



Cam Parish Council

Annual Reports 2021

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Chair's Report for the Annual Parish Meeting 2021

It's been a year like no other and the pandemic has affected each and every one of us.

Last year our Annual Parish Assembly was suspended as was the Council Annual Meeting and Chairs and Vice-chairs were retained for the current year from the previous year.

The community was faced with the closure of parks and play facilities and VE, in May, day which was to be a big celebration became a different event made up of individual households or small socially distance garden parties.

We began to see tragedy and sadness in our community but one thing that shone out was the resilience within our village as spring progressed into summer.

Many Cam residents carried on working as key workers, at hospitals, surgeries, schools, supermarkets, on transport and so on. At the same time extraordinary numbers within our community offered commitment, time, and effort as volunteers.

Cam is proud to be the home of the community hub, GL11. Their coordinated efforts with volunteers meant that every street in Cam had a representative who could be called on if anyone wanted help. They allowed items, food, and prescriptions to be delivered where they were desperately needed. They ran a food bank and had response lines for those in need of someone to talk to. Our Council Clerk was given support from the Council to take part as one of those call responders.

Many people found their own ways of making a difference such as making masks or taking part in fundraising or just being a good neighbour.

The business of the Council carried on throughout the pandemic, with our staff working tirelessly from home for a large part of the year. Council meetings went online, the first virtual meeting taking place on 29th April, and agendas have been as busy as ever.

The memories of this initial period seemed to be dominated by the need for our office staff to produce many risk assessments and cleaning regimes.

Just before lockdown our office was buzzing with organising visits to the Roman Villa discovered on the new Bovis development at Box Road. We were on the point of taking delivery of information boards from the archaeological services company that were carrying out the dig just before our office had to close.

We were also addressing issues with parking at Cam and Dursley station, a problem that has gone away for the time being but still on the agenda for the future.

The work on improvement plans for Jubilee Field has carried on being progressed throughout the year. Having some extra time has also allowed a coherent plan to be developed for Rackleaze, our local nature area in the heart of Cam.

In May the Council was able to distribute grant funding to Kingshill House, Cam Sports Club, Dursley and District Good Neighbours, Great Western Ambulance, GL11, the Friday lunch club and The Door, Youth Services. A later round granted funding to Arthur Winterbotham Memorial Hall, Cam and Dursley Creatives, Cotswold Vale Talking News and GL11.

Closure of the offices made it an ideal time to get the render repaired on the outside of the building – a job that was done under the warranty agreement.

Hopton Road Memorial also got a makeover in October with new planters, repair to steps and cutting back of foliage.

Another downside of Covid has been that many things have been cancelled – like the Christmas Light on event. Cam traders have struggled throughout, and Cam Parish Council were pleased to help by funding Christmas trees for the stores. I am pleased to say that many householders in Cam put lots of lights up in their own homes, both inside and out, which brought cheer to many.

Trees have been in the spotlight this year with Ash dieback causing concern everywhere. It was with regret that we lost many trees on Cam Pitch and around the area to GCC's highways team's strategy for dealing with the issue. We have also commissioned a tree survey to identify and assess trees on Cam Council land that might be an issue now or in the future.

Our planning committee Councillors have continued to be vigilant to new potential site applications because housing developers have not stopped for Covid. Our policy at the Council is to start negotiations with these companies early in the process to ensure that they take direction from Cam's Neighbourhood Development Plan.

The Plan was passed by the Environment committee in February 2020 and was to go to Referendum in May 2020 but that was postponed taking place this May instead. Nevertheless, the Plan, adopted by Cam Parish Council, still carries substantial weight which is supported by Stroud District Council.

The Council and the NDP steering group were more than proud that our Plan was shortlisted as a finalist in the recent Regional Royal Town Planning Institute awards.

However, the planning committee experienced a major blow in September with the extremely sad loss of our planning Chair and one of our most longstanding and devoted councillors and previous Chairman of Council, Brian Whatling, who died in September. Those who could, and that was most Councillors and staff, attended his funeral on 2nd October standing in the church yard in accordance with Covid rules at the time.

While Covid has been an awful experience, many good things have come out of this year that we can hang on to.

Many residents have been going out for regular walks and getting to know the local area better, for example. Many have expressed an even greater appreciation of Cam and its surrounds.

This has also brought pressures for some councillors, those who sit on the Cam, Dursley and Uley Joint Woodlands Committee and the Stinchcombe Hill Trust for example, because of unprecedented numbers of visitors taking to our beauty spots, causing erosion issues in some cases and car parking issues.

Our Councillors serve the area in many ways and sit on many different committees. Their annual reports will be found alongside this one and those from our Chair of Recreation and Leisure and Chair of Planning and Highways.

One of the things we would like to do this year is attract even more community minded volunteers to represent Cam on our Council.

Councillor Christina Carter, Chair

Summary of the Recreation & Leisure Committee, March 2021

The Jubilee Field regeneration commenced with setting up an advisory committee which came up with a five-year plan of enhancements and updates.

We held two consultations with the residents on designs and aspirations for Jubilee Field which were met very favorably. The first year of our five-year plan has been accepted by the full council committee. Due to Covid 19 the projects have been held up to a degree, but we are pressing forward with the plans and have completed our first Project, to widen the main entrance and install a new pedestrian path.

Tenders for a new altered direction perimeter footpath around to right hand side of MUGA has been awarded but work will not commence until September due to contractor's workload.

Tenders for the fencing around the Skate park are due to be sent out soon (which will keep dogs and small children out of the area) which was one of the most requested things to be done at Jubilee.

Tenders will be invited from providers of playgrounds for design and specification of a new fenced children's playground at Jubilee with the input of the R&L committee. Unfortunately, due to Covid we may find it difficult to get any grant funding, so this part of the regeneration may take a little longer.

