

Report for Swells Parish Council January 2021 – Dilys Neill

There is a full meeting of Cotswold District Council on Weds 20th Jan at 2 pm, which will be broadcast live on Facebook. It is a short agenda, a lot of which is “housekeeping.” The budget will be presented at the next full council meeting in February,

Holiday lets We have had the first meeting of the working group looking at holiday lets. There is a relatively limited agenda, in that we will primarily be looking at larger premises, probably those which accommodate more than eight people. However, already a few themes have come up which would possibly apply to smaller properties, e.g. parking, waste collection (should CDC be responsible for collecting waste from what is a business,) business rates & the reporting of premises which persistently cause a nuisance. We will be meeting monthly & I will report back to you & also ask for feedback as required. Just to re-emphasise, this is not about shutting down holiday lets but about management to ensure that they co-exist harmoniously with residential premises. I suggested that CDC could produce a “code of conduct” for landlords.

Local elections Nigel may well brief you about the forthcoming County Council elections, currently timetabled for May 6th. At the moment, central government is saying they will go ahead in May, but there are rumours that they will be delayed, possibly until September. If they do go ahead in May, most if not all the population would probably require a postal vote, so there are questions about how this would be arranged.

Planning. I have looked at the application for the development at Flagstone Farm. It seems a very odd application & a lot of detail is missing. I am not clear where the traffic speed statistics were taken, & there is no business case, & in particular no suggestion of how many visitors would be expected. I will try to get some more information from the case officer so I can brief you further.

Neighbourhood plan. I am sure you will have a briefing on this later in the agenda. The group is making good progress, there was an excellent presentation last week for town & parish councillors which some of you attended & the NPSG are now planning to engage with cabinet members & officers from CDC & GCC to ask for their comments & support.

Emergency response. Councillors & officers are part of the group of organisations who provide first line response in emergencies. CDC as you know have been very busy during the pandemic supporting individuals & groups & over Christmas, officers & ward members were involved practically as well as administratively to help people affected by flooding in the south of the district. Ubico personnel were involved as they are responsible for environmental services & some of the waste collections, especially green waste may have been disrupted.

Health overview & scrutiny committee. There was some concern that the Fit for the Future consultation on the provision of care, especially urgent & community care across the county was still going on despite the pressure on our health services during the pandemic. However, the process is nearly complete & it was felt that this is a project which needs to be finished. We were told that Gloucester Royal Hospital is dealing with 50% more Covid patients than in the first peak in April. Of course, this has meant that some operations & treatments have had to be postponed, but cancer diagnosis & treatment are meeting performance indicator requirements. Gloucestershire is performing well in terms of vaccine delivery, I think that the county was very well prepared for the rollout. I had my first dose at North Cotswold Hospital, a few weeks earlier than I was expecting & I was impressed with the efficient organisation. We also had some information from the South West Ambulance Trust. Response times in Cotswold & Forest of Dean are as you would expect longer than in other parts of the county. I am going to ask for a broader look at how the many “999” emergencies are dealt with, perhaps breaking down response times into smaller areas & looking at who else, e.g. community first responders can provide that crucial immediate response when needed.

Don't forget that there is a huge amount of information on CDCs website