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**Tetsworth Parish Council**  
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**Annual Village Report 2020**

These are unusual times and as you are aware due to the Corona virus crisis, we have had to cancel our annual meeting. Instead, in this report everyone has come together to provide the information we would have shared. I have attached the draft Minutes from last year’s meeting. They will now remain as draft until we can formally sign them off at next year’s meeting instead.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to send me their news.



Helen Croxford

**TETSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL**

The majority of the Parish Council stood down at the local elections in May 2019, resulting in a significant change in personnel this year. As I write this in June 2020, your six Councillors are Kirstie Andrews, Karen Bennett, Paul Carr, Seb Mossop, Sue Rufus and Chris Thompson. I'd like to express our deep gratitude to the outgoing councillors, Karen Harris, Marjorie Sanders, Alan Martin, Hazel Bottone and David Nixey for the sterling efforts that they have made over many years to keep the mechanics of village life in good working order. Indeed, Karen stayed on as co-ordinator of the village input to the planning appeal for the proposed travellers' site and we owe her a particular vote of thanks for helping to ensure its successful outcome. Also carrying over across the handover, John Gilbert has steered the Tetsworth Neighbourhood Plan through the many procedural obstacles en-route to the consultation phase; it now rests with SODC before returning to the Parish Council to put before you for approval. Whilst on the subject of thanks, the whole village owes a great deal to Rod Boundy for his prompt action in setting up the community Covid-19 support network.

It's fair to say that it's been a steep learning curve for us, getting to grips with the normal procedures required of a parish council and then needing to modify them for the virtual world that lockdown has created. We'd like to have seen the solar-powered vehicle-activated speed signage in operation by now, as well as a refurbished bus shelter, but the projects have stalled as the companies involved deal with the problems caused by the pandemic. As lockdown eases, these projects should move forward once again.

With more people taking to the countryside for exercise, a number of issues with our network of footpaths and bridleways have come to light. Many have already been raised with Oxfordshire County Council but we, along with the Tetsworth footpath warden Andy Mayes, are looking into the others.

It has been a great regret that, with so many children 'confined to barracks' as a result of lockdown, the playpark, skate ramp and adult gym equipment have had to be closed but we'd like to thank everyone for their patience and understanding in keeping to the rules. Subject to confirmation, we should be able to re-open these from the 4th of July.

As travel becomes less restricted, the closure of the A40 between Tetsworth and Postcombe for up to 25 weeks is not particularly welcome, essential though it is. For those residents new to the village, we'd point out that the quickest way to join/leave the M40 to and from London is via Junction 7 at Milton Common.

Finally, we are trying to increase the communication between the Parish Council and you, the residents. Seb has spent a lot of time and effort improving and updating the Council website https://www.tetsworthparishcouncil.co.uk/ and those of you on Facebook will have seen an increased presence there. We are still publishing agendae, minutes and important notices on the noticeboard but it is difficult to ensure that we reach people with no internet access so please do let us have your ideas as to how we might do so.

If you have any questions or comments for us you are welcome to attend one of our monthly meetings, albeit virtually until we can meet in person once again, alternatively you can pass them by email to the Parish Clerk, Helen Croxford, at clerk@tetsworthparishcouncil.co.uk.

Paul Carr

Chair

Tetsworth Parish Council

**TETSWORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN (NDP)**

During 2019, the Steering Group of volunteer residents assembled an extensive evidence base to support land use policies reflecting the vision and objectives that had been developed for the Tetsworth NDP. They prepared a very detailed Character Assessment of defined areas of the village and its surrounding countryside, and drafted Housing Analysis and Sustainability Overview documents for Tetsworth. They also engaged a specialist landscape consultant to conduct a study and report on Key Views towards, within and from the village which merited protection from inappropriate development.