Joanne Lewis our project officer has an enormous task in front of her. I would like to thank her for her dedication and enthusiasm to this project and know she will endeavor to bring Cam Parish a much-enhanced facility.

Persimmon Builders have put in an application to build houses on the fields in front of Jubilee field and our request that an access road from the main Dursley road goes directly towards Jubilee field and they build a dedicated car park for our use with access across Everside lane to Jubilee field. This has been included on their plans submitted to Stroud District Council.

We have done several maintenance jobs on Jubilee field and playgrounds. The chain link fencing at the bottom of Jubilee has been replaced with post and rail fencing, sheep fencing attached for the benefit of our dog walkers, stopping dogs being able to gain access to the adjoining field to the motorway.

Approx. 80 small saplings have been planted and old dead trees have been removed around Jubilee field.

Cam Parish Council have undertaken a tree survey of all trees on council land and tree maintenance will commence in spring his year.

The new ball stop fencing had been erected with the help of grants, all waste bins have been replaced and extra bins installed at Jubilee Field, all bins can also be used for Dog waste and general waste.

The new bins are larger and fully enclosed.

We have also cleared brambles that have encroached over the second entrance area for parking of maintenance equipment, it is part of our five-year plan to lay new hardcore chippings to this area.

Allotments are very popular at the moment, with Coronavirus more people seem to want allotments for growing fresh veg, With the lockdown people have had more time to attend their allotments.

We have split several very large allotments in half, this gives more residents a chance to be given an allotment.

Rackleaze reserve has had some work done by Stroud Valleys projects but due to Covid 19 little has been done in 2020.

Cllr Jon Fulcher has taken Rackleaze on as a project and been working with contractors on clearance of site, ready for the tender to manage the site for the next two years to be sent out.

We will talk to Tesco regarding renewal of contract with CPC due 2023. If any residents would like to volunteer to help at the site, please contact projects officer in the parish office.

Dealing with Covid 19 virus has been challenging for everyone, staff have produced signage for all Playgrounds, Jubilee Field, and allotments with the help of Dave Howse (Handyman} to put them up. At this present time, we are still coming out of lockdown and it is going to be a while before we know what life will be like for us all.

I would like to thank Jenny and all the staff during this difficult time who have done so much behind the scenes to keep the Parish Council running.

Also, I would like to thank my Vice –Chair Jon Fulcher who is providing us with his invaluable knowledge on many subjects and all the Councillors and staff for their help and dedication to Cam Parish.

Councillor Fiona Poulter, Chair of Recreation and Leisure Committee.

Combined County and District Report 2020 to2021.

I decided to write this way because the main topic for the year has been about Co V and how it was dealt with by the County and District Councils in conjunction with Parish, Town Councils, Charities, Volunteers, The Trade, and Individuals together with Grants and Donations received to assist those that needed it the most.

There is absolutely no doubt in my mind that in many ways the County, collectively, was and is a leading light to the rest of the country in getting things done. With funding from Central Government assisting businesses, large and small, wherever they could

We now have the final accolade of the inoculation programme being rolled out where, once again, we are leading the Country with the pace it is being delivered at.

Residents should be assured to a near perfect degree that we have and always will have your interest at heart.

Councillor Brian Tipper

Cam and Dursley Transportation Group.

We held a public meeting on Saturday 7 March 2020, to discuss various transport issues and to gauge support for an informal car sharing scheme, focusing in the first instance on sharing lifts to and from Cam and Dursley Railway Station. Alas, within two weeks of our meeting the country went into lockdown and any discussion of car sharing is of course on hold.

For the rest of the year, we continued to keep residents updated on Covid-19 related changes to rail and bus timetables, the development of Bristol Community Transport taking over the 62-bus route, and, most importantly, the installation of Real Time Indicators at both Cam and Dursley Railway Station and May Lane bus station in Dursley. These will finally give bus users the confidence to know when (if) their bus is going to arrive.

We hope to be able to consider a meeting later in the year, pending progress on Covid-19 and coming out of lockdown. We are also keen to update the photographs and noticeboards at Cam & Dursley Railway station once we are able to do that type of outdoor activity.

Wendy Thomas, on behalf of Cam and Dursley Transportation Group

<https://camanddursleytransportationgroup.weebly.com/>



Cam Parochial Charities AGM report

This charity was formed in 1969 by the amalgamation of 6 local charities, which originated from endowments in wills made between 1664 and 1855.

In 2014 another small local charity (Richard Hicks charity) was amalgamated into Cam Parochial Charities.

The object of the charity is to dispense funds to relieve need for the people living in the parish of Cam. NOWADAYS grants are given to those in need and to organisations providing help/activities/services for children and others in need in the parish.

As well as the hereditary endowments, the charity receives an annual grant from The Haberdashers Company in the city of London this total amount is £1600. So, this is not a wealthy charity but tries to help those who request it.

Meetings are held usually twice a year plus the AGM. 2020 being a very disruptive year for all. We have managed a few meetings with Zoom.

Two longstanding trustees retired, and two new trustees were appointed in their place. At the AGM (zoom) Ian Robinson was voted as Chairman and it was agreed that no vice chairman was needed on such a small committee.

The grants given have been many including some grants for families in need who have come to the notice of the Vicar of St George's other group grants include GL11, Arts project Love Art for 14 to 19 year olds 3 D advent calendar the Quarry Christmas Community projects, pop up creative cafe, Cam Hopton school and individual who need help. Along with other groups who have asked.

Our new clerk has been busy with a new email address and posters making the charity more visible and is also building a Facebook page.

