

Agenda item 22/05/APM/0.1

Community Infrastructure Levy monies – Report To the 2022 APM

The village stands to receive approx. £100,000 from the new housing developments at Broadfield Farm, Brook Farm (Somerbrook) and Dauntsey Road. There are a number of strict conditions on how the money is spent: It has to be spent on “capital” projects (i.e. not on a service or a repair), and it has to be spent within a certain timescale (before 2025-27, depending on the time that it is received).

The Parish Council has already spent £1,600 CIL money a number of new dog friendly stiles and kissing gates and is planning to spend in the next month or two £1,500 on a defibrillator for Startley and £2,500 on a new speed camera.

During 2021-22 Working Groups were set to investigate other suggestions included the purchase or lease a field for a recreation ground, a MUGA (multi use games area) outdoors, a pedestrian footpath on West Street running between the bad bend opposite the Manor to the footpath on the bell mouth entrance to Manor Park or a Water Pump in Free Gardens to serve the allotments, traffic calming safety improvements on Winkins Lane by the entry to the Play Area and a hard surface path around the perimeter of the Free Gardens.

For the recreation area project, we held discussions with the Diocese re. the Glebe Field, and with DBAT re. shared use of Somerfords Walter Powell playing field out of hours. Unfortunately, both these options encountered issues that could not be surmounted.

Similarly due to the requirement to coordinate with Wiltshire Council and CATG priorities and timescales, any West Street footpath extension to Manor Park may have to be ruled out as it is unlikely to fit within the CIL time constraints.

We are currently investigating a number of alternative projects, including a new slide and steps for the Winkins Lane Playground, a community gazebo for the Jubilee Gardens area of the Free Gardens, and wooden planters at the entrances to the village.

If anyone has an idea for a CIL project, we would welcome any suggestions.

Cllr Meriel Griffiths

Chairman's Report to the 2022 Annual Parish Meeting

The Parish Council has met monthly, excepting August. We normally do not meet in December either but the workload this year dictated we have an additional meeting. Apart from early in the year, when the Pandemic necessitated 'virtual' meetings on Zoom, we have met in person in the Church, it being much easier to maintain social distancing in the bigger building. Going forward in 2022 we will revert to meeting in the Community Room.

Meetings will continue to be held on the first Wednesday of the month with the exception of the January meeting which remains as the second Wednesday. We hope there continue to be no meetings in August and December and the start time remains as 7.30 pm unless otherwise notified. All members of the public and press are welcome.

As some of the more established councillors retired in April 2021 and a number of Parishioners came forward to replace them, we are now a relatively young council. Later in the year Councillor Gravel resigned due to pressure of work and we have been fortunate to be able to co-opt another new member – Councillor Luke Campbell

We are exceptionally grateful to Mrs. Butcher for the way she maintained the Community Room and administered the bookings. She has, unfortunately, now had to stand down but has offered to continue to co-ordinate bookings until we can find a replacement for her. In the meantime, users of the Community Room are asked to leave it in the state they found it in and its condition is monitored by members of the Council.

This year the chairman's report includes sections prepared by individual councillors relating to their own particular responsibilities so I am greatly indebted to them for doing this for me !

Best Kept Village Competition

We have entered this competition run by CPRE (Council for the Protection of Rural England) again this year. Councillor Botterill has prepared the entry with input from current Councillors and former Councillors Cole and Hourigan. Preliminary visits are made by judges during May and June with the results announced later in the year.

A well-supported 'Village Spruce Up' was held on 26th March in Great Somerford. GSPC is planning to organise similar sessions three or four times a year going forward.

Community Room

Now that coronavirus restrictions have eased, our village Community Room is also returning to normal and open for hire. Like many community spaces across the country, it has been underused for a couple of years and the Parish Council would like to encourage residents to

use it again.

Based in Dauntsey Road on the premises of Somerfords Walter Powell School, It is probably most suitable for small group meetings, perhaps a local U3A group would find it useful as a meeting space or maybe there are friends or neighbours interested in starting an “on the doorstep” arts, crafts, writing or hobby group. If you support a local charity or organisation that would like to run some fundraising or drop-in sessions, please also bear it in mind as a venue. It remains available to book for parties and social events. Details can be found on the Parish Council website.

