

**LONG ASHTON ANNUAL STATEMENT  
FOR THE PARISH MEETING**  
Held in the Village Hall on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2003

**Planning Committee**

Planning Committee Chairman, Cllr Miss Mary Uppington.

50% of planning applications have been for extensions or alterations to existing properties and in most cases North Somerset Council agreed with the Parish Council's recommendations and when they did differ they gave a reason for the decision.

Building has continued in the valley, south of Long Ashton Road, and in June Parish Council representatives attended the handing over of the affordable housing properties in Tripps Row. This is a joint venture with the Redland Housing Association and North Somerset and all 9 dwellings are now occupied. The majority of the other properties have now been built by Barratt Homes or Kings Oak.

The development plan for the 30 acres at the Research Station has been very much to the fore at meetings. The official outline planning application arrived in June and a copy was lodged in the Library. The Development Brief showed an outline plan for the site and included an area for employment, retention of the day nursery, a mixture of housing to include sheltered and affordable housing, retention of the stone walls on Weston Road, the position of accesses to the north and south and playing fields to the north of Fenswood Road, adjacent to Keeds Lane.

The outline application was approved by North Somerset and has reached the stage where the Section 106 agreements are being negotiated with issues concerning drainage and education needing a great deal of discussion.

Within the last three months, TPO orders were placed on 12 individual and 6 Groups of trees on the Research Station site. The First deposit of the NS Local Plan with policies to cover the period to 2011 became available during the year and the Parish Council supported the aims and objectives put forward. North Somerset are currently evaluating the comments received and plan to issue a revised deposit draft in Spring 2004.

**Finance and General Purposes Committee**

Finance and General Purposes Chairman, Councillor Jonathon Skeeles.

New audit regulations came into force by a Government Statutory Instrument during the year, the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2002, which were retrospective. Even as the audit was taking place under these rules consultations were taking place on changes for the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 which will again be retrospective. This has taken a lot of time.

The Committee has been involved with how the Freedom of Information Act, Health and Safety Legislation with risk assessments impact on the workings of the Council.

This year permission was granted by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister to accept two interest free loans to enable the building of the Jubilee Pavilion to

proceed. These loans will be repaid over five and ten years. Further expense will be needed to complete the office which is within the Pavilion.

The precept for 2002/03 was £74,812 and for 2003/04 is £77,804. The summary of the accounts can be found elsewhere on the site.

### **Highways and Burial Ground Committee**

Highways and Burial Ground Chairman, Councillor Ivor Scoones.

The Churchyard and cemetery have had a new tarmac surface to all the main paths, the compost bin covers have been refurbished and repairs to the churchyard steps are imminent.

At Birdwell Recreation Ground a contractor cuts the grass and the trees have recently been pruned and lopped to allow full use of the goal post.

A new bus shelter was built near the Angel public house but other shelters in the village have been vandalised during the year. New seats, extra dog and litter bins have been installed during the year.

### **Council Chairman's Overview**

Council Chairman, Councillor Mrs Neale.

A highlight of community life during the year was the Jubilee celebrations, held at the Long Ashton Research Station for the village and St Mary's Leigh Woods for Leigh Woods. The Council helped fund both events which were enjoyed by so many.

Councillors regularly comment on consultation documents, both local and national. The bid for the A370 link road did not get the go ahead from the Government.

The Council responded to the "Air Transport in the UK" study and joined the Parish Councils

Airport Association. It has also commented on North Somerset Council's Housing Strategy and Waste Local Plan. The ability to speed read seems to be an essential requirement for a local councillor.

During Warship Week in 1942 residents of Long Ashton Rural District Council raised money and sponsored the Corvette HMS Lotus. It presented a plaque to the then Commanding Officer: Lieutenant H John Hall. His son, Chris, wished the plaque to be brought back to the locality and in November presented to the Parish Council the plaque from HMS Lotus, a copy of a painting by his father illustrating the Arctic convoy and other memorabilia. This is now displayed at the Long Ashton Royal British Legion.

This Council has continued to appoint trustees to the Long Ashton Community Association, The Parochial Charity (Almshouses), Long Ashton Churchyard Trust, Swann Benefaction Trust (in Leigh Woods), and representatives to serve on the Youth Partnership with North Somerset, the Youth Club Management Committee, LAMPRO, Local Action Team and Avon Local Councils Association.

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