Val Lane



Cam Neighbourhood Development Plan Annual Report 2020-21

In May 2021 when we have the elections for councillors, residents will also have the opportunity to vote for Cam's Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). This should have happened in May 20 but the Covid pandemic prevented the referendum going ahead, so this year will be the final step towards it becoming a fully legal document.

Since our Plan was passed by the examiner, with flying colours in November 2019, it was ratified by Stroud District Council Environment Committee in February 2020 – so it already carries some weight and is in use as a reference document by the Cam Parish Council when meeting with developers.

The Council have used the Plan to bring the values and policies it incorporates to the table which, without this document, could be overlooked by developers driven by different sets of values. Over the past year, having this document has facilitated a positive climate for working together to both party's benefit.

We are looking down the pipeline of a potential 2700 houses being built in Cam over the next few years. Some we may approve of, some not. Where Cam Parish's NDP fits in is that it encompasses Cam's identity and control over the village's future. It means we can be more assured that our village will retain its character in the face of potential major housing schemes to come; green spaces considered important by our residents have been saved from the threat of development and the environment is something that now has to be prioritised by house builders.

An independent Landscape Assessment carried out by the NDP steering group has been cited by the Council as evidence against the viability of a particularly controversial potential strategic development site in green fields behind Tesco.

With new proposed development the Council now insists on a pre-application meeting to discuss the proposal in the context of our Plan and its highlighted policies.

- Environment and Sustainability is a priority and the Plan specifies the policy of Protecting and improving our Green Infrastructure network to ensure a high quality environment for residents, including those with mobility issues and wildlife.
- Developers will be supported only where they reinforce locally distinctive characteristics within the village. One of those characteristics is the very sylvan and green nature of the area – that is the extensive number of trees, snickets, road side verges, hedges, valued views and so on.
- Movement and connectivity in the area is key and policies encourage the further promotion of foot paths and cycle ways in particular
- Community Facilities and services must be protected as part of any new development – including Local Green Spaces of course
- Employment sites also must be protected
- Proposals that contribute to the vitality and attractiveness of Cam Village Centre will be supported

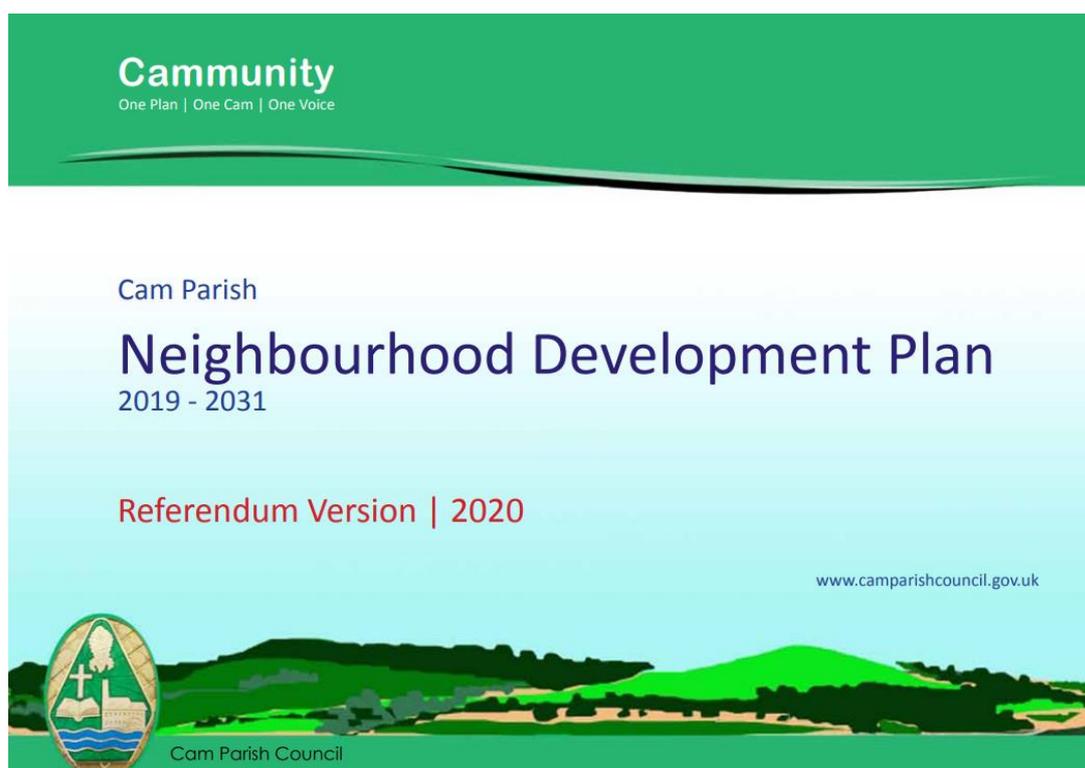
We are in an extraordinary position in Cam which could see our village – already the biggest in the county – become twice as big.

Towards the end of the five years this Plan was in the making the steering group came to truly understand the value of a robust Neighbourhood Plan if we are to be taken seriously by our authority and developers. The members had all worked extremely hard to get the Plan to the final stage but we decided to go the extra mile with it. A Design Statement (2018) produced during the process had allowed the team to define the character areas of Cam and this became the evidence base for a Design Code. The Code underpins policies on environment, local character and distinctiveness and access and movement. This was a new added element that strengthened the NDP.

Very few Neighbourhood Development Plans have a Design Code and the extra effort made in Cam was recognised by the Royal Town Planning Institute when it was entered for the annual Regional RTPI Awards in November 2020. It was a proud moment for the Council and the steering group when our Plan became a Finalist in the category of Planning Excellence.