Cemetery

Over the past year the cemetery has seen little activity with just one burial being added in December. The surplus soil from this was used to fill the holes that had appeared, ongoing visual inspections are helping to identify any new areas of concern.

There are some gravestones that have broken and fallen. Whilst these pose no threat to visitors, action is being taken to try and find any remaining family members to establish whether or not they wish to repair them.

There could be further issues with subsidence due to longer, hotter summers and this needs to be taken into consideration. There is evidence that the concrete path in the middle may require inspection before too long and whilst the ground is currently fairly even, this may change if the subsoil starts to dry out too much.

There is an ongoing need to weed some of the plots, and I will consider spraying individual plots in the next month or so. The hedge boundary has grown vigorously over the past few years and caused some issues of light degradation for some of the neighbours. It has now been taken down uniformly to a new level, and will be maintained at this level going forward. Overall grounds maintenance appears to be good, the cemetery has always looked presentable and well maintained, clean and tidy.

Communication

The Parish Information E-Mail system was initiated in 2019 and it is used to convey any generally useful information to all those who have subscribed to the service. There have been 56 PIEs baked and delivered since this time last year on a wide range of topics – this approximates to one per week – many more than this would probably be counter-productive. The number of subscribers has remained fairly stable this year and currently stands at 177 so there are still a great many of you that are not signed up to it - it is easy to do – just click on the “Sign up to the Parish Information E-Mail” link on the Parish Council web-site. No personal details you enter are shared with any third party or any other subscriber.

Agenda, minutes and relevant Parish notices are now posted on the Great Somerford Parish Council web-site – in fact, nowadays we are only required to publish agenda and minutes on the web-site but we continue to display on the notice boards for the convenience of our Parishioners. Draft minutes are posted normally within a week of the meeting and replaced with approved minutes when they become available. Brief notes of the PC meetings are also routinely placed in Signpost.

Defibrillator

The Defibrillator, located in the former public phone box by The Volunteer Inn was installed in March 2020. It is checked weekly by Councillor Botterill and a monthly report is submitted to The Circuit website. Notifications are received if the defibrillator is employed by the ambulance service on calls.

GSPC is finalising the purchase and installation of an equivalent defibrillator for Startley. This will be located on the wall to The Grove, Startley by kind permission of the homeowners. This purchase is being funded through CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) money.

A First Aid and Defibrillator Course was held in September 2021 in the Church which allowed suitable social distancing to take place. We are grateful to those who have donated to the Defibrillator Fund at Fourways Stores which contributed to the funding of this training and new defibrillator pads which need to be replaced every two years.

This year's course will be held in September and is open to all residents of Startley and Great Somerford. The date and location will be publicised via the Parish Council Information Email, Signpost and Facebook.

Emergency Plan

The past year has been mercifully disaster free. The Emergency Plan that was put in place for pandemics has proven to work effectively and much of that is still being utilized as we are still struggling with Covid. The Street Champions have indicated that they are still willing to help and support those who need it and all we can do now is wait it out and try and get back to normal.

There has been no other call for an Emergency response for this year, and the plans are currently being updated to make them easier to read and more relevant. As the climate is changing and the village is now larger, it makes sense to re-evaluate the possible challenges we may face and ensure we are prepared. Ditches are being cleared in certain areas and drains are checked regularly, and new maps are being sourced to ensure an accurate reflection of our new boundaries and, if necessary, escape routes.

Liaison with external sources is providing expert advice with regard to updated policies and practices and new procedures have been added to the plan for fire and with due consideration

to other possible scenarios.

The procedures and resources we have in place are designed to be both comprehensive and attainable, in what can only be an unpredictable and fluid scenario, as a first response to unusual and challenging situations.

Footpaths

During the past 12 months the Parish Council has used some of its CIL money and a small grant from Malmesbury Area Board to purchase 7 dog friendly stiles, 3 kissing gates and a bridle gate with the aim of making the footpath and bridleway network more accessible. Our thanks go to the local landowners who installed these stiles and gates on our behalf.

