

# **LONG ASHTON & LEIGH WOODS NEWSLETTER**



**SUMMER 2009**

# JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2009

Please note that this Newsletter, whilst preserving strictly a non-political nature, provides a forum for the views of the people of Leigh Woods and Long Ashton.

The members of the Parish Council do not necessarily share those views.

Un-attributed articles however are meant in general to be for the information and entertainment of the public and are largely authoritative.

The Editorial Group reserve the right to accept, reject or edit any material submitted for publication.

Editorial Group for this issue - Marilyn Addis MBE, Jean Pullin and Mary Uppington

*By submitting articles for publication  
you are also giving approval that they will also be used  
on the parish council website.*

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Long Ashton      Ann Foord      24 Long Ashton Road, BS21 9LD  
Tel: 391054

Leigh Woods      Audrey Moser CBE      11 Ardmore  
Vicarage Road, Leigh Woods  
Tel: 0117 973 9876

Future copy should be clearly labelled 'NEWSLETTER' and sent to

**45 Long Ashton Road, Bristol BS41 9HW.**

The CLOSING DATE for copy for the next edition covering the 4 months  
November and December 2009 and January and February 2010 is

**midday 1st October 2009**

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*Cover photo - Long Ashton Community Centre*

# CHAIRMAN'S NEWSLETTER JUNE 2009

My report for this Newsletter will be brief, as there is little to add to my last report.

The Government's development plans continue to occupy our minds and much time.

The current view is that 'Three Flips Blears' our Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, or her successor, will approve the Regional Spatial Strategy at the end of June. The fight against this undemocratic, unsustainable Government strategy continues, and I welcome HOLA's contribution to the struggle.

Should the RSS be approved at the end of June then inevitably there will be a flurry of planning applications in July and this will herald a new phase in the battle.

The current political situation coupled with cross party concern and opposition regarding the RSS could yet work in our favour.

Taylor Wimpey's appeal against planning refusal for two storey houses behind Fenshurst Gardens took place on the 6th and 7th May, details of which are covered in Mary Uppington's planning report.

The field to the east of Keeds Lane and north of Fenswood is, at long last, in the process of being landscaped. This will provide a sports field at the Keeds Lane end and a community facility to the west. The contractor has access via Keeds Lane and any damage to the Lane will be remedied after completion. Drainage issues have been agreed and will be carefully monitored.

We have a full and committed compliment of PC's and PCSO's in the village for which we must be grateful. Please report any vandalism or criminal activity or anything that is at all suspicious on **0845 4567000**.

It has seemed a long winter period; I trust that we can all enjoy a good summer in every respect.

Charles Cave, Chairman, Long Ashton Parish Council

# LONG ASHTON SURGERY NEWS - JUNE 2009



**Opening Hours** - In the last two surveys of patients registered with Long Ashton over 90% were satisfied with our opening hours. However, we recognise that it is important that we offer some choice for those who find it difficult to make an appointment during our current hours.

From 1st June 2009, we will be offering extra routine appointments either on a Saturday morning or a Wednesday evening every week. The Saturday morning appointments are bookable from 8.30am and the evening appointments will begin at 6.30pm. They are only bookable in advance either in person or by telephoning the surgery. There are notices and flyers in the surgery and information on our web-site to inform you of the changes.

It is important to emphasise that these will be for routine appointments only and any emergencies from 6.30pm each evening and all weekend will still be covered by the Out of Hours service based in Clevedon. Our telephone lines are re-directed to the Out of Hours Service during these times and we will not be available to answer queries or for the collection of prescriptions.

**Personnel changes** - We have a new receptionist at the surgery. She has taken over from Louise who has decided to take a very early retirement. I'm sure everyone will miss her but we are sure that Helen will be an excellent replacement.

We are delighted that Rachael, our Health Care Assistant has taken on the Support to Stop Smoking role. There are appointments on Thursday afternoons for anyone wishing to quit smoking.

In July we will be saying goodbye to Dr. Llewelyn for six months and her sessions on Wednesdays and Fridays will be taken by Dr. Buchan.

**Web Site** - The Surgery Web Site is to be found at:

[www.longashtonsurgery.co.uk](http://www.longashtonsurgery.co.uk)

Do visit it and let us know your comments - it is updated every quarter. I hope that during the year we may be able to develop booking appointments on line. You can already cancel appointments and leave messages on the site.