During the pandemic the Council offices have been closed so residents have not been able to see a hard copy of the Plan and its associated documents but these have been accessible online at: www.camparishcouncil.gov.uk/neighbourhood-development-plan.html

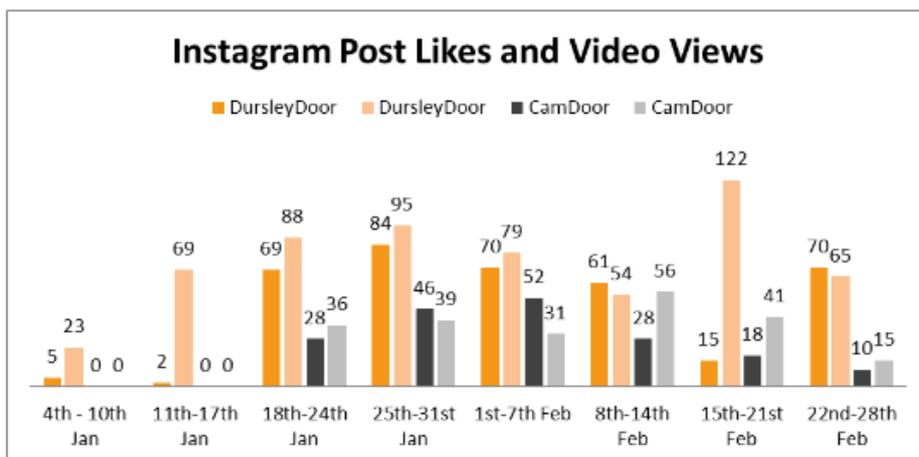
Councillor Christina Carter and Councillor Mike Grimshaw



The Door Youth Project.

Purpose of the Agreement

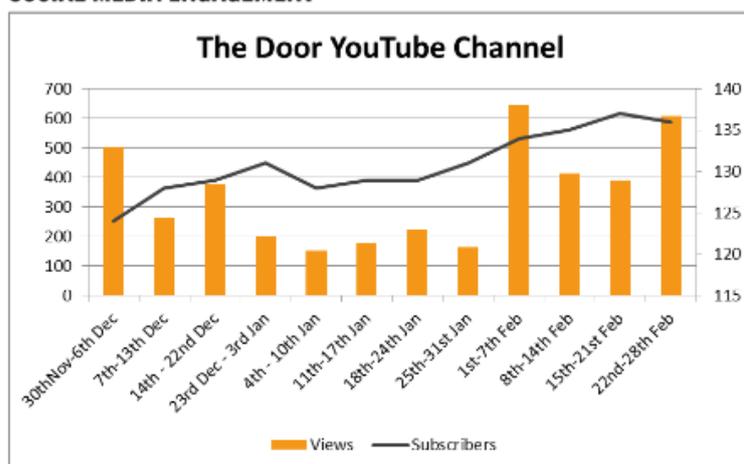
- Develop, manage and deliver demand-led youth provision.
- Co-facilitate and develop youth participation and representation.



Weeks commencing 25th Jan and 15th Feb were high due to two posts that had particular traction – one being a video of a youthworker’s dog Meg who has become a popular feature and also of ‘Blue’ the magpie in Dursley who Kathleen managed to get close to and featured on her feed

There is no data for the first two weeks of the year for Cam ad the account was setup in the third week of January.

SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT



The First and last weeks of February saw peaks in viewing figures on a video of Courtney trying fake eyelashes (week one) and Willow and Isak painting a mural on their living room wall (week 4)

7. CASE STUDY

Young Person R – Getting back to school

Rednock got in touch with Kathleen to say that a young person R hadn't been going into school despite setting up a support package for him to attend due to mum struggling at home. The school asked Kathleen to try and encourage Young Person R to attend as they knew he had been attending a support group with The Door. Young person R came into the support group that evening and shared with Kathleen his anxiety about going in to school. Kathleen mentioned that she would be in school on Thursday lunchtimes and would be there to offer any extra support he might need. After talking through some positives and letting him take ownership of his own plan to move forward, Young person R seemed to be in a much better place after talking and going through his concerns. Kathleen was in school the next day and Young Person R was in school for the first time in two weeks.

Observations

The Door is successfully using a combination of social media engagement, where the number of followers continues rise based on improving levels of target focussed content, along with significant levels of face-to-face engagement at various locations (including Jubilee field, Woodfields, etc)

Councillor Stewart Angell and Councillor Miranda Clifton

Youth review group

The youth partnership was set up in 2011 when county council funding for youth services was cut. Four town and parish councils; Berkeley, Cam, Dursley and Wotton got together to commission and pay for the youth service which had been lost. In 2015 Wotton & Berkeley decided to go their own ways and Cam & Dursley re-tendered the contract for our area and awarded it to The Door, a charity based in Stroud, which has been our youth service provider ever since. The service we receive is comprehensive and thoughtfully planned and delivered. As well as providing conventional youth club sessions in The Vibe and at Woodfield Community centre, The Door youth workers also carry out detached work in Rednock and in the streets, and liaise closely with the local Neighbourhood Policing Team and social work departments where appropriate.

Activity during the pandemic has had to adapt to the changing situation. When live youth club sessions are possible they are usually centred on a monthly theme. For example, October was “Mental Health Month”, which included a series of workshops around anxiety and helping young people look at different strategies to support mental wellbeing and November was “Money Month” during which the team organised a variety of activities and talks around money management, budgeting and understanding different financial products. In December the young people were involved in community projects like the 3D Advent Calendar which was displayed by the Quarry Chapel. Additional activities and trips are also usually organised during the school holidays.

At the moment face to face work is limited, The Door team is out and about during the week talking to young people wherever they are, and there are virtual sessions and a lot of work on social media to ensure that the young people continue to feel supported; they can also phone up to book a personal fifteen minute chat if they feel in need of help. Now that the schools are back, the youth work team are helping Rednock with their Lateral Flow Testing and are planning some outdoor activities for the Easter school holiday as well as continuing their support groups for young people and their parents.

