



Ripple Parish Council (RPC) Chairman's Report May 2014 to 2015

People changes over the last 12 months

Elections were held on 7th May 2015 and Marion Baum, Nicholas Blake, John Cox, Robin Jones, Roger Sutton and Keith Weyman were elected unopposed. Councillors Pater Gallagher, Dawn Long and Paul Dent decided not to stand for election. RPC thanks them for their contribution.

RPC needs 3 more Councillors. Please volunteer to be a Parish Councillor.

Mrs Lorna Gower, RPC's Clerk resigned and left at the end of March 2015. Lorna made a significant contribution to RPC's work over the past 8 years and we are very grateful to her. RPC welcomes Mrs Victoria Portch as our Clerk and we look forward to working with her.

RPC Finances

RPC increased its precept to £14,280.00 for the financial year 2015/16. Copies of the accounts will be available at the Annual Parish Meeting after being approved by the AGM of RPC on 18th May 2015.

Economic Development

RPC actively supports the Upton Town Partnership (UTP) which represents a wide range of organisations in Upton and the surrounding area to encourage trade, tourism and social activities. We continue to lobby for increased Broadband speeds: further update at the Annual Parish Meeting.

Flooding and Environmental Issues

There were no serious flooding incidents during the year but we remain vigilant.

Planning Issues: Tingdene Marina, Sunnybank Meadow & South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP)

Ripple is designated a Category 3 Settlement because we have no facilities eg. Shops, libraries, schools etc., which should provide protection against excessive development. It turns out not to be the case.

Ripple is significantly affected by a number of planning applications in our Parish. The current free for all results from a lack of a SWDP. Despite RPC's strenuous objections, the Tingdene Marina application for 70 dwellings at the Marina was granted on appeal. Taylor Wimpey have consulted on an additional 31 dwellings on top of the 25 already granted outline permission at Sunnybank Meadow, Ryall Road. Further applications were received for 10 dwellings off the A4104 (Holly Green) 10 dwellings off Ryall Court Lane and 11 dwellings in Ripple (all currently withdrawn).

Cemex have also applied to extract aggregate in Ryall North which will affect the A4104.

Most of these developments are in the Holly Green/Ryall area and will impact on the A4104 which has become a "pinch point" before the bridge into Upton. As we know the road floods here. RPC continues to object vigorously to these proposals.

RPC sought residents' views on organising a Neighbourhood Plan: the response from 1500 residents, only 5 were in favour! RPC will therefore not proceed with a Neighbourhood Plan.

Upton Villages Together (UVT) – Upton Library

UVT is now a Voluntary Incorporated Organisation and RPC has pledged £2,000.00 from reserves to support this project. RPC Councillor Keith Weyman is a Trustee and will update on progress at the Annual Parish Meeting.

Communications

Our regular Parish Council meetings always start with Public Discussion Time at Ripple Parish Hall – please join us and participate in the local democratic process.

RPC's website, newsletter and notice boards are regularly updated.

Our Clerk will also provide you with regular updates on parish issues and events if you contact her. Email: rippleparishclerk@btinternet.com

Bus Service

RPC contributed £200.00 to support the continuation of the bus service. First, the provider, will continue to run the 362 and 364 buses – Worcester to Upton route (including Tunnel Hill). However, it is the adage "use it, or lose it".

Involvement with Other Agencies

RPC liaises with County, District and adjacent Parish/Town Councils and is a member of UTP and the County Association of Local Councils.

Improving RPS's Facilities

A new bus shelter was erected in Ryall Road during the year and to commemorate the centenary of World War I the War Memorial was refurbished. The stocks in Ripple were also repaired as were the Parish Notice Boards.

Lenthsman, Footpaths and litter

Our Lengthsman, Malcolm Tomkins continues to do sterling work to keep Ripple Parish tidy. If you see any litter please pick it up.

We welcome Robina Rand, who has volunteered to be the Footpaths Officer.

Website

Visit our website: www.rippleparishcouncil.org.uk

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