Please remember that repeat prescriptions ordered on line still take 2 working days to complete. Any urgent requests must be made in person at the surgery.

Eileen Butterworth - Practice Manager

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**Children's Holiday Club  
@ Hebron Church  
3rd - 7th August 2009  
10.00am - 12.30pm  
£5 cash per child ages 5 - 11**

Contact Andrew 392310 or  
Pauline 394102 to book  
[crusaders@hebronchurch.co.uk](mailto:crusaders@hebronchurch.co.uk)  
[www.hebronchurch.co.uk](http://www.hebronchurch.co.uk)

# POLICE NEWS

## *Crime rates for Long Ashton and Leigh Woods.*

The scale for measurement is as follows:-

High / Above Average / Average / Below Average / Low

### **For Long Ashton**

Rated as **AVERAGE** (6.7 crimes per 1000 head of population for period April 2008 - March 2009).

Rated as **HIGH** (11 crimes per 1000 head of population for period 2007-2008).

Long Ashton suffered 34 less crimes in 08/09 than in the previous year.

### **For Leigh Woods**

Rated **BELOW AVERAGE** (3.1 crimes per 1000 head of population for period April 2008 - March 2009).

Rated **BELOW AVERAGE** (4.5 crimes per 1000 head of population for period 2007-2008).

Abbots Leigh and Leigh Woods suffered 20 less crimes 08/09 than in the previous year.

In the last month we have started to see Shoplifting at the Co-op becoming a problem again for the first time in about a year. Three offences have been reported and all three have been detected.

## **ALL OFFENDERS WERE RESIDENTS OF LONG ASHTON!!!**

There have been reports of minor nuisance behaviour by local youths in the village at the Golf Course and the Recreation Ground. Directed patrols will be taking place to deal with this issue.

The force website is changing and this means that the way crime figures are presented to the public has changed. You cannot now access them from the beat pages but rather from the DOCUMENTS & INFORMATION section. You cannot call up graphs from previous years anymore and the main use is the 'Crime Mapping' that has been adopted nationally.

# POLICE PLEDGE

1. We will always treat you fairly.
2. We will make sure you know how to contact, and work with, your Safer Stronger Neighbourhood (SSN) teams.
3. These teams will be visibly working for you 80% of their time.
4. The SSN teams will get back to you within 24 hours. If necessary we will provide a more detailed response asap.
5. We will aim to answer 999 calls within 10 seconds, and we will get to emergencies as soon as we can safely do so. We aim to reach you within 15 minutes in towns and cities and 20 minutes in rural areas.
6. In other cases, if you need us, we'll aim to be there within an hour for neighbourhood priorities (you can see what they are on our website). If it's better for you we'll make an appointment within 48 hours of your call, or we'll gladly give advice, answer questions, or put you in touch with someone who can help.
7. We want to meet with people in your neighbourhood at least once a month - either informal PACT (Partners and Communities Together) meetings, which are advertised, or you can invite us to your own group's meetings. We will come to groups like Mother and Toddlers, Pensioners, Football Clubs or even the local supermarket.
8. We will provide updates every month on local issues either at meetings or on our website.
9. If you've been a victim of crime and you'd like us to visit, we will. We'll agree how often you want information on how the case is progressing - it could be as much as every month.  
The Code of Practice for Victims of Crime
10. If you are not happy with our service, we'll work with you to resolve things.

We want to do our best for you but if we fail to meet our Pledge we will always explain why it has not been possible on that occasion to deliver the high standards to which we aspire and you deserve.

# ***Beat Surgery Dates***

Tuesday **7th July** 2pm - 4pm Guides HQ, Long Ashton

Wednesday **8th July** 2pm - 4pm St. Mary's Church, Leigh Woods

Thursday **23rd July** 3pm - 4pm Long Ashton Library

## Skate Park Dates:

The Skate Park is being used at the Village Hall, Keedwell Hill, Long Ashton as follows:

Saturday **11th July** - Northleaze School Fete

Saturday **18th July** 1pm - 3pm

Saturday **2nd August** 12pm - 4pm

Wednesday **5th August** 1pm - 3pm

Wednesday **12th August** - 1pm - 3pm

Wednesday **19th August** - 1pm - 3pm

Wednesday **26th August** - 1pm - 3pm

Wednesday **2nd September** - 1pm - 3pm

Saturday **12th September & Sunday 13th September** - Bristol Kite Festival  
Ashton Court Estate

The Skate Park is also being used in Winford, St. Katherine's School (week long event tied to an exam project in July), Churchill, Backwell School and Rhyne View, Nailsea (Knightstone Housing event).