The Door’s CEO and the local senior youth worker attend quarterly review meetings which are held with representatives of the two councils and the venues to monitor the Door’s work and to provide an opportunity for discussion; a detailed report is circulated to all Cam and Dursley councillors quarterly.

Councillor Miranda Clifton, March 2021

Vale Vision

Vale Vision was formed in 2005 to work with the communities of Cam, Dursley and district in Gloucestershire to produce a Community Strategic Plan for the next 10 - 29 years that would help to turn the communities' vision of their future into reality. That plan has been periodically revised and updated.

The Community Strategic Plan was developed through extensive consultation with people in the community, collaboration with regional, county and local authorities and organisations, and research into the economic, social and environmental 'health' of the Vale Vision area. It includes projects that contribute to providing a thriving and viable community. Vale Vision Development Trust Ltd is a company limited by guarantee and its annual general meeting provides an opportunity for local councillors and members of the public to learn about and comment on Vale Vision's current projects.

Projects

Since its formation in 2005 Vale Vision has been involved with or actively supported many projects in the area. Some of these have been completed, and some are on-going:

- Dursley Town Centre regeneration – led to paving scheme around the Town Hall and Castle Street
- Breakheart Quarry – now a public recreation and learning centre
- Chantry Centre – redevelopment of the building and Lister Hall as a community facility
- Sculpture Trail – sculptures by individual and community groups in a woodland setting
- Cam, Dursley & Uley Walks - walking for all abilities for health and pleasure in our beautiful countryside
- Greenway – a project for a cycle and pedestrian way from Uley, Dursley & Cam to Cam & Dursley Station
- What's On – a free quarterly journal advertising the local area
- Community involvement in Littlecombe planning for regeneration of the Lister-Petter factory site

The following are ongoing projects under the Vale Vision umbrella:

Sculpture Trail



The trail was launched in 2008 in Twinberrow and Dursley Woods. Local groups of all ages and abilities have created the individual works out of a variety of materials. All of the local schools and many other groups and individuals have contributed artworks, which are then installed by volunteers.

The trail has been a great success with all who have visited enjoying the sculptures created by community groups from aged 6 to those who are in their 90's. There is ongoing maintenance by volunteers, several recently recruited from the U3A, but more are always welcome. If you are interested in giving a small amount of time once a month to help in keeping the trail clear and checking the artworks, please get in touch with Vale Vision.

The Dursley Walks Programme

Vale Vision works in partnership with Stroud District Council and Walking4Health to create, manage and deliver the Dursley Walks programme, which includes walks in and around Cam and Dursley, and some further afield along the many footpaths in our beautiful countryside. There are three grades of free walks: weekly one hour Health Walks - short gentle walks led by trained Walking for Health walk leaders; a programme of varied “building distance walks” and the more challenging, longer walks. Because of the Covid restrictions only the weekly health walks are taking place at the moment. New walk leaders are always needed to join the team.

The Cam, Dursley and Uley Greenway



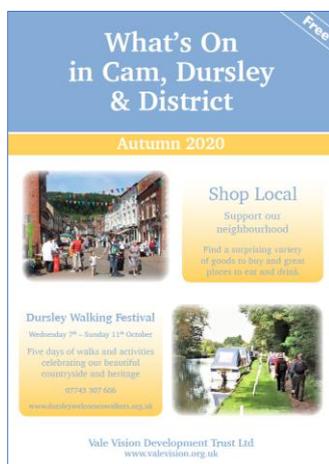
The Cam, Dursley & Uley Greenway project team is working on an 8km cycle & pedestrian Greenway linking Uley, Dursley and Cam (as far as railway station) and eventually to the National Cycle Network Route 41 in Slimbridge and also linking to Coaley. The intention is that the Greenway will be accessible to everyone – cyclists, people with physical challenges, walkers, school children, commuters and those who just want a short leisure trip.

The team is made up of representatives of Vale Vision, Dursley Town Council, Cam Parish Council, Stroud District Council and local cyclists, who meet regularly to co-ordinate the development of the route.

Major stretches of the Greenway have been completed or are near completion in Dursley and further lengths will be developed under current building plans to link Cam centre with Cam & Dursley Rail Station. The project group’s current tasks are to liaise with local councils and developers to ensure that future developments include proper provision for users of the Greenway, to make safe links between the major sections – the section between the end of Everlands along to the entrance to the Rackleaze site is particularly challenging - and to develop plans for the length of the Greenway between Dursley and Uley.

You can find “Cam, Dursley & Uley Greenway” on Facebook or @CduGreenway on Twitter.

What’s On in Cam, Dursley & District



This publication is compiled by volunteers and promotes Cam, Dursley and the surrounding the area by publicising local leisure, arts, entertainment and sports activities and venues, with details of visitor attractions, local events and activities, specialist shops and places to eat and drink.

Minimal charges are made for advertising in ‘What’s On’ to cover the cost of printing. It is distributed by volunteers to retail and community outlets and tourist information points around the area where it is available free.

Because of the Covid restrictions there has been only one edition since last March - in the autumn - with an emphasis on the ‘Shop Local’ campaign. It was funded by Vale Vision with no charge

made to advertisers. It is hoped to begin publication again in the late spring/early summer.

Councillor Miranda Clifton

Woodfield Youth & Community Centre

The centre is owned by the community and run by a group of trustees representing Woodfield Residents' Association, the parish council and local residents, who meet every couple of months to oversee the management.

