

Other Parish Council News

New play area at Woodfield



The new play area at Woodfield is now complete, with all of the exciting new equipment open for the children to play on. Although the project cost almost £50,000, only just over £4,000 of this had to be found by this Council, with the rest coming from a National Playbuilder' project aimed at improving opportunities for children to play outside. The climbing unit, gyro spiral and supernova are all different and challenging for children of all ages and are proving very popular indeed – which means children are having fun in ways they should be and are less likely to seek other, less appropriate challenges. One downside of this, for some, is more noise from the area, as many more children than usual are enjoying the experience. We ask local residents to be patient and to try to share in the natural excitement of the children. We also realise that the installation works have left the area somewhat muddier than usual – hopefully the current spell of dry weather will deal with that. Just one more point about the play area – please

could those of you with children make it dear to them that the park is there for everyone and that playing together should be more fun than disagreeing – we have had some reports of bullying and children feeling intimidated to use the equipment; the police are aware and will be keeping an eye on things, but it would be much better for the children themselves to try to make sure that everyone can enjoy the equipment in their own way.

Community Resource Centre At Chapel Street Moves A Step Closer

With the District Council's formal decision earlier in March confirming the transfer of land to the Parish Council to build the new Resource Centre, this long-awaited project has moved a step closer. Work is now being done to obtain complete legal agreement for the transfer and to refine the plans for the building to make it as cost-effective and energy-efficient as possible. It is then hoped that building work might start before the end of this year, so that the facilities as shown will be available for 2011.

This will mean that more services can be delivered locally. More information can be made available, there will be a local cafe to meet informally and space for more formal meetings, all in an energy-efficient attractive building that will be a great asset to the centre of Cam.



The Parish Council's always pleased to listen to the concerns of local residents, answer questions and soon.

Please contact the Councils help line 01453 58888 or clerk@camparishcouncil.gov.uk or admh@camparishcouncil.gov.uk

Call at the Council Shop, 22 High Street – Open 10am – 1pm Monday to Thursday

Go to www.camparishcouncil.gov.uk to find information on the Council, Councilors' meetings, elections, budgets and more – any thoughts on how we might improve our website, add more content and so on would be most welcome as would photos to display. Information on other local organisations etc. Or contact any Parish Councilor:

LOWER CAM WARD

Mr D. de Witts	12 Spink Hill	01547 251	dan.de.witts@camparishcouncil.gov.uk
Mr J Tyndal	56 Manor Avenue	01547 409	jal.tyndal@camparishcouncil.gov.uk
Mr J Powell	35 St. Bartholomews Close	01548 529	john.powell@camparishcouncil.gov.uk
Dr K Pearce	1 Drycot	01544 629	keith.pearce@camparishcouncil.gov.uk

WOODFIELD WARD

Ms M Poole	19 The Orphan	01544 248	maureen.poole@camparishcouncil.gov.uk
Mr D Pritchard	26 Woodfield Road	01543 994	david.pritchard@camparishcouncil.gov.uk
Ms J Sherman	48 Woodfield Road	01549 648	julie.sherman@camparishcouncil.gov.uk
Mr N Ladax	14 Jubilee Close	01548 443	ngaladax@camparishcouncil.gov.uk

CENTRAL WARD

Ms J Daniels	16 Station Road	01546 214	john.daniels@camparishcouncil.gov.uk
Mr J Hudson	15 Bayon Drive	01546 098	barbara.hudson@camparishcouncil.gov.uk
Ms B Powell	4 Tyrable Road		paulline.duffell@camparishcouncil.gov.uk
Ms P Duffell	11 Wily Wy	01547 716	

UPPER CAM WARD

Ms M C Fobn	34 Eveland	01545 512	maria.c.fobn@camparishcouncil.gov.uk
Mr B Watling	6 Rock Road	01547 437	ben.watling@camparishcouncil.gov.uk
Ms M Nodder	Latchford, 5 Green Street	01543 452	margaret.nodder@camparishcouncil.gov.uk
Mr M Stevens	32 Woodfield Road	01548 033	mark.stevens@camparishcouncil.gov.uk

