

KING'S STANLEY PARISH COUNCIL

I hear more complaints about road damage than anything else. Lack of proper investment and surfacing work in the first place, you say. It may be so but here we are and GCC's spending priorities are no doubt subjected to fierce debates! Potholes & crumbling surfaces seem to slow drivers down, if only to protect their car suspension but the humble pedestrian still gets the worst deal! **GOOD NEWS:** GCC is to resurface the very bad section from Ryeford Rd traffic lights to the Electricity Sub Stn entrance. Better than nothing and a long wait until 4th July! GCC has already begun Operation Road Rescue but with limited funding it is sure to be a long series of road repairs, according to a strict schedule: **WORST FIRST:** fix potholes with highest risk to road safety, **PATCH:** teams working on larger areas, **RESURFACE:** reviewing that programme to resurface damaged roads first. For more information visit www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/roadrescue

I hope lots of you visited the exhibition at Stanley Mill to see what its owners, in partnership with developers, have in mind, and to ask them questions. As I write, proposals are not yet a planning application so what you saw was just an indication of what could happen. KSPC has no detailed additional knowledge and will not give any views at this stage. KSPC recognises that something needs to be done about the mill and looks forward to seeing an application & will consider it then. KSPC will be very willing to organize a special parishioners' meeting if that is asked for. Developing the historic mill complex will allow the company to relocate onto the north of their site into a purpose built factory, keeping jobs here.

One assumes they have been seeking advice from SDC Planning Service and Conservation Officers, as well as English Heritage, in order to achieve a successful outcome: not just to gain planning permission, but to bring something of great and lasting benefit to the community. There are strict rules regarding listed buildings in conservation areas & many details to get right, not least the affect that extra traffic would have on Ryeford Rd. As a site of national & local historic interest, more people than usual have a keen interest in what they believe should happen there. If you are one make sure **YOU** pass on **YOUR VIEWS** direct to SDC Planning Service when a planning application is made. I think what everyone wants to know is exactly how many houses and what kind of new commercial and other uses are firmly proposed for the site. It could, theoretically, be what the local community needs to sustain itself well into the future.

Extra development in any locality is not usually welcomed by existing residents, who naturally do not want their circumstances altered, but in order to plan ahead to 2026 Stroud District Council must, like all equivalent local authorities, plan for the future housing and employment needs of their areas. As I mentioned last time, the Core Strategy is how "planners" do it. When Parish Cllrs recently met one he advised that the current Local Plan policies have been saved by the Secretary of State so that when it is replaced by the Local Development Framework the policies are not lost and we are not operating in a policy vacuum! The Core Strategy is a basic part of the LDF, and designed to engage with other bodies in a joined up way (eg County Council as Highway Authority) re future planning so that they too can co-ordinate their own forward plans earlier. It differs from the Local Plan in that it will be an infrastructure delivery plan.

Are you keeping up? I struggle, but planners, whose full time job it is, understand it intimately. If you have any questions, ask SDC staff. The SDC website has a wealth of information on the subject so interested students should visit it & explore it in depth – as they asked Parish Cllrs to do. If you are interested in influencing the outcome, you should pass on your views on proposals direct to the Planning Service. Parish Councils will pass on views they consider to be in the best interests of their parish but you may have particular views that you feel should be taken into account. PC and parishioner comments are judged against the rules (Local Plan policies) but if they are not deemed valid planning reasons the only way that they might be taken further would be if the matter is dealt with by the Planning Committee, so elected Members rather than Officers make the final decision. This is where ones elected District Cllrs come to mind, though they are not necessarily on the planning committee. I understand that significant applications are usually dealt with in this way. Occasionally, they are "referred up" or "called in" for a decision by the Secretary of State in Central Government.

KSPC and LSPC have been seeking Walkers are Welcome Status and associate status has been achieved with the help of sufficient signatures from people who know the area well & thought the area worthy of the accolade. We now have a mentor, but importantly we expect to bring the glories of both parishes to greater public awareness by being on a website alongside the likes of Winchcome etc – and attracting more visitors to spend time (and money) here.

As a donor to The Alzheimer's Society, which has a local branch, KSPC receives their newsletters. The board of trustees are implementing a new management structure to help it cope with the estimated (growing) number of people expected to develop dementia. Branches will no longer exist in name but I read that local services will continue to do what they do well, that is supporting people living with dementia. I can't précis the newsletter but if you want to find out more try one of the following: Alzheimer's Society National Helpline 0845 300 0336, Area Manager 01453 791830, graham.darley@alzheimers.org.uk or www.alzheimers.org.uk/fitforthefuture/

Apart from putting up the myriad of notices that come in, sorting out year end and audit matters, writing up Agendas, Minutes, notes of this and that, preparing for the Annual Parish Meeting, sending out the 9 Allotment Tenants' annual letters, finding & photocopying information for Cllrs, updating the website, opening mail and dealing with endless emails, and writing this, I really have not been very busy lately.

KSPC is getting back clerk@kspc.org.uk which matches www.kspc.org.uk but kspcclerk@tiscali.co.uk also finds me. Don't all start emailing me or the computer and I will crash! Better to ring 825660.