Covid has obviously been the big issue this year but The Door's Youth Work has continued based in the Centre. Dog training classes, bingo and the popular fortnightly lunch club for older residents have stopped because of the Covid risk but a local mother is planning to open up her nursery again, and the Territorial Army is planning to use the centre as its local base (possibly with the air cadets) again, both when the law allows. The hall will also then be able to take private bookings for parties and other local events. (It's also the venue for voting for the Woodfield part of the Cam West ward.)

The committee hasn't been able to meet for a year but maintenance and redecoration are being carried out in relays. Despite the enforced reduction in use and the associated loss of income there are still bills to pay and things to do!

Councillor Miranda Clifton, March 2021

Cam Institute Charity

This is a small charity which derives its income from capital acquired from the sale of the Cam Institute building in Station Road. Its purpose is “to provide or assist in the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation for the benefit of the inhabitants of the Parish of Cam in the interests of social welfare with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants.” The trustees are Cam residents, two of whom are nominated by Cam Parish council, who meet two or three times a year. It gives out relatively small grants to local organisations once a year. Any local organisation which is open to the people of Cam may apply for funding. Grants this year were made to the following organisations: Cotswold Vale Talking Newspaper; GL11 Community Hub; Kingshill House; Winterbotham Memorial Hall; Dursley Open Door; the Summer Creative Arts Project and The Door Youth Project.

Miranda Clifton, March 2021

Dursley United Charities

This is a small locally based charity formed some years ago from an amalgamation of two or three smaller historical charitable organisations in Dursley and surrounding parishes.

It provides three types of grants: to help people with further/higher education e.g. for college or university expenses; Christmas benefactions, which are granted on recommendation from health visitors, social services etc. for people in particular need and individual one-off grants which are given to people in cases of emergency - usually referred by a health visitor or other care professional; we are receiving an increasing number of request for help for people in desperate need.

The following organisations received grants this year: Stroud District Food Bank; All Sorts Charity; Rednock Young Carers; Cotswold Vale Talking Newspaper; Dursley & District Old People's Welfare Committee; Friday Lunch Club; GL11 Community Hub; Treetops Nursery; the Summer Creative Arts Project and the Wonder Wander Trail.

Miranda Clifton, March 2021

Blooming Cam

We are now into the third year of 'Blooming Cam', a group of volunteers who meet every Wednesday afternoon from March to October with the aim brightening up the centre of Cam. With just five of us we limited our ambitions to looking after the flowerbeds around the war memorial and around the parish office and the café - and those at the Hopton War Memorial, where this year we have been able to buy and plant up new pots. It would be nice to extend our activities to other parts of Cam, but we need more bodies for that!

The advent of Covid placed restrictions on us, however, members now devote their daily exercise on Wednesday afternoons to socially distanced working on the flower beds. We have been pleased to see the results of the last two years' work in the wonderful burst of spring flowers, and we know from the comments of passers-by that our work is appreciated and brings pleasure to all sorts of people. Apart from the pride we can take in our work that makes it seem very worthwhile.

As well as appreciative comments we were grateful to receive donations of garden vouchers for £80 from Dursley Tangent Club and £100 from the Dursley and Cam Society. We spent some of it on more plants for the flower beds and compost for topping up the pots and we look forward to spending the rest this year. Thanks are due to the parish council for some funding and allowing us to use its premises - and water, and to the chair of the Recreation & Leisure committee who grew many of the lovely annual flowers which kept the flowerbeds so colourful well into the autumn.

This year Blooming Cam has signed up to the 2021 "It's Your Neighbourhood" scheme, the non-competitive arm of Britain in Bloom. It means we may get visited by an environmental or horticultural expert who will give us feedback and advice - as a group of amateurs we shall find that both interesting and useful.

We would welcome more volunteers; you don't need to be an expert gardener - just to enjoy spending some time outdoors - so if you would like to join us, please contact volunteer Jo Lewis at Cam Parish Council: 01453 548884.

Miranda Clifton, March 2021



Cam, Dursley, Uley Joint Woodland Management Committee

Annual Report

Overview of the committee

- The Committee is external to Cam Parish Council, Dursley Town Council and Uley Parish Council
- It was set up in 1994 in a contract with Stroud District Council (the owners)

The Function of the Committee

The governance agreement with Stroud District Council delegated powers to the Cam, Dursley and Uley Joint Woodlands Committee to manage woodlands and grasslands:

- 40 Hectares of woodland in Dursley and Cam
- 31 Hectares grassland Cam Long Down and Cam Peak
- 5 Hectares grassland and woodland at Uley Bury

The Management requirement is to:

- Maintain of paths, gates, fences, cattle grids, trees, ponds and car parks
- Provide and operate and conservation plan

Objectives of Management Plan:

- To maintain lands under management according to best practice for the recreation and exercise of local residents and visitors
- High level Stewardship of sensitive landscape – particularly Cam Long Down (grant claimed for this)

Membership of the Committee:

- Two councillors from each of the three Parish

Supporting officers:

- Clerk/Finance officer – honoraria payment
- Part time paid Woodland Manager – contracted
- Foot paths officer – honoraria payment
- Officer from SDC

Funding Sources:

- Stroud District Council Grant
- RPA Grant (Rural Payments Agency)
- Cam Parish Council
- Dursley Town Council
- Uley Parish Council
- Donations in kind from Cotswold Way Association
- Others where available

Meetings

- Quarterly meetings are held usually on a Monday evening at 7 pm
- Extra meetings may be necessary occasionally.

2020-2021

The pandemic and lockdowns have brought unprecedented numbers of visitors to the areas that the committee looks after – Cam Peak and Long Down, Uley Bury and Cam and Dursley woods.

This has brought with it many issues that beauty spots around the country have all been experiencing, such as soil erosion and litter and in some cases, anti-social behaviour. Some visitors have not been aware of the Countryside Code or of the importance of the grasslands and woodlands in the area.

