



FAIRFORD TOWN COUNCIL

FEBRUARY 2013

Mayor's Introduction



Cllr Bob Winney
Fairford Town
Mayor
Tel 01285
712452

Fairford has enjoyed a wonderful 2012. You braved the weather and came out en-masse to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and enjoy all the revelries that the town had on offer over that weekend, from the Fairford Festival ball, to the street parties organised by the residents. Fairford Town Council has completed work on upgrading the Walnut Tree Field Playground with new equipment installed over last summer, all of which is enjoyed by the community and for which we received an award from the Gloucestershire Playing Fields Association.

Special thanks must go to Esme Clark for turning on the Christmas tree lights. We wish her well in 2013 and look forward to hearing more about her spectacular progress.

So, what can we expect in Fairford in 2013? The flood defences will be started in earnest this year and we can only hope that they won't be needed! Fairford Festival will once again delight everyone who goes in June. We were disappointed that the Steam Rally was cancelled last year after 45 wonderful years, and we hope that a new site can be found close to Fairford so this unique event can continue. We are inviting nominations for Citizen and Young Citizen of the Year. If you know of anyone who has carried out good work for the community and deserves recognition, please contact Town Clerk with details.

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LARGE PRINT VERSIONS OF THE NEWSLETTER CAN BE REQUESTED

COUNCIL NEWS

CONTACT DETAILS: Fairford Town Council, Community Centre, High Street, Fairford, GL7 4AF

Tel: 01285 713326/712344 Email: clerks@fairford-tc.co.uk

Website: www.fairfordtowncouncil.gov.uk

Town Council Meetings

The next two Full Town Council Meetings will be on **Tuesday 12th February** and **Tuesday 12th March** at 7pm in the Barker Room, Fairford Community Centre. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

Highways

Fairford is currently experiencing unprecedented levels of dog excrement on pavements, in particular on The Croft, the High Street & Market Place. Cotswold District Council have expressly asked us to advise people that **if you allow your dog to foul the pavement they will endeavour to prosecute you!** CDC asks members of the public to come forward with any information regarding perpetrators, e.g. names, dates and times, or any information that may lead to a successful prosecution. Please contact CDC on 01285 623000 and ask to speak to George Lager.

Streetlighting:

Residents can report faulty streetlights directly to Gloucestershire County Council, by ringing 08000 514514 giving details of the location and if possible the number of the lamppost which can be found on the post itself.

Alternatively, please ring the Town Council office on 712344/713326 with the details.

Steve Boulton, Chair of Highways 07767 445857

Planning

There was a lull in planning applications in the run up to Christmas, but now we are seeing a number of applications for extensions coming through.

Cygnets Investments held a Drop-In session at the Community Centre on 10th January where the reserved matters plans for the appearance of the buildings, construction materials and landscaping for the tourist development at Lakes 103, 103a and 104, and Milestone House were on display. The majority of concerns expressed were about flooding. The Town Council will take the feedback given into account. It is not known when the application will come before the CDC Planning Committee.

Fairford is set to gain a large number of affordable homes over the next couple of years. Six have been granted permission on Horcott Road to add to the 52 from Bloor Homes on the Land West of Fairford and 18 at Pip's Field. The Pip's Field site has been bought by Linden Homes who will be carrying out a Community Engagement exercise shortly.

Suzanne Jones, Chairman of Planning, Tel: 01285 712003

Facilities

WALNUT TREE FIELD PLAYGROUND

We are happy to advise that the zip wire, which was taken out of action just before Christmas has now been repaired and refurbished and is now back in operation.

The Town Council are also happy to report that the Walnut Tree Field has recently received a Highly Commended Award in the Gloucestershire Playing Fields of the Year Competition.

FESTIVE MARKET 2012

Once again the Festive Market proved to be a huge success, with little Esme Clark opening the market for us. Stall holders reported brisk trade, and pleasing comments on the new Christmas decorations and tree lights have been received.

Martin Harwood, Chair of Facilities, Tel 01285 712597

Gloucestershire County Council (GCC)

Shortly before Christmas, both Cotswold District Council and Gloucestershire County Council received indications of the Government grant to be settled on them in 2013/14. Surprisingly for CDC, the outcome was rather better than expected; although the basic grant has been reduced, there are offsetting positive awards. This had the immediate effect of enabling the Administration to announce a reduction in some parking charges quite significantly. Other charges are under review and so expect further cheering announcements to follow in due course.

In GCC's case the settlement was not so good. A draft budget agreed by cabinet has been published showing an overall reduction in spending of £20 million. Once again we are forced to seek savings in order to balance our books. We have protected the social care budget increasing it marginally but all other operations have had to make savings.

Two years ago we embarked upon a programme of savings with a view to cutting overheads by £114 million over 3/4 years. Because of the success of this programme, GCC has been able to announce immediate support of £50,000 for families who have suffered serious loss due to flooding and a further £1million to help clean up the mess from areas most afflicted by recent floods. We expect that provision for flood relief and associated highways damage will be a major feature of budgets over the next 3/4 years. In East Cotswolds, Lechlade and Fairford have received funding assistance from GCC to cope with or alleviate flood risk.

On a positive note, our new mortgage assistance programme carried out in partnership with Lloyds Bank has helped 25 couples buy their first home. We are studying opportunities to expand this project .

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding the issues reported here or on any other matter relating to CDC.

Ray Theodoulou, GCC & CDC Councillor

e-mail: raymond.theodoulou@cotswold.gov.uk

FEAG & Flood Alleviation Project Update

The FEAG team was kept extremely busy during the recent flood alerts. River levels were monitored at least 3 times a day and based on previous experience, sandbags were placed at the most vulnerable points as a precaution e.g. White Hart Court, by the Town Bridge next to the Bull Tap, etc. Some sandbags were also delivered to elderly residents again as a precaution where the risk of flooding was highest.

