

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2019 – RECITED AT EVERY VILLAGE MEETING.**

Each local council must hold an Annual Parish Meeting between March and June (May in Compton Dando). The Parish Meeting is a meeting of the parishioners (anyone on the electoral register of the Parish). Because our parish includes several villages, which may have differences in their points of interest, we also hold meetings in each of the five villages to collect their opinions. These usually take place in March, but this year they will be held in May due to the elections. A summary of these will be added to the minutes recorded for the Annual Meeting of the Parish in May. The Parish Council will take note of the Parishioners' wishes expressed in these meetings and take matters forward to the full Parish Council to be discussed further and if required these matters will be acted upon. Items must be placed as an item on the agenda of the monthly Parish Council meeting. Any parishioner can come along to a Parish Council meeting, and they can speak for 3 minutes before the meeting opens, on whatever they wish to bring to our notice. Minutes of the Parish Council meetings are available to all parishioners who would like to see what is discussed and what decisions are reached. These are available on village notice boards, from the Parish Clerk, or on the parish council website ([www.comptondando-parishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.comptondando-parishcouncil.org.uk)). Meetings may also now be filmed or recorded in line with the protocol on the website.

Throughout the year we have several standing items which we oversee. These include:

1. Planning matters (applications, appeals, enforcements): planning applications are considered by the Parish Council before they are decided by BANES. We arrange site visits to see for ourselves the proposed changes before we discuss our recommendation (we can support, object, or make comments). The recommendations are based on our understanding of the local environment and planning policies, not on personal preferences. In the past year, the Parish Council has considered 13 planning applications, six tree notifications and one Footpath Order consultations.

No planning applications were withdrawn. 96% of the decisions made by the Parish Council agreed with the final decision made by BANES. Three applications within the Parish were taken to appeal.

There are several planning enforcement matters that are still being investigated by Bath and North East Somerset Council. One enforcement case has now been concluded

2. The Parish Council has reported to the BANES Council (through Fix My Street) local issues such as potholes, fly tipping, flooding, blocked drains & gulleys, and damaged to road signs. The Parish Clerk and Councillors monitor the action or progress on these reported matters. The B&NES Fix My Street service is available for local parishioners to report matters that need repair or attention and can follow the progress of the report on line.

3. Following on from the Parish Council becoming trustees for the Parish Hall in Compton Dando, the Deed being updated and the Parish Hall gaining charitable status, the Parish Council during 2019, has registered the Parish Hall with the Land Registry.
4. The Parish Council pay for local services such as street lights, grass cutting, a website, and the services of a Parish Clerk from the parish precept.

This year, the Parish Council voted to increase the Parish Council by 3% meaning an increase in the precept from £10,000 to £12,233.45 for the financial year 2019/2020. This increase has been approved by B&NES. There will be no additional B&NES grant awarded this year. This increase was felt necessary due to increases in our costs, including revision of the NJC pay scale for Clerks, the need to increase reserves to pay for any possible bi-election costs and devolution of some services from B&NES. The Parish Council ensure that they save money by seeking three quotes on all major purchases and choosing best value for money contracts.

The Parish Council has also sought external funding and has been awarded a Community Empowerment Award funding towards fingerpost painting (this is to be match funded with community volunteer hours). An amount of £675 has also been received from Bristol Airport's Diamond Fund. This money will also be used for the fingerpost restoration work.

The Parish Council continues to award s137 grants to support local community groups and projects.

Some of the issues that the Parish Council have dealt with this year are: -

- Continuing to monitor traffic in Queen Charlton.
- Resolving drainage and flooding issues on the B3116 Burnett,
- Continuation of repair and refurbishment of the fingerposts throughout the parish.
- Installation of HGV exclusion signage and warning signs to stop heavy goods vehicles from using the narrow lanes
- Monitoring and reporting to the Police heavy good vehicles in the lanes
- Restoration of the War Memorial

Ongoing issues, soon to be resolved are:

- Installation of a dog waste bin on Chewton Road – This has been purchased and will be installed shortly. The Parish Council will pay for this to be emptied regularly by the grounds staff of Keynsham Town Council
- Installation of bollards to protect the coronation triangle in Queen Charlton

The Parish Council continues to work with members of Whitchurch Parish Council in respect of a proposed new section to the South Bristol ring road from Hicks Gate to Whitchurch following the route of Stockwood Vale.

The Parish Council continues to support the Parish Council Airport Association decision to oppose the planning application for the expansion of Bristol Airport which will result in increased passenger numbers and flights.

2019, has seen improvement to the flow of traffic at the Two Headed man junction which works well with the completion of the Marksbury junction improvements.

- In the past year, the Parish Council have submitted comments on the following consultations: -

The Joint Spatial Plan for the West of England  
The BANES Local Plan  
The BANES Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment  
The BANES Housing Boundary Review

In the forthcoming electoral year, we look forward to welcoming to new ward Councillors as our Parish Council is now with the Saltford ward.

- The Parish Council continues to review its existing policies and the Council became compliant in respect of the General Data Protection Regulation.

Finally, the Parish Council would like to thank all Parishioners for getting involved in village litter picks.

Thank you for your time and for listening to this Parish Council report and we would welcome any questions that you may have.