Highways

During the past year Great Somerford PC in partnership with Toby Sturgis has organised the installation of a much needed path along the dangerous bend in West Street. We thank Toby for all his effort in installing the path which has been well received by the village.

The Parish Council has also placed enlarged dog litter bins around the village to accommodate the increasing waste. These as well as signs encouraging use of the bins have helped keep the village clean.

Play Area

During the last year, Great Somerford PC has completed the Winkins Lane Playground improvement project that began in 2019, after a Public Consultation indicated that there was a need for more play equipment for older children. As a result the PC and the Great Somerford Community Fund set about to raise funds to pay for a fantastic new climbing frame, as well as a gazebo where parents could shelter from the sun or the rain while they watch over their children. We were very fortunate to secure a donation from Hills Group towards the purchase of the climbing frame and gazebo with a donation under the Landfill Communities Fund in partnership with Community First. Mary Hardwidge of Community First came visited the Winkins Lane Playground to present a commemorative plaque recognising their financial contribution.

We have been delighted with the positive response from parents and children with regards to the new climbing frame, which has proved really popular, and also the gratitude from the parents for the much-needed shelter, which in addition to the existing play equipment has resulted in a playground that the village can truly be proud of.

Post Box in Startley

The Post Box by the T-Junction at the end of West Street which was stolen in August 2020 was eventually replaced late in 2021 after numerous complaints and letters from Parishioners, the Parish Council and our MP. In the end it took somewhat longer than the 12-16 weeks promised by Royal Mail, but I suppose we should be somewhat grateful that they deigned to replace it at all!

Telephone Box Library

The telephone box continues its recycled role as village library/book swap and is regularly used. The Parish Council would like to thank the volunteers who help look after it and update the library shelves from time to time.

War Memorial

The War Memorial is a well-cared for and fitting memorial to those who gave their lives for their country prominently located within Great Somerford. The Parish Council would like to thank our village volunteers for taking excellent care of the memorial and the planting around it.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Mansfield', written over a horizontal line.

Cllr S. Mansfield
Chair of Great Somerford inc Startley Parish Council
May 2022

Agenda item 22/05/APM/5

Great Somerford Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting 2022 Planning Report

Great Somerford & Startley Parish Council acts as a statutory consultee in respect of any application for planning permission that are made to Wiltshire Council in respect of properties located within the parish. The Parish Council is able to comment on those applications and take into account the known views of any residents of the parish. Comments are restricted to commenting on whether the Parish Council feels the application will meet the various national and Wiltshire Council planning standards. The Parish Council does not make a decision on whether an application for planning permission should be granted or refused, this is undertaken by Wiltshire Council.

Residents are encouraged to seek the advice of the Parish Council if they are considering undertaking any work that may need planning permission to be sought. For properties that are located within the Great Somerford conservation area, this includes work to trees and some hedgerows. Properties that are located within the Great Somerford conservation area also do not have the benefit of the “permissive rights” that other properties have which allows certain types of works to be completed without planning permission e.g., the construction of small extensions, erection of temporary structures such as garages and large sheds etc

There have been 38 planning applications over the past year as follows-

- 23 Full planning applications
- 14 Applications to remove or work on trees within a conservation area
- 1 Application for approval of outstanding matters

Of all of the above applications only 3 were refused by Wiltshire Council and in the majority of cases, the Parish Council was able to support the residents’ planning applications.

Most of the applications that the Parish Council has been asked to comment on in the last year have been straight forward applications for permission to modify existing dwellings or for permission to perform works on trees and hedgerows within the Great Somerford conservation area.

