of households. This was followed by a series of town meetings to add further detailed views. The Community Plan will be published in early summer.

Let us know your views: Finally, we would ask that if you send letters of support or objection to Cotswold District Council, please copy the Town Council in so that we can take your views into consideration when discussing planning applications.

Cllr J Cumpstey—Chairman

Highways Committee 2013 - 14

**Committee Members: Councillors:- Boulton (Chair) ,
M Harwood, C Muir, R Winney**

The Highways Committee has a wide ranging and varied remit, covering town maintenance, footpaths, the burial ground, street furniture and much more besides. We have had a busy year!

As a result of the successful fundraising campaign to restore the war memorial, the Committee were able to commission a Roll of Honour for the Church, which was dedicated at the Remembrance Sunday service in November.

We are indebted to David Lawrence for all the years he has carried out the footpath survey, and would like to welcome Kay & Graham Hobbs who have kindly volunteered to take on this important task.

The Churchyard and Burial Ground are an integral part of Fairford and important to the community, and we are pleased to continue the successful partnership with Farmors Maintenance crew who cut the grass in this area. The Committee would also like to thank Albert Alder for all the work he does, above and beyond that which he is contracted to do, all of which goes towards making Fairford a cleaner and greener place to live. And thanks must go to all the volunteers who do so much to keep the Churchyard and Burial ground so well maintained.

A new shed has been built in the Council yard for storing grit & new salt spreader purchased. Thank you to Robert Blake for volunteering to spread the grit on the pavements along the High Street and A417 – we were lucky this year, and it was not called into use. However we are well prepared should this winter be a cold one.

New flower tubs for the Market Place were purchased in the autumn and a successful partnership with Coln House School, who plant the tubs, was established. I think we can all agree the tubs have looked fabulous this spring.

Thanks to the generosity of the Fairford Town Charity, two new notice boards have been installed in the town. There are plans for an additional board on Leafield Road, and also to upgrade the older existing boards, particularly the one at Dilly's Bridge.

New "finger-post" signs have been commissioned to replace the broken and dated ones in an effort to enhance the general appearance of the Market Place and High Street.

Following on from a request from residents, the Committee arranged for a new bus stop at the junction of Mill Lane & Coronation Street to increase access to public transport for those living at the North West of Fairford. The Committee has chosen a contractor to resurface the car park and work will start this July and take 6-8 weeks to complete. After a very frustrating year trying to resolve the car parking issues along the High Street, Gloucestershire Highways have finally made the decision to lift all

restrictions from Mill Lane to Croft Alley, and reinstate the 1 hour restriction from Croft Alley to A417. The disabled parking bays in the Market Place will be legally marked and enforceable. Parking remains unrestricted in the centre of the Market Place, with the exception of

Wednesdays when parking is suspended for the Market. Free parking is still available in the car park at the top of the High Street, and we would encourage people to use the car park, especially those that work in the shops and businesses.

Cllr S Boulton—Chairman

Finance Committee 2013 - 14

Committee Members: Councillors:- M Wardle (Chair), T Hing, C Muir, J Dallow

Once again it is pleasing to report another satisfactory year for the Council finances. For the sixth year in succession the Town Council has been able to freeze the level of precept paid by local residents for services provided by the Council. Members, supported by the staff, have continued to be careful in the management of projects undertaken by the Council and in finding cheaper alternatives for existing services and supplies.

In addition to finding funds to support projects undertaken by the other Committees and for the grants made to local organisations listed below, Finance Committee have been able to allocate funds within reserves to cover the cost of Highways improvements along the A417 by the new housing developments, ongoing flood resilience work and for the re-surfacing of the Car Park. Some of these costs will eventually be met through developer contributions which will be phased over the next few years in staged payments.

The Committee continues to welcome applications for grant funding from all community groups in the town. In general we will continue to consider these at year end once we have full information on spending and reserves.

Grants Awarded 2013

CAB	£75	FEST	£500
Cotswold Volunteers	£250	Fairford Festival	£250
Fairford History Society	£100	Fairford Tennis Club	£600

Cllr M Wardle—Chairman

Summary of Income & Payments 2013-14

	Last year ended 31/3/2013	Current year ended 31/3/2014
	£	£
Income		
Administration	105017	108720
Staffing expenses	69	0
Community Centre	6663	9431
Communications	0	0
Security	1211	0
Promotion	3287	1241
Community	1079	0
Projects	11106	2524
Churchyard	5652	8318
Environment	4289	3582
Planning	0	26500
VAT Data	4066	6559
Total receipts	142440	166875
Payments		
Administration	23084	22838
Staffing Expenses	34571	33527
Community Centre	12664	14369
Communications	2420	1045
Promotion	7635	3536
Community	5321	2980
Projects	27102	14958
Churchyard	2401	3081
Environment	6207	9343
Planning	295	2078
VAT Data	7736	5602
Total payments	129438	113357
Summary		
Opening Balance	128620	1416222
Add total receipts	142440	166875
Less Total payments	129438	113357
Closing Balance	141622	195140

Youth Group Report 2013 - 14

The last year has not been an easy one for the Youth Group. Following the withdrawal of the County-funded youth service two groups were established in Fairford, funded by the Town Council. The intention was to provide a safe and interesting meeting place for young people where they can socialize and find a source of help and advice.