Trevor Byford, Beat Policeman

# Long Ashton Library

Did you know ....

***Our new opening hours*** mean that we are now open on Saturday afternoons until 4pm and Thursday evenings until 7pm.

***We have Story Time*** for pre-school children every Thursday afternoon from 2.30 until 3.00 (booking not necessary) and run a Bookcrawl scheme of stickers and certificates for under 4s.

***We have recently started two reading groups.*** The lunchtime group is on the second Tuesday of every month from 12.30pm until 1.30pm. The evening group is on the second Thursday of every month from 7pm until 8pm. We can also help you start your own Reading Group.

***North Somerset Streets and Open Spaces*** have a representative here to answer your questions on the first Thursday morning of every month between 10am and 12.30pm.

***A local Police Officer*** is here on the fourth Thursday afternoon of every month between 4pm and 5pm and you are welcome to drop in and discuss anything.

Please note our new telephone number at Long Ashton is 01934 426060 - just call us or pop in if you want any more information!

Kirsten, Dawn and Tina





## WESTLEAZE W.I.

Meetings are held in the Church House at 7.30 pm  
on the 1st Wednesday in the month

July 1st	INDIAN COOKERY - Ann Pring Competition: An Indian Memory
August	NO MEETING
September 2nd	DON'T PUT YOUR DAUGHTER ON THE STAGE! - Jenny Lane Competition: Old Theatre Programme
October 7th	LINE DANCING

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## LAILA

*(Long Ashton Independent Ladies Association)*

Meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month  
at 7.15 pm in the Village Hall

July 15th	1st BIRTHDAY DINNER
August	NO MEETING
September 16th	HOLLY HEDGE ANIMAL SANCTUARY - Pauline Leeson
October 21st	RATION BOOKS TO ROCK AND ROLL - Tim Merrett-Smith



## **Girlguiding Long Ashton District**



### **Celebrating 100 years of Guiding**

In 1909, two years after the first Scout camp was held on Brownsea Island, Robert Baden-Powell wanted to show the public how the Scout movement had progressed. He invited Scouts to meet at Crystal Palace Park on 4 September. Over 11,000 Scouts took up the invitation as did a group of girls who declared themselves to be Girl Scouts. Baden-Powell agreed to consider the girls' request to join in and in 1910 Guiding was born.

To mark the centenary, all units have been challenged to choose from 19 projects and raise funds to "Change the World". In Long Ashton District, the units are raising funds for Camfed which helps to provide girls' education in Africa; the National Deaf Children's Society; the Woodland Trust; and the Mental Health Foundation.

In February 2010, we are planning to mount a display in Long Ashton library portraying the history of Guiding in Long Ashton District. If you were a Rainbow, Brownie or Guide in Long Ashton or Failand and have a photograph or a memory of Guiding which you would like to share with us, we would be very pleased to hear from you.

Jane Penrose

Tel: 393727

# LONG ASHTON PARISH PLAN

*A dedicated group has been working on the Parish Plan since 2005. Many of you will have come to the meetings, responded at our stands at the Village Festival or Flower Show and completed the questionnaires. It has been a huge task!*

The key was consultation on what you want for the village for the next 10 years so your feedback was essential and came flooding in. We have now collated the results from the questionnaires: nearly 1300 (plus 366 from young people) in Long Ashton and 165 in Leigh Woods. The full report includes the background to the process, details of the results and the Action Plan. It will be available in the Library at the end of the summer but a summary follows so that every household can see the main results.

The details can be viewed on:

**[www.longashtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.longashtonparishcouncil.gov.uk) and [www.longashton.org.uk](http://www.longashton.org.uk)**

Please visit these websites to see diagrams and sketches mentioned in the summary. In Leigh Woods, you have already received a copy of your Action Plan.

One word on the timing: the questionnaire was completed in December 2006. At that time, the shortage of primary school places was not apparent so it is only since then that it has become clear that this is a major issue for the village.

A grant of £3500 was received through Community Action from the Department of the Environment. Long Ashton Parish Council has contributed over £700 in kind and in grant. The main expenses have been printing and room hire.

Now that the village's priorities have been properly researched and documented, we need to take steps to achieve those desires. We all have a part to play in this. The next stage is to set up a Parish Plan Action group as explained in "What Next?" at the end of the summary. If you would like to be involved in this, please contact the Parish Clerk.