However, some applications have been cause for concern to residents of the parish and wherever possible the Parish Council has sought to ensure that the views of parish residents inform the Parish Councils own responses to planning

applications as a statutory consultee. The following planning applications have given particular cause for concern to both residents and the Parish Council

- **Broadfield Farm** – Request for planning permission of further 21 dwellings. The matter of the application to further extend the new Broadfield development was not resolved until the end of February 2022 when Wiltshire Councils planning committee declined the application for a number of reasons. The Parish Council objected strongly to the proposed plans and made representations to the Wiltshire Council planning committee at the meeting where the application was discussed by the planning committee. At the present time it is not known whether the developers will appeal this decision.
- **Dauntsey Road** - Approval of outstanding reserved matters. The existing permission for the new dwellings on the Dauntsey Road development site was finalised when the developer submitted the requested detail information for the application to Wiltshire Council. The Parish Council lodged concerns about the potential impact on road safety that the development would have on that part of Dauntsey Road and also expressed concerns about the lack of detail information about how the developer would mitigate against the long standing and widely known problem of winter flooding on the site. Wiltshire Council Highways department determined that the proposed access arrangements for the development were suitable and presented no real risk to other road users. The Parish Councils concerns about flooding on the site remain unanswered.
- **West Street Farm** – Change of use from agricultural to storage facility. The proposed change of use of some of the buildings at West Street Farm to a storage facility raised a significant degree of concern from residents of West Street, Shiptons Lane and Hollow Street. Concerns were mainly focused on the suitability of the proposed access arrangement off of Shiptons Lane, noise and traffic nuisance to neighbouring properties and the change of the appearance of a piece of land that is located within the Great Somerford conservation area. The Parish Council objected to the plans for a number of reasons and Wiltshire Councils planners agreed with the Parish Council and refused permission for the proposed change of use. This application is now the subject of a planning appeal with comments being taken from concerned parties up to 15th April. Any residents that registered an objection or commented on the original application have been notified of the planning appeal and have received information and guidance on

how to make further comments. Any comments made on the original application are carried forward to the appeal and considered by the planning inspectorate.

- **1 The Paddock, Startley** – Application for retrospective permission in respect of the erection of a storage building. This application was in respect of a large industrial storage building that has been erected on the site of a residential traveller's site. The existing planning permission for the residential site specifically precludes the site from being used for industrial or business purposes. Many residents of neighbouring properties objected to the granting of retrospective planning permission for the new building and the Parish Council also objected for a number of reasons all relating to either the breaching of the sites existing planning permissions or for a failure to meet various parts of Wiltshire Councils own planning core policies. Wiltshire Council's planning officers were in agreement with the Parish Council and have refused the application for retrospective planning permission. At the present time it is not known whether the applicant will appeal against Wiltshire Councils decision.

The planning applications listed above remain a concern for the Parish Council either from the perspective of being subject to a potential future appeal decision to grant permission for the application, or from the perspective of being a development which is in the construction phase and which has the potential to cause a nuisance or disturbance to residents that live within the vicinity of the development.

Mark Hammond

Parish Councillor

Planning

Great Somerford & Startley Parish Council

Clerk's Finance Report for the 2022 APM

The two columns of numbers below show the **ACTUAL** results for the year ending 31 March 2022 and the **BUDGET** for the current year.

Receipts & Payments (Cash In Cash Out) Account

	2022 Actuals	2023 Budget	
Income:			
Precept	11,350	14,400	
Grants (Play Area)	7,350	0	
Lettings	132	100	
Burials	210	0	
CIL Receipts	54,510	39,283	
VAT Refund	4,398	1,035	
Donations/Grant Rec'd re Defib	225	215	
Donation re War Memorial	0	0	
Training Recharged	0	0	
Other/Area Board Grant	500	0	
Bank Interest Received	3	7	
	78,678	55,040	
Expenditure:			
Wages and Salaries	2,243	2,327	
Clerk's Exp	180	180	
Admin, PPS & Website	271	235	
Training/Subs	755	570	
Audit	0	200	
Caretaker & Community Rm	889	870	
s137 Grants/Donations	1,600	4,050	
Insurance & Legal	814	915	
Grass Cutting & Grounds Maint	1,274	1,565	
Environment & Sustainability	106	250	
Startley Cemetery	1,270	1,210	
Play Area Maintenance	498	630	
Play Area New Equipt #	17,960	0	Gazebo & benches; climbing frame.
Highways & Street Furniture	327	3,285	
Speed Indicator Device	148	200	
CIL Infrastructure Spend *	2,106	24,700	21/22 7 dog friendly stiles, 4 gates.
War Memorial	19	30	In 22/23 planned second speed camera, defibrillator for Startley, project in Free Gdns & Recreation Area project (now discontinued).
Defibrillator	370	350	
VAT	4,169	5,878	
	34,999	47,445	
Surplus to Reserves	43,679	7,595	
Bank Balances	66,473	74,068	
Reserves			
General	4,636	283	
Restricted	61,837	73,785	
	66,473	74,068	