Sessions for the younger group have continued to run under the auspices of the Church youth worker with assistance from volunteers recruited from families on the base at Fairford. These sessions take place in the Community Centre every second Monday on a two-weekly basis during school term times.

Sessions for older teenagers were held on a weekly basis but are currently suspended. Young Gloucestershire, the organisation which was employed to provide staff and to run the sessions, have lost some of the funding used to subsidise the costs of delivery. As a consequence the cost of using YG to provide services away from Gloucester itself has become prohibitive.

Discussions are now underway to explore the possibility of working with neighbouring towns and communities to provide a shared service. The hope would be to employ local youth workers who know the communities to provide a service. There are a number of difficulties to be overcome but we hope to report more positive news in the coming months.

Cllr M Wardle

Palmer Hall Report

The Palmer Hall continues to be a big asset to Fairford. The Hall can accommodate over 100 people, providing a stage and lighting. A venue suitable for productions, dances, parties, weddings etc. We have many regular users, including Zumba, Karate, Badminton, Dance Clubs, U3A, W.I., Fitness classes and dance and stage school. Thanks to all who use the facilities and for your continued support. We have our own cinema, which, thanks to Dave Nelmes for his help on cinema nights, continues to make a steady profit. This past year we have been able to purchase new chairs and trolleys with an allocation of financial support from the Town Council. We still need to provide two more trolleys and have been offered donations from Heikina Ki Karate, The W.I. and the dance club.

The Palmer Hall is a registered charity and although our lettings are good, we rely on fundraising to keep the Hall alive. Our huge thanks go to Phil Trickett for running the 100 Club, our biggest annual fundraiser, raising approximately £1000 +.

The Management committee are pleased to say there will be no increase in hire rates, excellent news considering the hourly rate has only increased by £4 an hour since 1994!

The biggest outlay for us this year has been repairs to the roof and outside walls, a large bill paid for from our own funds.

We continue to research grants, and any ideas for fundraising would be welcomed.

I would like to thank all committee members who provide their time voluntarily to keep the Palmer Hall going. Many thanks to Pam Nelmes, our secretary, for the efficient work over the last twelve months.

We were saddened by the resignation of our loyal treasurer, Phil Green, at Christmas. Phil has been a valuable member of our Committee and as Treasurer, has provided us with accurate accounts and sensible recommendations. We wish him and May all the best in their move to Swindon.

Sue Crowley

Fairford Emergency Action Group (FEAG) Report

Fortunately, it has been a relatively quiet time for FEAG. The heavy rain over the Christmas period was a cause for concern at one point and sandbags had to be delivered to the most vulnerable residents. We also used the FEAG owned pumps to assist a number of residents in Lakeside that suffered sewage flooding in their garages and gardens. In this regard, we have relayed our concerns over the sewage problems and capacity in Fairford to our MP, Thames Water, Gloucestershire County Council and CDC Public Health Department. We continue to test our equipment to ensure it is in good working order (thank goodness after all this time in storage, the dingy still inflates!).

Work on the final phase of the Flood Alleviation scheme to construct approximately 50m of sheet piled wall and 30m of flood defence earth embankment to provide increased flood protection to properties in Gas Lane, Back Lane and Courtbrook has commenced and is currently on schedule.

I am pleased to announce that Stephen Boulton has volunteered to join the FEAG Committee. We hope to organise another exercise this year to test our resilience plan.

Cllr Trevor J Hing, MBE, Chairman FEAG

Community Centre Report

The Centre continues to provide services and facilitate activities for the local community, and is a popular venue for meetings, private functions, charity lunches, funeral wakes, etc. There are more than 20 regular activities ranging from Art classes, Bridge Club, Children's activities, Country Market, Exercise and Fitness classes ...to U3A, Weight watchers, Yoga, and Youth club. New this year are Ballet classes, Bingo, and Baby sing and sign. One highlight was the dinner on Xmas day, provided by Amanda and Mervyn Culley, which was much enjoyed.