Thanks to all who helped throughout this long process; it was a real community effort.

Sheila Hardingham

# LONG ASHTON PARISH PLAN - Executive Summary

## **Building in the Green Belt**

The vast majority of people who responded from the village of Long Ashton would like it to remain administratively and physically separate from Bristol and it was felt that it is of utmost importance to maintain the green belt that surrounds it, thus ensuring its continued existence as a sustainable, viable distinct community.

*“Unfortunately Long Ashton is quickly losing its village status due to the huge housing development at the western end. What would I like to see in the next five years? No more building!”*

*“Important to preserve beauty of landscape. Expansion of Long Ashton has gone far enough.”*

## **Centre of the village - future development**

A frequent comment was that the village lacks a recognisable centre. Some of the individual ideas expressed in this document might go some way to address this, particularly if signing to the Community Centre was improved. However, it should be borne in mind that if any land becomes available near the centre of the village, then priority must be given to development for the good of the community as a whole.

## **Community Spirit**

### **Village Flower Show**

Long Ashton is a thriving village even though it is so close to the city of Bristol, the reason being that many people come here because they want to be part of a recognisable community. WELCOME LA packs are delivered to new residents, and every encouragement is given to them to become involved in the community.

There was considerable support for a social club of some sort, so this possibility (and a possible Long Ashton Society) should be explored through a forum of the village’s existing clubs and societies. Such as society could also follow up other issues from the Parish Plan.

## **Economy**

The significant factor seems to be the proximity of a large city with good shopping and entertainment, to which the village is a dormitory; this largely restricts the economy to provision of local services. There are about 80 businesses in the village which include a few farms, reminders of the rural past. The University of Bristol Research Station, the only large employer, has been replaced by a housing estate and includes a business area which provides employment locally and reduces traffic to Bristol.

If Home Workers can be identified, it is suggested that another attempt be made to interest them in a programme of cooperation. Perhaps there could be some publicity and a pilot meeting arranged.

The possibility, which was supported by some written comments in the questionnaire, of a new branch bank should be investigated; the last one is now a dental surgery.

There was only moderate (50%) support of a web based directory, but it might play a useful part in this campaign.

The Parish Plan Action Group should be prepared to try to arrange grants from public funds, such as the “Community Chest” or negotiate funds from charities and other non government sources.

*“A similar number of shops, but more useful ones eg butchers, fishmongers, greengrocers.”*

*“Farmers markets should include local farmers to showcase their products.”*

## **Facilities**

There is clear support for more sports facilities in the village for all ages and for more structured activities for young people. What is needed:

- A junior football pitch
- Land for a purpose built youth centre and a new scouts hut
- A structure for providing coaching, with suitable insurance
- A Youth Club opening more than two evenings a week
- A playground near the Bristol end of the village
- Allotments within the village

*“I would like to see a bank back in Long Ashton plus more shops and more doctors.”*

## **Future Developments**

There is clear resistance to further major house building in and around Long Ashton; however, if indeed this happens, the needs of the village identified in the survey must be addressed. This executive summary is a good starting point for highlighting what needs to be done. It is believed that there is a lack of infrastructure and facilities already available for a community of our present size, so any increase would involve urgent improvements, which can be outlined as follows:

- Commuting infrastructure improvements to relieve the traffic congestion into Bristol
- Cheaper and more frequent bus services
- Improved youth facilities (see Facilities above)
- Additional retail outlets
- Better sports and leisure facilities (see Facilities above)
- Improved care and accommodation for the elderly and housebound
- Preservation of village cohesion, e.g. by support for the Community Centre as well as all village clubs and fellowships
- Enhancing the centre of the village
- Local schools for the children who live there

## **Housing**

One area of concern was the need for more suitable accommodation for people with limited mobility, and investigations should be undertaken into its provision.

The availability of affordable housing for local residents to allow them to live close to their families was also felt to be required as a sizeable number said that either family or friends had to leave the area due to the lack of appropriate housing. More residential units for the elderly are wanted right across the price range from affordable to “superior”.

Long Ashton has a markedly high proportion of elderly residents. The development on the Research Station included planning consent for sheltered accommodation which regrettably the developers did not pursue.

A significant finding of this part of the consultation is that most residents agree that it would benefit the community to have a public garden with seating.