T M Chapman
Clerk

Agenda item 22/05/APM/7

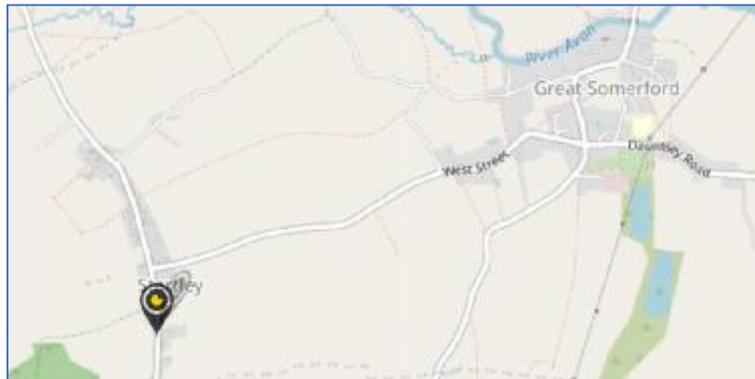
Great Somerford Parish Council

Annual Speed camera report – April 2022

Cllr Andrew Lennox

Overview

At this time the Great Somerford Parish Council (GSPC) administers a single speed indicator device (SID) which at this time is a motion triggered 30mph illuminated warning sign adjacent to a speed recording device/camera. The camera is linked to the Auto speedwatch website which enables authorized members of the GSPC to view the camera output and verify the car registrations of those vehicles captured by the camera who are exceeding the trigger speed of the camera.

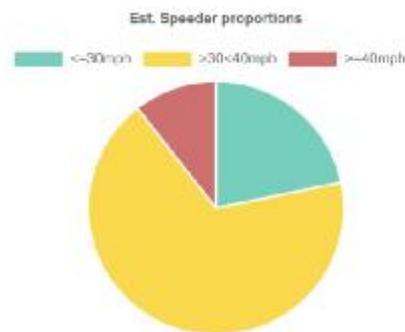


The SID/camera combination are currently positioned at the south end of Startley Village viewing Northbound traffic. There is a second location at the north end of Startley Village that the unit can be located at if required. At this time there are no other authorized locations within the parish for the Speed Indicator Device or camera but requests have been submitted for additional sites..

Statistics

The SID registers between 2700 and 3900 vehicle movements on the northbound carriageway through Startley each month.

When averaged, this then equates to c.39,600 vehicle movements per year through the village (northbound) and by extrapolation c.80,000 vehicle movements in total (north and southbound). Whilst this may not sound very many at c220 per day, based on the northbound data it is probable that only 22% of these are within the posted 30mph speed limit and 11% exceed 40mph through the village.



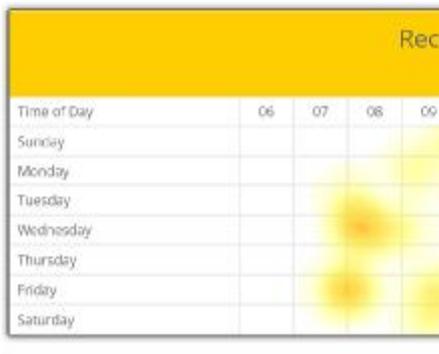
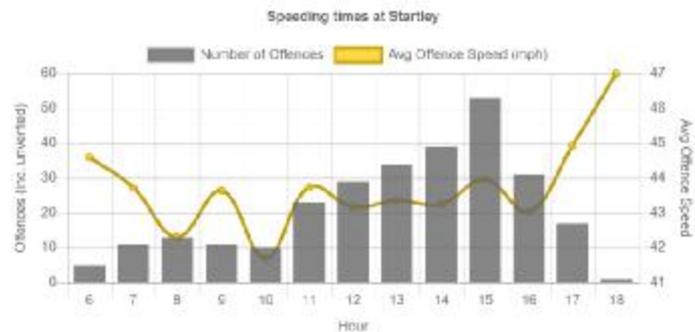
Through the camera we have verified the vehicle registrations of 1899 between April 1st 2021 and March 31st 2022.