At Cam Peak and Long Down the carpark has been full to over capacity on many occasions causing drivers to park on and damage grass land around the carpark. Numerous resident complaints were received. The committee has been working with Stroud District Council to provide short and long term solutions to the issues. Permanent signage to spell out bye-laws is one of the ideas being looked at currently.

The CDUJW committee's job is to protect the natural landscape and decisions are made on this basis. Some decisions are not so clear cut but the committee was unanimous in a decision that was made in July to refuse a request from a hang and paragliding club to use Cam Long Down. There are no plans to review this decision.

Cam and Dursley Woods comprises Cockshoot Wood, Westfield Wood and Sheepath Wood. It is made up mainly of mature beech trees and represents just a very small percentage of this kind of ancient woodland left in the UK. It is rich with a diversity of habitats that provide refuges and corridors for wildlife. The Cotswold Way passes through these woods also seeing many walker visitors throughout the year.

The committee has had to pay a lot of attention to restoring these woodlands, this year, after damage incurred by mountain bike trails built by cyclists that caused extensive damage and complaints from neighbouring residents. One site was restored with pathways reinstated in the summer but more bike trails have been built since and now cover the majority of the woods – some causing much concern because of their dangerous nature.

Other issues that have put demands on the land manager this year are ash dieback and squirrel damage to trees (which can kill young trees) as well as the regular jobs, such as dealing with broken fences and gates, falling trees, blocked footpaths, scrub cutting, bracken cutting and general conservation and maintenance tasks.

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We have had a change of Clerk/Finance officer, Chair and Vice-chair over the year with the previous Clerk and Chair resigning in July and the vice-chair in October.

Tim Martin, as Chair of the committee, had worked hard to bring the committee up to speed and left it in a good position financially, but wanted to free up his time as the role of chair involved far more time and commitment than he was able to offer.

He suggested at the time that the role and function of the committee should be reviewed as well as the arrangement with SDC which had been in place since 1994 and with the same chair in place for all but the last year he was in post. Both TM and the clerk kindly remained temporarily in position to see the committee through the period of change and happily TM continues to represent Uley Parish on the committee.

Christina Carter took over as Chair in October to see the committee through any restructure that might be needed. Melanie Stennett was approved as vice-chair.

A survey was carried out amongst the members regarding possible changes to the committee structure. It was resolved: that the committee should retain the same structure with 2 councillors from each of the three parishes but that all members would be encouraged to take part in the duties of the committee to alleviate work load on the chair and vice-chair; that the committee would benefit from a clerk experienced in land matters, grant applications and the Rural Payments Agency. In this respect the committee was very fortunate to attract someone with those qualities in Graham Wingrove who was appointed in October and started in post on 1st Dec as clerk/finance officer.

The work of our Path Walker, Anne Roberts, has been widely praised for her regularly updated reports on the state of footpaths across the land within our responsibility. These reports provide the basis for part of the work carried out by our land manager and their value in aiding the important work the committee oversees cannot overstated.

Terry Fenton, our contracted expert land manager, provided new management plans for the management of the woods and grasslands that are our responsibility which were approved in October. These plans plus visual evidence to show that they have been carried out also provide the basis for successful grant application from the Rural Payments Agency.

Further grants have been forthcoming from Cam Parish Council, £1500, Dursley Town Council, £1000, Uley Parish Council, £350 and Stroud District Council, £7000.

Terry's expertise has had to be further called on this year to liaise with local police requiring access to the woods and with the volunteer group at Uley to discuss scrub control on the western rampart of the Bury.

Councillor Christina Carter.

Dursley Welcomes Walkers Annual Report to Cam Parish Council 2021

Despite the Coronavirus pandemic Dursley Welcomes Walkers has had another successful year in 2020. This community group works actively to meet the aims of the Walkers are Welcome organisation and to promote Cam, Dursley and the surrounding area as an interesting and enjoyable place to visit and enjoy the excellent walking that this area offers.

Our annual application for reaccreditation as a Walkers are Welcome town once again received some excellent feedback in recognition of our work and confirmation of our continued status as a Walkers are Welcome Town.

Dursley Walking Festival 2020

Our 9th walking festival was held in October 2020. With our early planning this looked like being our biggest festival yet when we met back in January but the coronavirus pandemic then hit our thoughts and planning. It was always our hope that we could hold the festival but the virus meant that decisions had to be made late in the day, and even then it risked cancellation. We are pleased to report that the festival was a success, the reduced numbers as a result of the pandemic, on each walk meant that overall numbers were down but the feedback received showed that walkers, some of whom joined the festival for the first time, really enjoyed the festival and thanked us for our efforts in arranging one of the few festivals to take place in 2021. The festival had 29 walks and included Cam's Historic graveyard walk, Cam and the surrounding hamlets walk, a walk from Leaf and Ground, The Saints Bartholomew walk from Cam. The festival again included our Family Treasure Hunt. Unfortunately our quiz, talk and teas events were not able to run. BBC Radio Gloucestershire again supported the festival with many mentions and a couple of interviews being broadcast in the run up to and during the festival. Thanks to BBC Radio Gloucestershire for their continued support. The festival continues to attract visitors from other parts of the country, some are new and other return from previous years.

Cotswold Gateway project

Dursley Welcomes Walkers are pleased to confirm that our plans for our 16-mile circular walk are still progressing. We are still working with The Cotswold Conservation Board on this walk. Panels depicting the walks will be erected by the end of March will be erected in Long Street and May Mane, Dursley. We are working with GWR over a 3rd panel being placed at the Railway Station.

The Lantern Way

Our 14 mile way-marked route which starts in Dursley and then passes through parts of Cam, Coaley and Uley continues to be a popular walk throughout the year. It again featured in the 2020 festival as a led walk. Work is about to be undertaken to review the route and signage.