## **Inconsiderate Parking**

This is everyone's bugbear. A review of double yellow lines would be some help, but only if enforcement is then clearly followed up. The particular problem areas would appear to be around the new developments, Church House and lorries unloading to the front of the Co-op.

There is feeling that people are parking without consideration - across the lowered kerbs, on pavements around the village particularly near the doctors surgery, Post Office, Co-op and library. In general it was felt that better enforcement of parking regulations would be advantageous.

*“Something must be done about inconsiderate parking especially in Providence Lane opposite Short Lane where cars and vans are permanently left on a blind bend and the brow of a hill.”*

*“There are clearly sections of the main road where double yellow lines are necessary, but they should be used with single yellow lines with constraints on parking at specific times.”*

## **Long Ashton Enhancement Scheme**

The area around the shops was particularly highlighted as a quarter that lets the village down. One resident prepared 2 sketches of how parts could look with more planting and seating. A scheme should be drawn up to bring together these ideas, to make this area more pedestrian friendly and attractive. Traders could get involved, and grants could be accessed. Planting is one small step to a greener environment.

## **Older People Health and Social Care**

NHS North Somerset should ensure the residents living in the parish of Long Ashton should have fair access to hospital services in Bristol, as it is the nearest and most convenient place to access, judging by the results of this consultation.

The provision of the needs and support required by those in the community with a long term condition needs to be investigated further to ensure that they are having the health and social care to which they are entitled.

We believe it is important these issues are addressed when so many people are concerned.

## **Planting and Seating Areas**

The majority of people would like to see more flowers and shrubs around the village and investigation needs to be undertaken as to the location and costs.

Extra seating in some areas was also requested, in areas such as Dawson's Walk and Church House car park.

*“A pleasant park where the elderly and Mums with prams can sit in peace would be a great asset.”*

## **Policing**

There is great dissatisfaction with police presence in the village. Discussions with the police are needed; little is known about the working of the Local Action Team. They need to undertake a considerable amount of public communication. It is noticeable that young people are unhappy about the amount of anti-social behaviour in the villages as they themselves feel unsafe and are frequently the victims.

*“Nuisance behaviour must be the first priority. It has been happening for a long time and still persists.”*

*“More frequent police patrols at evenings and weekends to prevent vandalism and intimidation.”*

## **Shops**

Every encouragement should be given to maintain the shops in and close to the village and discourage any of them turning into offices. Many comments called for better and more vibrant shops, so it is hoped that the increased population in the village can lead to this. It was also felt that the Co-op car park would benefit from better lighting.

## **Traffic Calming**

Traffic speed is a major concern, and particularly has an impact on children. It affects willingness to walk, and therefore the extent of physical exercise taken, and for children, their freedom is curtailed.

We should anticipate an increase in traffic through the village if there are to be traffic lights or other major junctions introduced onto the A370. In addition, measures are needed to address the particular problems of the “rat-run” routes along Glebe Road and Providence Lane.

## **Traffic Congestion and Public Transport**

The traffic jams and delays getting into Bristol, and to the Park & Ride, were frequently mentioned as a problem for the village. Coupled with the expensive and infrequent bus service (another particular problem for older children), the real problems are not being addressed at present. The roads are becoming a car park for local and commuter vehicles. Another Park & Ride should be provided before traffic reaches Long Ashton. There should be more frequent and cheaper buses through the village. We could consider a community bus service to cover all parts of the village and connect with the Park & Ride. Extended provision of safe cycling routes is required.

## **Young People Issues**

In general most young people thought Long Ashton was an attractive place to live but that it had a problem with the amount of litter that there currently was and felt more ought to be done to keep it clean. They also felt that they would walk and cycle more if the roads and pavement were made safer. Younger children are particularly concerned about road safety; for example, the danger of crossing roads restricts their independence.

General safety around the parish was also felt to be an issue by 50% of those that answered the questionnaire, with the recreation ground and outside the Co-op being cited as particular problem areas. Inconsiderate behaviour by some teenagers intimidates younger children, and restricts their activity.

There was a general feeling that the Youth Club was not a popular place for the majority of young people, and that more was needed to be done to communicate what was available; also the current range of activities for young people should be extended.

Many young people requested an informal meeting place such as a youth cafe where they could meet their friends in a safe, friendly environment. There was also a request for more sports facilities in Long Ashton, and these ranged from a new junior football pitch to a climbing wall. Many of the young people were also interested in expanding the availability of art, music and drama workshops and courses.