Since April 1st 2021, the highest speed recorded through the village has been 68mph (Jun 2021), with the most frequent offending vehicle having verified as triggering the camera 38 times this past year.

Overall there are 17 vehicles that have been verified as triggering the camera at least 12 times in the past 12 months. Disappointingly, many of these are known to be residents of the village.

Where the camera only operates in daylight and with good visibility, the actual number of offences is considered to be much higher across the whole 24hr period – but we are unable to verify all vehicles.

When looking at when the speeding offences occur, the graph to the right shows that the fastest speeds are recorded in the rush hour periods, whereas the majority of offences by volume occur in the early afternoon (around 2-4pm).



April-September saw the heaviest concentration of speeding violations on Friday evenings, but since October we have seen much more consistent activity across all days.

Correlated with the camera, it would appear that the higher speeds recorded appear to be from personal vehicles some of which are very regular visitors to the camera, but the predominant vehicle types for excess speed in the afternoon appear to be related to commercial activity and delivery vehicles.

Use of the data

Wiltshire Police only allow the submission of heat map data detailing the times of day that the camera records the highest speed. Whilst on many occasions additional data has been sent, we are asked to limit the data to heatmap only.

They do not allow vehicle registration or alleged traffic offence data to be passed to them, so at this time the camera is of limited utility other than to remind the police that the vehicle speeds through Startley are a constant source of concern to the parish council and local residents alike.

There have been indications that the hotspot data does reach the roads policing unit however, given the continuing low adherence with the posted limit, the effect of that would appear to be short lived.

Speed concerns in the parish

At this time we continue to be concerned by the speed of vehicles through Startley, and other areas of the parish.

Following a number of concerns being raised GSPC has reviewed options



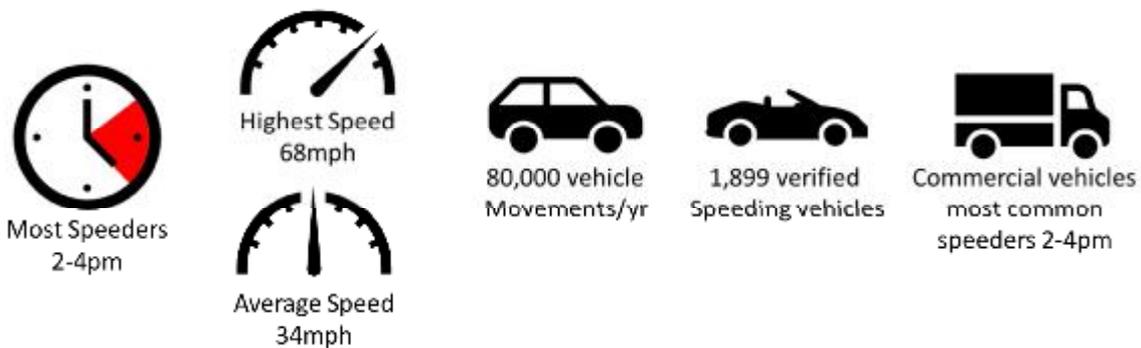
around placing additional controls at the four main entrance points to the Great Somerford village – namely the east end of Dauntsey Road, the Park lane bridge at the north of the village, West Street, and the Dauntsey Road/Brookfield area to the south.

Additionally we have reviewed options for traffic control measures on the Sutton Benger Road (near Honeyacre Farm), and the addition of further measures in Startley.

Following a detailed review, the GSPC agreed to the submission of metro count requests for three locations (Startley mid village, Honeyacre Farm, and Park Lane Bridge). To date no confirmation of action by Wiltshire Highways has been received but we will continue to follow up with them.

Additionally, GSPC have approved the purchase of an additional SID that displays driver speed for use in the secondary location in Startley. This will be ordered in early April and should be present on our roads shortly thereafter.