The draft NDP document included policies supporting infill housing development and required design features, and measures to protect of the village’s heritage, green spaces and setting. This was reviewed by a specialist planning consultant ahead of a 6 week period of consultation which started on 21 October. In accordance with Regulation 14 of the NDP regulations, Tetsworth Parish Council (TPC), as the NDP qualifying body, invited statutory consultees, local residents and others with an interest in the area to comment.

Agreed feedback from this consultation was incorporated into a revised version of the NDP alongside preparation of the required Consultation and Basic Conditions Statements. By mid-January, the whole of the Tetsworth NDP document package was ready for submission to SODC by TPC. Submission under Regulation 15 of the NDP regulations occurred on 23 January.

SODC launched the second 6 week publicity period consultation in accordance with Regulation 16 of the NDP regulations on 25 February. Just a week or so before the planned closure of this consultation period, SODC advised that it had suspended all consultations in response to the coronavirus pandemic crisis. The current position is that the Regulation 16 publicity period has been extended until 28 July – and possibly later if necessary.

Meanwhile, TPC and the Steering Group have agreed to SODC appointing Andrew Ashcroft as the external examiner of the Tetsworth NDP. He has advised that he will start his review of the submitted NDP document package ahead of the eventual completion of the Regulation 16 publicity period.

No NDP referendums will now take place until 6 May 2021 or later. However, NDPs awaiting this final stage of post-examination approval will have weight in the Local Planning Authority’s consideration of planning proposals.

John Gilbert Treasurer NDP

**ST GILES’ CHURCH REPORT APRIL 2020**

The congregation at St Giles Church remains small but continues to flourish under the care of Revd Peter Waterson. We have a regular pattern of services throughout the year, with the exception of a few weeks in August. Revd Waterson officiates at communion services on the first and fourth Sundays of each month and at the special services at Christmas, Easter, Harvest and Remembrance. We have a Morning Worship service on the second Sunday of the month, led by Jeneva Paul, and a more informal service on the third Sunday led by members of the congregation. Last year, where there was a 5th Sunday in the month, we joined with the congregation at South Weston to share their services and we hope to do that again this year. In addition, St Giles Church hosts a number of Marriage, Baptisms and Funeral Services together with services, assemblies and special facilities for Tetsworth School.

The average attendance at our services is still low (generally around 10-12) but the sense of community is strong. With the exception of during Lent, all services are followed by coffee and cake and a chance to catch up. It is good to see a full Church at the special services at Christmas and Easter.

Financially, the contributions from the Friends of Saint Giles cover the cost of the insurance, with a small surplus to pay for minor repairs, and the weekly collection pays the parish share and other bills for the day-to-day running. The upkeep of the Churchyard, for which we are grateful to Caroline and Kelly, has been covered by a generous donation from the family of John Thompson since 2013, although that is now sadly depleted. Members of the Church provided the cake stall at the Fete again this year and helped run the dog show, and we are very grateful to the Fete Committee for the donation of £750 which will go towards maintenance of the churchyard.

We had our Quinquennial Inspection last year which has highlighted a number of areas of the Church requiring repair and we are grateful to Martin Kermack for undertaking the urgent repairs to the roof. Some of the internal walls have been damaged by leaks and ideally require repainting, and substantial areas of exterior stonework need repointing. We have money from a bequest that will enable us to undertake some of these repairs, but probably will not cover all of the work so we may need to apply for grants and ask the village for support in the future to fund the remainder.

In conclusion, the congregation of the Church is strong and supportive and we would welcome any who wished to join us on a Sunday.

Carolyn Carr for Tetsworth PCC

**REPORT FROM TETSWORTH VILLAGE FETE COMMITTEE 2020**

Dear Tetsworth Residents,

The Village Fete Committee has decided with a heavy heart to cancel the Fete, planned for Saturday 27th June.

All stallholders who pre-paid for their pitch will be reimbursed in full. We felt this was the right course of action to take, given the financial difficulties that many people face in this time of uncertainty. The Fete retains a small cash balance to manage essential admin costs. Regrettably, there is not enough money in the bank to make a meaningful distribution to the village groups or charities this year.