The majority favoured the formation of summer activity club during the school holidays, and more research needs to be done to clarify details as to what is required.

Lastly but by no means least was the need for a new Scout Headquarters to replace the present unsuitable building , and/or a Youth Centre. Again more information is needed to find a possible solution.

On a more positive note, a Youth Matters group has been set up as a result of Parish Plan initiatives.

## **What next?**

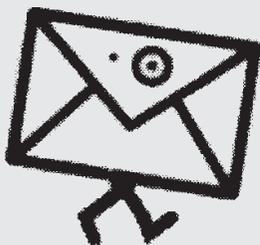
The steering group plan to establish a Parish Plan Action Group of representatives of various groups and organisations to assist in moving forward the actions outlined in the attached Action Plan. The Parish Plan Action Group should include representatives of the village business community, statutory authorities, local groups and organisations and members of the community.

The aims of the Action Group will be:

- To implement the Action Plan (“the Action Plan”) contained in the Parish Plan for Long Ashton 2008-18 (“the Parish Plan”)
- To liaise between existing community groups, working groups set up specifically to progress the objectives of the Parish Plan and the Long Ashton Parish Council

- To act as a reporting point for such existing community and working groups and to coordinate their activities where appropriate
- To identify sources of funding for the implementation of the Action Plan
- To liaise with relevant local government and other public authorities and voluntary social and leisure organisations with a view to facilitating the implementation of the Action Plan
- To publicise projects and activities aimed at the implementation of the Action Plan and to report to the community on the progress of the Plan
- To approach the District Council for small grants for public expenditure
- To give advice and support for individual businesses or organisations applying for grants
- To give help and advice in seeking planning permission and funding for larger projects.

## **Do you want to write to Long Ashton Parish Council?**



Please address your letter to:  
Mrs. M. Addis, MBE,  
Clerk to Long Ashton Parish Council  
45 Long Ashton Road  
Bristol BS41 9HW  
e-mail [clerk@longashtonparishcouncil.com](mailto:clerk@longashtonparishcouncil.com)

This is a part-time position and she can usually be contacted  
mornings on 01275 393551



## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The Council minutes are held in the Library and can be found on our website - [www.longashtonparishcouncil.com](http://www.longashtonparishcouncil.com)

Missed the Annual Parish Meeting? You can read the Annual Statement for 2008/09.

The Parish Council has for many years run its own Best Kept Road and Best Kept Cul-de-Sac competitions. Judging will take place during the summer and results will be announced in the October Newsletter.

### ***NEW THIS YEAR***

This year there will be a new category - a 'Nominated Best Kept Garden' shield. Any resident can nominate an individual address (but not your own) and all nominations must be sent to the Clerk by 7th July. You can nominate one garden.

**RESULTS IN OCTOBER NEWSLETTER.**

Parish Councillors were pleased to hear that Leigh Woods will remain within the Long Ashton Parish, an arrangement unchanged since the establishment of parish councils in 1894.

Mrs. M. Addis MBE, Clerk to Long Ashton Parish Council,  
45 Long Ashton Road, Long Ashton, Bristol, BS41 9HW. 01275 393551  
[clerk@longashtonparishcouncil.com](mailto:clerk@longashtonparishcouncil.com)

# TRANSITION LONG ASHTON

## towards a sustainable future

Transition is about working together to strengthen the local community and end our reliance on fossil fuels, which are the cause of climate change and which will become scarce.

Our transition group is one year old, so how have we started living more locally and low-carbon in that time? Here is feedback from a few of the people who have got involved:

**Food growing** - "Grow it Group has made me more knowledgeable and nurtured our desire to grow fruit and veg" "Definitely tried to grow more veg (with varying success!) with much encouragement from Deryll and friends" (2nd Tuesday of the month, contact Deryll Hibbitt on 392587) "Got hens" (several people) "going to have chicks" "Planted more fruit trees .... got a free shed through someone I'd met in transition, and built a greenhouse from scavenged materials" "...no more bedding plants and instead an attractive and interesting (I hope) veg garden"

**Local food** - "You have created the Thursday afternoon 'market' which makes it so easy to shop local" (you can now buy pre-ordered local veg, meat and bread every Thursday at the village hall, 4.30 - 6.30) "Buy our beef and lamb (and chickens when available) from Nailsea Farmer's market and other meat from a butcher close to my work, so that we buy no meat at all from supermarkets"