However, it is important to point out to residents that whilst the Town Council holds an emergency stockpile of sandbags, it is residents' own responsibility to take precautions to protect their property. Sandbags, including inflatable ones (that take up less storage space and are inflated by immersing in water) can be purchased from most local builders' merchants for deployment in an emergency.

Through the Flood Alleviation project, the Town Council together with Cotswold District Council successfully negotiated a further £20,000 funding from Gloucestershire County Council to increase the height of the path near Dilly's Bridge. The initial works were carried out by contractors Galtec before Christmas in atrocious weather conditions. This came just in time, as there is no doubt that the river would have overflowed at this point had these works not been implemented. The works will be completed with a top surface of finer material. Due to the success of the works, the Town Council has agreed to provide additional funding to extend the banking further along the path where the river is still most likely to overflow the path (i.e. areas outside of the Environment Agency's existing funded scheme) and to erect fencing where there is a risk of walkers falling down the higher embankment.

The Flood Alleviation legal agreements are complete and ready to be signed. Work will commence (potentially in phases) once the contractors have been selected and are able to get on the land in the Spring. The surveys for the agreed individual property protection (PLP) work have been completed and once agreed with the residents concerned, implementation is expected to commence on 21st January.

Cirencester Food Bank

From all at Cirencester Food Bank, we would like to express a huge thank you to the members of St Mary's Church, and *all* the residents of Fairford for your generous donations of food as part of your continued support. To date the food collected from St Mary's has totalled a huge 246.1kg since we opened! During our first month we have fed 50 people including 17 children which has a large impact on those in need in our community. This has been possible only with YOUR support. Thank you!

The food bank continues to help families and individuals in Fairford, so do please keep giving - You can make a real difference.

Fairford Library - Community Drop-in

There will be a Community Drop-in morning on
Wednesday 6th February from 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

All are welcome, come and meet representatives from the Royal British Legion, Guide Dogs for the Blind, Mears Care at Home, People for You, a PCSO, our Village Agent, Cotswold Volunteer Community Transport Co-ordinator. They will be available to answer your questions and give information and advice. Free refreshments.

This is a new initiative for us and has proved very successful in other parts of the County.

Dial a Ride/Cotswold Volunteers

A very happy new year to one and all. Both January and February are quiet months as far as bus trips are concerned. I have found in the past that nobody really wants to go very far plus we cannot depend on the weather! Therefore it is just our regular trips that will be running. Looking forward to March; all our usual trips plus Wednesday 13 March a trip to Marlborough. Garden Centres will start again in April. Let us know where you would like to go and days, times etc. and we will see what we can do.

Ann & Derek Nicholls 01285 713852

Palmer Hall

If you are looking for somewhere to hold a fairly large event, then consider the Palmer Hall, London Street, Fairford.

It has a fully fitted kitchen with optional use of crockery and cutlery at no extra cost.

There is a stage with new fully functional stage lighting and curtains; also a projector and a large screen for film/PowerPoint presentations.

Palmer Hall has a full drinks licence. It now has new and improved lighting.

To book telephone Steve on 712189 or Pam on 713087
or visit our web site www.thepalmerhall.org

Forthcoming films for the Palmer Hall Cinema:

Wednesday 16th January – The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel

Wednesday 20th February – Salmon Fishing in the Yemen

Forthcoming Events

Quiz Night – Friday 8th March @ 7pm

Tickets: £7.00 (to include hotdog + cupcake) **Fairford Post office**
Bar available

Visit our web site for all you need to know about the Palmer Hall
from film information to booking it as a venue and lots more!!!!

www.thepalmerhall.org

Citizen & young citizen of the year

Fairford Town Council is asking for nominations for the 2013 Citizen of the Year Award and the Geoff Chick Young Citizen of the Year Award.

If you know of anyone who has carried out good work for the local community and deserves recognition, please write to the Town Clerk with further details.

Please write in with your nominations by Friday 29th March. The winners receive a money prize and all nominees receive a Fairford Town Badge or Medal. The results will be announced at the Annual Town Meeting.

Advertising events on CDC website

Any one can advertise their event on www.cotswold.gov.uk. Click on Tourism then click on Events.

It is a free service, available to everyone.

Fairford Community Centre

Fairford Community Centre continues to provide valuable space for the local community to meet and hold a whole range of interesting and exciting classes/activities.

Current regular events include Art classes, Baby Massage, Rainbows, Bridge club, Khi Chi, Church activities, Country Market, various fitness classes for mixed abilities and ages, Happy beans for young children, Weight Watchers, Yoga, Youth clubs (Junior and senior), Messy Space for families, and various U3A activities (such as Table Tennis, Bridge, Needlework).

The centre is a hub of the community and is also home to the following organisations, Fairford Town Council, History Society, Police Point, St Marys Church Office, Cotswold Volunteer Services and has dedicated space available for use by the young people of Fairford.

We always welcome new groups and if you are thinking of starting up an activity /class in Fairford then we would like to hear from you. There are 6 rooms to let, catering for various sizes from small groups to more than 100, plus kitchen and a pleasant courtyard. Rooms can be booked by the hour, the day or for longer periods. Rates vary from a few £s to around £14 per hour with concessions for regular bookings.

If you would like to know more about the community centre and would like to see what activities are on offer or would like to catch up on all the latest news, then please visit our new website: www.fairfordcommunitycentre.org Email: bookings@fccentre.co.uk

Tel : 01285 711571

You are most welcome to call in and look round any
weekday morning