The centre is a community building used by many different groups at various times of the day. Maintenance of the building continues, and this year we have improved the boilers and installed double glazing to save energy. We have also re-decorated the rear and front toilets, and refurbished the Farmor room chairs. We are a non-profit-making organisation and pleased that we have been able to maintain the building in good order and paid all expenses without significant loss. However, we need to ensure that the running costs are met in order to keep the community centre sustainable for the future, so there is a slight increase in room rates from May 1st. There are 6 rooms available for hire, of various sizes suitable for 20 to 100 or more. These can be booked by the hour, the day, or for longer periods, with rates varying from a few £ to around £14 per hour with concessions for regular bookings. Full details are available from the office, tel. 01285 711571 or web site www.fairfordcommunitycentre.org.

The opinions and suggestions of users are important to us, and all are cordially invited to become members of FCC Ltd. We welcome new members, and there is no joining or membership fee, just an annual general meeting, which this year will be on Friday, June 27th - please come.

We are extremely grateful to the FCC Trustees, and to Sadie and Eric our centre managers for all their hard work. We also thank all the people who have helped in various ways to make the centre such a success.

Margaret Bishop

Police Report for Fairford 2013-14

Crime Report

During the period 01 April 2013 – 31 March 2014 there were 85 reported crimes in Fairford. This can be compared to the period 01 April 2012 – 31 March 2013 where there were 83 reported offences.

This number includes the following ...

Burglary Dwelling

During the period 01 April 2013 – 31 March 2014 there was 1 offence recorded which remains undetected at this time.

This can be compared to the previous year when there were 5 recorded offences which remain undetected at this time.

Burglary Non Dwelling

During the period 01 April 2013 – 31 March 2014 there were 11 recorded offences with 2 being detected at this time.

This can be compared to the previous year when there were 7 recorded offences which remain undetected at this time.

Theft Offences

During the period 01 April 2013 – 31 March 2014 there were 26 recorded offences with 6 being detected at this time.

This can be compared to the previous year when there were 25 recorded offences with 5 being detected at this time.

Criminal Damage

During the period 01 April 2013 – 31 March 2014 there were 16 recorded offences with 2 being detected at this time.

This can be compared to the previous year when there were 23 recorded offences with 5 being detected at this time.

Staffing Changes

There has been a change to the staffing for the Fairford and Lechlade area. Inspector Brian Clifford has now moved to another role and has been replaced by Inspector Karen Ellis.

PC Shane Jupp has rejoined the response team at Cirencester and has been replaced by PC Steve Maguire.

Neighbourhood Coordination group Meeting Update

A meeting was held on 3rd April 2014 at Down Ampney village Hall and was attended by representatives from Glos Police, Bromford and Glos County Council. Various local issues were discussed and as a result of this it was decided that the main area of concern was raising residents' security awareness.

This has become our main priority for the next quarter.

The date and venue for the next meeting is to be confirmed.

Fairford Market Surgery

Surgeries continue to be held monthly at Fairford market. During the winter months the surgery was held inside at the police point in the Community Centre but are now being held outside on the market stall again which was extremely well attended in April

PC Steve Maguire

Cotswolds Local Policing Team

Oral Reports

Oral reports will be received at the meeting from:

- RAF Fairford
- County Cllr Theodoulou
- District Cllr Wardle

Contact Details:

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Office Opening Hours:

Monday– Friday 10.00am–1.00pm

Citizen of the Year 2014

Nominations were received for :

Robert Dibble – for his work in Fairford such as clearing weeds on pathways, work in the Community Centre clearing weeds and ivy, work in the Churchyard clearing ivy and other works for the Town.

Wendy Graham – Work for the needy as instigator of a food bank, work in St Mary's Church

Barbara Ellen Mitchell & Rebecca Sarjent – both these ladies have been involved in many aspects of community life over many years. They are stewards and members of the PCC, giving their time generously on many occasions. They help at all major events with catering, stewarding and general organizations for the Church. They organize lunches for the elderly at the Community Centre and much much more.

Annette Stannard - for her work with Fairford Brownies over many years. Even though she works, she manages to find time to manage and run the Group every Wednesday during term time and also activities at weekends.

Wendy Graham was voted Citizen of the Year 2014

Geoff Chick Award 2014

Nominations were received for:

Mikal Hughes - 15 year old Mikal attends Farmors School. He has special needs but has won Most improved student award last year. At home he does the housework and cooking for busy mum, whose time is taken up looking after a younger child who has special needs and Mikal's other two siblings. Mikal is keen to help others. He is a member of the Navy Training Corps and has been presented to the Lord Lieutenant of Gloucestershire.

Mikal Hughes was voted Young Citizen of the Year 2014