Dursley Walking Festival 2021

Plans are well advanced for our 2021 festival lasting 5 days. As with previous festival several walks are being planned to either start in or pass-through Cam. We would be interested in hearing from anyone who is interested in working with Dursley Welcomes Walkers, we can be contacted at the email address or telephone number below.

On behalf of Dursley Welcomes Walkers I would like to thank Cam Parish Council for their continued support including the ongoing sales of walk books on our behalf. Thanks also to Dursley Community Centre, traders in Dursley and Dursley Town Council who have also supported us in our activities.

Chris Cherry, Chairman, Dursley Welcomes Walkers.
15th March 2021



**DURSLEY
WALKING
FESTIVAL**

www.dursleywelcomeswalkers.org.uk



Arthur S. Winterbotham Memorial Hall

A rather depleted Management Committee has been able to operate during the last year under the Covid restrictions by holding monthly meetings by Video Conferencing.

We have now digested the new Booking Procedures and they are working very well under the management of Mike Smetham and have been an enormous assistance during "lock downs" caused by the Covid.

Our revenue has been decimated during the closures and limited activity periods. We are very happy to have received Local Restriction Support Grant from Stroud District Council. This has enabled us to pay the day to day costs of utilities, insurances, maintenance and minimum wages. Very close management of the heating system has been necessary just to preserve the fabric of the building. The revenue from generating electricity by the solar panels is now very poor after the subsidies have been removed by government; but we haven't been using so much either.

We are grateful to the Parish Council for a grant which they have awarded to enable us to do a repair on a porch roof which is leaking.

All improvement projects are dormant until normal operation and usage can be re-established. We hope that will be as soon as government allows and people feel safe the meet again. For any major improvements we will need to seek Grant aid and have hopes that local developments might make these available.

We are holding an Annual General Meeting on 12th April by a Video Conference platform. Official notifications are being posted and emails sent to known interested parties. We also are encouraging any resident of the parish to join us by contacting Mike Smetham who is the Secretary to the Committee by email: arthurswinterbotham@gmail.com or phone 07407249780. We would hope they could register their interest by the 29th March to help with the distribution of an Agenda etc.

Roger Harmer, Trustee

Summary of Project Work at Cam Parish – March 2021.

Jubilee Playing Field



Cam Parish Council has an exciting five-year plan for the regeneration and redevelopment of the much-loved Jubilee Playing Field which is situated off Everside Lane.

This scheme got underway in September 2020 when the entrance to the site was improved to create safer pedestrian access and better driving visibility. This involved removing a section of hedge, laying more tarmac and installing bollards.

In October 2019 a public consultation was held asking people what they liked or wanted to see improved at Jubilee Playing Field. There were 234 responses and 38% of these rated the perimeter footpath at the playing field as their favourite thing. But this footpath takes walkers directly to the skatepark, where it ends and is picked up again at the far side of the skatepark. Therefore the next item on our regeneration of Jubilee Playing Field is to divert this footpath away from the skatepark, creating a new 130 metre route around the MUGA before re-joining the main pathway. This work has gone out to tender and a decision is due to be made on a successful contractor to do this important work very soon.

Plans for fencing the skatepark, improving and opening the car park and creating a play area are also being discussed.

Hopton War Memorial

There are 13 stone steps leading to the listed war memorial at Hopton Green and five steps on each side of it, and many of these needed attention. In summer 2020 a building conservationist was employed to replace, repair and repoint the damaged steps. The work was completed in August 2020.



Cam Stile Replacement Project



Five crumbling stiles in the Ashmead Green area of Cam have been replaced with kissing gates to create a stile-free route for walkers. The stiles are on public footpaths crossing fields from Green Street to Ashmead and are part of the Cam Accessible Paths Project which aims to improve access to the countryside and create circular walks for people of all abilities. This is a joint project funded by Cam Parish Council, installed by Cotswold Wardens and supported by the landowners.

Rackleaze Nature Area

Rackleaze Nature Area is owned by Tesco but leased by Cam Parish Council. It's an important feeding site for birds, bats and insects and it's hoped that one day this area will reach the status of a Local Wildlife Area (LWA).

Tree work on the site was completed over the winter and an area of low-level scrub next to the public footpath was cleared in February 2021. A maintenance contract is now in place with Stroud Valleys Project to improve the nature area.



The ultimate aim at Rackleaze is to achieve a vista of low growing but attractive plants around the boardwalk to encourage pollinating insects such as small beetles, bees and flies. This would lead into taller foliage and some nesting habitat for birds like controlled blackberry and comfrey. This would gradually rise in height to the tree line. There are also hopes to have areas along the River Cam on the far side of the path to have safe viewing points and clearings for wildlife to bask.

Green volunteers are needed to help at Rackleaze and if anyone is interested please contact the Cam Parish Council office.

Jo Lewis, Project Officer at Cam Parish Council.

Gloucestershire County Council Charter Group

Quarterly meeting with the overall aim of these meetings to improve the relationships between the tiers of local government in Gloucestershire, in particular by improving both consultation and communication about policies and decisions that may affect local communities. Includes Highways Officers and GCC Communications.

Informal updates given during committee meetings and recorded in the minutes.

Councillor Jonathan Bishop

Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership and other community safety groups

The Safer and Stronger Communities Strategic Partnership is made up of organisations who work together and with communities to tackle crime and disorder, and improve community safety for local residents. It fulfils the statutory function of the Community Safety Partnership and membership includes the police and police and crime commissioner, local authority, fire service and fire authority and clinical commissioning group as well as voluntary sector agencies. Meeting twice a year March/October

Informal updates given during committee meetings and recorded in the minutes.

Councillor Jonathan Bishop