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Focus on work of The Sustainability Committee

How could we make Cam's use of energy and resources more efficient? That was the reason for the Parish Council setting up the Sustainability Committee – and putting some funds aside to help in doing it. We agreed that one important focus should be supporting local community facilities in making their premises more energy efficient and helping them to become more welcoming venues. As the halls are used by a variety of local groups from Toddlers to Golden Age, dancing to dog training, this will benefit a large number of people in Cam. The project started with each hall being offered a professional energy audit to identify how efficiency could be improved. Using this information the managing committees decided on specific projects, for which the Parish Council has so far given grants as follows:

Winterbotham Memorial Hall – £3000 towards photovoltaic roof panels, £1000 towards replacement of the boiler. This funding has supported a far reaching programme by the hall management to improve efficiency which, as well as the impressive PV panels, has included replacement of most light bulbs with energy efficient ones, cavity wall and roof insulation and replacement doors and curtains. The PV panels use sunlight to generate electricity for use in the Hall, with any surplus to be sold back to the National Grid.

Methodist Church Hall – £1500 towards the cost of improved insulation.

St Bartholomews Church Hall – £3000 towards the cost of new heating and improved insulation.

Woodfield Youth & Community Centre – £2400 towards the cost of self-stopping taps and improved insulation.

Ashmead Hall – £355 for new insulation.



Reduced Street Lighting

One of the first moves we made towards saving energy in Cam was to join in the County Council's pilot scheme to reduce street lighting during the night, from 1am – 6am. This has been extremely successful and has now been rolled out across the County. Where Cam was the pilot and example for other local councils in the county Gloucestershire's lead is now being followed by many councils throughout the county. The scheme included switching off some lights completely during the early hours and dimming others. For Cam the result is 490 lights being converted to part night, saving 58,024 kilowatt hours of electricity and 31.16 tonnes of CO2 per year, plus 67 lights dimmed saving 12,221 kilowatt hours and 6.6 tonnes of CO2.

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Support to local households



Although finding ways to support community facilities was relatively easy, expanding this support to households (where the bulk of energy is used) was more of a challenge for a Parish Council alone. For this reason, we linked, through the Severn Wye Energy Agency, into a European scheme to encourage household energy efficiency, called Energy Neighbourhoods. This involved a number of households in the parish, who were given helpful tips and support for monitoring and reducing their energy use. Although the Cam group didn't win the prize for the most successful group, the project did help to change habits and provide new ideas so that people could keep their

energy use much lower, which all helped in reducing both the carbon footprint and their household bills. The member of the Cam group who saved most energy during the project was Brenda Boyd, who is pictured with her husband receiving their certificate at the closing event for the project.

As part of the Energy Neighbourhood project the Parish Council lent out various types of equipment for monitoring and reducing energy use.

TV and PC Power Downs - These are used to plug in your TV or computer, plus any equipment used with them such as DVD players, printers etc., and, when the main item is switched off, all the other equipment is automatically switched off too. You won't waste power keeping equipment on standby etc.

The Parish Council has a supply of these, which are available free of charge by calling at the Council Shop.



Energy Monitors - These clever devices attach to your electricity meter and send wireless information to the display unit in your home. This tells you how much electricity you are using at any one time - switching appliances on and off can reveal which are the most 'fuel hungry' and help you to economise.

We have a number of these for loan to Cam residents



We would very much like to involve the community more in managing its own energy use and reaction to Climate Change and would like to establish a Community Group to oversee this. It would hold equipment, have trained volunteers to help and advise people on use of gadgets like those shown above and on other ways to reduce their energy use. If you would be interested in being part of such a group, please contact Jenny Walkley at the Council Shop.

It is hoped to hold a community event in September to showcase what has been achieved so far and look at where we go from here - look out for more details on Parish Noticeboards, future editions of this Newsletter and local press.