On an optimistic note, the Committee considered postponing the event to September 2020 but felt, on balance, it was better to start afresh and hold a really exciting, fun-filled event next year.

Thanks to all the Fete Committee Members: Susan, Paul, Karen, Kay and Andy, our Treasurer, for your support and thoughtful responses during this time of unprecedented change.

Stay safe.

Sarah, Chair & Secretary

Tetsworth Village Fete Committee

**TOLC**

The report from Tetsworth Outdoor Learning Charity is a pretty short one. Once (or if) we can get sessions restarted this year, we can get on site and have a think about the plans for this year.

* The primary outstanding issue we have is for the composting toilet. The unit itself has been stored in David Nixey's barn and he is happy to continue storing it for us. We have a grant coming from Haddenham Beer Festival to pay for the remaining materials needed for the installation. Again, once we can get on site the installation shouldn't take too long.
* The willow dome made it through the winter in good condition. We have some more lengths to fill in any gaps. This will obviously take a good couple more years to get well established but we are excited about watching it develop.

Heather Ashton

Chair TOLC

**TETSWORTH SENIOR CITIZENS CHRISTMAS PARTY**  
  
The annual Christmas Party was held on Friday 6th December 2019. Thank you to everyone that made the village event possible.  
Great lunch cooked by Howe and Co, lovely cakes from June Waterson, and great festive songs performed by Tetsworth School. Many thanks to the helpers, including Jacqui, Linda (community colleague from Asda Wheatley), Angie, Roger, Lisa and Susie. The event would not have been able to take place without kind donations from the Village Fete, Tetsworth Trust and the Asda foundation, and for Tetsworth Memorial Hall committee for the use of the hall.

We haven’t been able to fundraise in 2020 due to the Coronavirus pandemic, so to date it’s unclear what our plans are for this year. We hope to organise an event subject to finances and social distancing directions from the government.

Paul Silver

**TETSWORTH VILLAGE HISTORY PROJECT**

As part of their efforts to assemble a credible evidence base, members of the Tetsworth Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group undertook a limited amount of research into the village’s history when preparing the Tetsworth Character Assessment, a key document supporting the Neighbourhood Plan.

With the Neighbourhood Plan now largely in the hands of SODC for its remaining stages of development, John Gilbert, Aidan Lynch and Caroline Cann have agreed that their next community project should be the preparation and possible publication of a more detailed history of Tetsworth. Source documents in the Oxfordshire History Archive in Cowley and the Thame Museum, and internet searches will provide a wealth of information. However, this will undoubtedly leave gaps in in the story which might be filled by the local knowledge of Tetsworth residents – particularly those whose families have lived in the village for a generation or more.

If you think that you could contribute information or would like to join in the project, please get in touch with John on 01844 281655 or by email to [john\_c\_gilbert@outlook.com](mailto:john_c_gilbert@outlook.com).

John Gilbert.

**TETSWORTH VE DAY CELEBRATIONS**

Back in February 2020, Marjorie Sanders, Helen Hobdell, Janet Clarke-Lynch and Susan Rufus, put together plans to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the end of World War II.  It was decided that the Village and Memorial Hall would be decorated with fabric and knitted flowers and a party arranged.  Rolls of fabric were generously donated by one family and many ladies in the Village got together sewing and knitting all sorts of items.  Details of the Rations that families had to have during the War were found and it was planned that recipes would be available for people to see how difficult the times were.

Unfortunately, Coronavirus and the Lockdown put paid to the plans for this and the big party at the Memorial Hall and Village Green was cancelled.  Happily, on 8th May 2020 the Village was filled with Bunting, Flags, flowers and the Memorial was decorated with poppies.  Families were able to celebrate in their front gardens, having picnics etc.  Typically, in spite of the Lockdown, as a Village we all made the best of it and everyone had a wonderful time.  It is hoped that if and when the Lockdown is lifted, then a Celebration Party will be arranged.

Susan Rufus