**Community** - "...meet a large number and wide variety of people in the village with a shared interest and a common set of values" "I have got active in LA life again and have enjoyed meeting so many new people with like minds" "... the varied group that I now count as friends and who I would not otherwise have known"

**Energy** - "We have had solar panels (hot water) and pv (electric generating) panels - I had thought about it before but don't think we would ever have done anything about it" (Long Ashton has possibly the highest concentration of domestic solar panels in the country). "Talked to LACA and Church House about fitting solar panels"

**Transport** - "I bought a bike by advertising in the Post Office, then getting it fixed by a local repair man Charlie Bland in Hillside Road" "Charlie Bland is quite a hidden asset. His skills and encouragement - not to mention his example - would get anyone on their bikes" (Tel 393696) "Started cycling to work" "Lift share to work regularly" "...plan holidays which involve boats and trains rather than planes"!

**Lifestyle** - "... a positive experience in every way and constantly challenges us to make changes to our lifestyle" "We go for a picnic in Ashton Court instead of driving miles to tourist beauty spots" "A simpler life is a better life - I've stopped reading magazines which always made me feel dissatisfied"

**And in the future?** In September we have another Transition Cafe on the day of the Flower Show, and a Green Open Doors day.

In October a showing of the film, 'Age of Stupid', and on 24th local activities as part of the international '350' campaign aimed at our leaders who will be attending Copenhagen climate talks.

To join our e-mail list: [transitionla@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:transitionla@blueyonder.co.uk)  
Visit our website: [www.transitionlongashton.org.uk](http://www.transitionlongashton.org.uk)

## WARM STREETS

Transition Long Ashton has been invited to participate in this government funded scheme to encourage all householders to install roof and cavity wall insulation in their homes.

Grants are currently available to everyone and it is one of the most effective ways to reduce your energy costs and carbon footprint.

You will be astonished how quickly you will recover any cost not covered by the grant in reduced heating bills.

If you want to learn more about the scheme or have someone visit your house to advise please contact Ian Webb on 01275 392187.

We are also keen to know how many houses are already fully insulated. This means cavity wall insulation if applicable and 250mm of roof insulation.

# FINAL LAMPRO REPORT

## 1. Introduction

Our last report in September 2006 outlined various proposals for spending the money from the Section 106 agreement. The sum of £420,142.86 was paid to the Parish Council in September 2006 for the LAMPRO project, ‘ ... *to upgrade the facilities at the village hall complex which includes the village hall recreation ground ...* ’.

We are pleased to report that all the projects proposed have now been completed, with the single exception of Keeds Hall Store. Plans for this were drawn up, but the budget cost of £45,000 was considered excessive for the benefits obtained.

## 2. What we did

At the end of this report is a summary of projects completed and their cost. Some funding was provided from other sources such as a grant of £20,000 from Yansec for the Tennis pavilion, local fundraising and contributions from the Redevelopment Fund, Playground Fund and LACA.

## 3. How we did it

Various specialist contractors were used for the playground, roofing works, Village Hall kitchen and other minor works. The Tennis Pavilion was built by Archway Construction, with services provided by specialist contractors. We are grateful to Mike Mizen for overseeing this project and to David Addis for additional work. Judith Bridges project-managed the Playground works.

Considerable research and thought went into the best way of managing the Village Hall Refurbishment Project, as this was clearly going to be the major expense and we needed to make sure we were not only spending the money wisely, but also getting the best value. After considering various options, we decided to employ Ken Biggs Contractors, who had built the Club Room in 2001. The contract was managed by Open Book Negotiation which meant we could see exactly where every penny was being spent. This made it easier to prioritise work, and we were able to cut back on inessentials where appropriate. Invaluable professional back-up was provided by Barrie Hunt, a Quantity Surveyor from Gardiner Theobold. We also employed Architect John Orchard to provide cover for the CDM regulations. A sub-committee of LAMPRO

and LACA members supervised the contract on a day-to-day basis, and we were delighted that the project was finished on time and to such a high standard. Specialist contractors were used for the stage lighting & curtains, PA system and floor sanding & sealing. All user groups are now enjoying the upgraded facilities and LACA has received much complimentary feedback on the improvements.

#### **4. Funds remaining**

By careful investment, a sum of around £20,000 (part of the interest accrued) has been passed to the Community Association, ring-fenced for the upkeep of the improved facilities.