Schools

Other big users of energy are our local schools. We are working with the schools and with the Local Education Authority to identify ways in which they might better manage their energy use and possible sources of funding for these.

The Parish Council will also consider a financial contribution to schemes in schools, where they need 'match funding' for grants from other bodies.

Other ways to make our community more sustainable

Of course, 'sustainability' means much more than just energy management. How sustainable is the food we eat? How well could our community deal with local emergencies? How can we ensure future development and the decisions we make now do not cause harm to our community in the future and more?

The Parish Council is trying to do its bit for local food production by making more allotments available to satisfy the ever growing waiting list of people who want that bit more space to grow their own fruit and vegetables. We are doing this in several ways - by re-allocating any plots which become vacant as quickly as possible (splitting larger plots to form two new ones where possible), by preparing a completely new site on land that the Council owns at Ashmead and now by reviewing our terms and conditions for allotment tenants to consider the possibility of limiting each household to one plot only, so that more people are able to benefit from the plots available.

This winter's 'snow incidents' highlighted the need for the local community to be resourceful in being able to handle at least the early stages of an emergency itself. Cam Parish and Dursley Town Councils are working together to produce a local Emergency Management Plan, which will include details of a local team who can deal with the early stages of any emergency, identify local 'places of safety', list local resources available and so on. The success of such a plan will rely on the involvement of local people - so if you are interested in being part of an Emergency Management Team or a telephone 'cascade' system, or have resources that could be useful (anything

from a tractor to a portable heater), or would just like to find out more, please contact the Council Shop.

By now, many of you will have heard about the consultation Stroud District Council is carrying out on its Core Strategy - a big part of which will be deciding where land for the 2000 homes needed in the District up until 2026 will be allocated. The consultation outlines a total of seven possible strategies, a number of which could have very significant implications for the future of Cam, including the possibility of land for the full 2000 home provision being allocated here. The Parish Council hosted an exhibition by the District Council and organised an additional consultation event to gauge the



opinion of local people. The result of this was the Parish's response to the consultation supporting options for the provision of up to around 300 new homes in Cam, but objecting to options for 1000 or 2000 due to the very significant damage that this would cause to the local landscape and character and a view that this would not be the most sustainable approach for the District as a whole. Consultation on the first phase of the Core Strategy has now closed

and the District Council will be evaluating the results in order to decide which strategy(ies) have most support and where exactly new homes should go. They will then consult on this again in the autumn before the final scheme is submitted to the Secretary of State. If you have your own 'vision' for the future of Cam, and want to be involved in the decision-making process, please look out on notice boards and in the press for details of the next consultation phase, which will probably be in September.

Recycling...not just a load of rubbish!

Five more multi compartment litter recycling bins have recently been installed at known 'grot spots' in the district, including one off Woodfield Road, Cam and one between Rednock School and the Fire Station, Dursley, following an initial trial period and project launch in June last year.

The brainchild of Stroud District Youth Council, the litter recycling pilot project was created after many discussions on how they could change things for Stroud district residents. Recognized as the active voice for 11 - 18 year olds in the district, the youth council formed a project team to oversee the planning and preparation. Whilst concentrating on routes most commonly used by young people such as the paths to and from school, the project team has done research to find the areas most likely to benefit from these bins.

Following extensive design work and consultation with officers in Public Space, bespoke multi compartment recycling bins with customized artwork were produced and litter black spots were identified. A promotional / educational campaign is being planned and will include highlighting 'scary facts' about litter and the environment and will feature the project slogan 'Recycling...not just a load of rubbish!'

It would be good if others in this area could build on the initiative of the young people and play their own part in reducing litter. As well as the obvious (not dropping litter in the first place!), local people might like to get a little more involved. If you can spare an hour a week to improve the quality of your local environment, Stroud District Council is looking for volunteers who would be able to adopt a stretch of road in their local community to litterpick. Litterpickers, high visibility vests, gloves and sacks can be provided, additionally all waste collected can be removed. If you are able to dedicate any time to help keep Cam tidy, please contact Jenni Dum on 01453 754403.