Summary Statistics for Startley Camera location in the past 12 months...



April 2022

Cllr A.Lennox

Agenda item 22/05/APM/8

Environment & Sustainability Working Group Report

Initiated in 2021, GSPC has begun its work in this area by forming a PC Working Group, led by Councillor Botterill. A consultation was held in the Community Room in February 2022 which shared information from www.impact.org on our parish carbon footprint and how it compares regionally and nationally as well as information and leaflets about local and national environmental issues. Project ideas and suggestions so far have included: a village recycling project, exploring the feasibility of rural car clubs, improving local transport, a community allotment and/or orchard and regular litter picking sessions.

Our first project has been to create a wildflower area along a section of the grass verge in Winkins Lane. A series of volunteer working parties in April dug out and cleared invasive weeds and a wildflower mix of annuals and perennials have been sown which we hope will produce a colourful display later in the year. Volunteer gardeners are also growing wildflower plug plants from seed to supplement the stock of plants throughout the year.

Cllr J Botterill

May 2022

Agenda item 22/05/APM/9.2

FREE Gardens Report for the 2022 APM

The Trustees are pleased with the renewed interest from the community in taking up allotments on the Free Gardens, particularly over the last couple of years. Plots are continuing to be taken up by new neighbours moving into the Somerbrook and Broadfield Farm developments and we expect interest from the Dauntsey Road development. In the past year we have issued 14 tenancies to new plot-holders and there are three people either waiting to move into the village or settling in before they take up a space. We anticipate that all current plots will be allocated within the next year and are pleased that the 200 year history of allotments on the Free Gardens continues.

Like allotment sites across the UK, the Free Gardens provide a space for people with a common interest to socialise as well as grow fruit, vegetables and flowers not to mention the health benefits brought by exercise, fresh air and fresh produce. Allotments can also reduce individual carbon footprints, food miles and are beneficial for biodiversity.

As a small charity, our income is not keeping pace with the increasing cost of maintenance and upkeep of the site and the trustees are seeking ways to fundraise to meet the ever-increasing outgoings.

As part of our maintenance and upkeep responsibilities, we recently commissioned a survey of all the trees within the Jubilee Gardens (now twenty years old) and across the rest of the Free Gardens – the results of the survey indicate that there are a number of trees that require attention which will have an impact on expenditure. The maintenance and upkeep of the trees is something we must take into account going forward in addition to grass cutting and other maintenance tasks.

S Mansfield
Chair of Trustees

Report from Great Somerford Community Fund

In applying for funding for new equipment at the Children's Play Area in Winkins Lane, evidence was needed that the proposal was supported financially by the community. The GSCF was therefore set up in 2019 to enable private donations to be Gift Aided and last April we were pleased to contribute £1,350 towards a new climbing frame. It is gratifying to hear that many children are deriving pleasure from it.

In July we received a generous donation from Stonewood Partnership, the developers of Somerbrook, for which we are also very grateful. This is ring fenced as seed funding for preliminary work for a proposed recreation ground, and the subsequent press release by Stonewood's PR team ensured publicity was given to their donation.

Fellow trustee (Parish Councillor) Meriel Griffiths and I are members of the Parish Council Working Group tasked with finding a suitable site for a recreation ground. In June we circulated private landowners to this effect and, while no offers of land were forthcoming, the new Head of the Walter Powell School was willing to support a proposal for use by the community of the school playing field. We have had several Working Group meetings, we are currently in communication with the Diocese Academy Trust and the landlord, Wiltshire Council, and we were, until recently, hopeful of a successful outcome to our negotiations.

However we have now been advised that it will not be possible for the community to use the school playing field for unsupervised recreation without complying with stringent security requirements. The Parish Council consider these conditions are unacceptable and has therefore decided to withdraw from the project. We are grateful for the active support of our Wiltshire Councillor, Elizabeth Threlfall.

Having organised several community events during 2021, Trustee Deborah Loader has continued to raise funds, some of which have been kindly donated to the GSCF. She is also working on the Jubilee Street Party in June to which the GSCF Trustees have agreed to make a contribution.

Chris Blount (Trustee)