#### **5. And finally .....**

We feel that the original aim of LAMPRO: ‘ ... *to ensure that all users of the Community Centre are provided with good facilities for the new century.* ’ has now been met. The LAMPRO Steering Group has therefore finished its work and has disbanded. We are most grateful to the many, many people who have contributed in different ways over the years. We could not have completed this project so successfully without their help and support.

I would like to take this opportunity to offer my thanks to all the members of the LAMPRO committee for the time, energy and dedication they have given over the past few years, resulting in the new and improved facilities for the village of Long Ashton. David Addis as our Secretary has given many hours to this project and my personal thanks to him for the professional way he has dealt with the running of the Committee.

Sara Taylor, our Treasurer, has been a member of the LAMPRO team since its conception in 1977 and has been the instigator in obtaining numerous grants which enabled us to complete the project. My thanks to her, for her enthusiasm and for keeping such a tight control on our finances.

Our task is now completed and we trust that you will all enjoy the new facilities.

Jonathan D. Skeeles - Chairman LAMPRO Committee

# LAMPRO Projects 2004 - 2009 Summary

Project	Cost
Tennis Pavilion	96,699
<u>Refurbishment project:</u> Village Hall, Manager's Office, Green Room, Changing Rooms, Griffin Lounge, Keeps Hall, Car park and other external work	241,342
Village Hall Kitchen	36,041
Village Hall Pitched Roofs	19,970
Keeds Hall Roof	9,765
<u>Playground</u> Arena	45,639
Toddlers' Play area safety surfacing	14,186
Supernova	4,791
<u>Small Projects</u> Pavilion improvements	3,830
Exterior work - fencing & tree felling	3,039
Skate ramp contribution	540
Admin - auditing & miscellaneous	2,288
Keeds Hall store plans (not built)	773
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>478,903</b>

# PARKING!

During the past few months more and more people have expressed their concern about the large number of vehicles that are parked on the roads, pavements and turning circle spaces throughout our village.

This is particularly noticeable in our side roads where cars or other vehicles are often parked indiscriminately causing an obstruction which could prevent an ambulance or a fire fighting appliance reaching someone who had summoned them to an emergency. It can also be a hazard for residents who are blind or those who use a “buggy” to carry children.

Residents at the majority of our properties have one or more vehicles for their use.

**Please think - Do I always park as thoughtfully as I might!**

How about all of us trying to get as many vehicles as possible off our roads by using our garage, parking on our front drive and avoiding any parking close to a road junction.

This could make such a difference to our environment and improve road safety.

Highways Committee





# Long Ashton Community Association

The Community Association are delighted that the hedge plants around the recreation ground are becoming established and enjoyed by all. We would also like to thank all dog owners who clean up after their dog.

However, lately the amount of dog mess being reported to us, particularly on the football pitch and along the Keeds Lane side of the hedge has substantially increased.

Please could ALL dog owners wrap up their dog mess and put it in the bins provided. Dog mess is not only dangerous to the children playing in this area but also means that those maintaining the area have a harder and more unpleasant job to do.

Thank you for your help.



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## A Long Ashton Childhood (1940 - 1950)

Restrictions of space preclude the printing of the second instalment of Mary Magro's story.

We hope the concluding episode will appear in October.

# Footpath Leaflets

Two leaflets are available to help you enjoy walking in Long Ashton's own Green Belt.

They are free, and can be picked up at the library in Lovelinch Gardens or at The Little Tipple, 50 Weston Road.

Don't forget there is also the Village Circular Walk that encircles the village.

This has special way-marks to follow. One of the free leaflets includes ways in which you can link up with the Village Circular Walk.

Tony Hibbitt

## FOOTPATH WALKS

SUNDAYS

*July 5th*

*August 2nd*

*September 6th*

*October 4th*

*Meet at 'The Little Tipple'  
at 2.30 pm*

*Everyone welcome, come and join us.*

*Harry Williams 392690*



# PLANNING



A public inquiry was held in the Pavilion on May 6 and 7 following Wimpey's appeal against North Somerset's decision not to accept their plans for building on the land behind Lampton Road and Fenshurst Gardens.

The Inspector, Gareth Issac, presided over an interesting meeting to hear the case put forward by the appellants and objectors.

About thirty people attended at various times during the two days and it was pleasing that, in addition to speakers from the District and Parish Council, a number of residents who live close to the site spoke against these plans. Without exception we all gave the same message - "because the land in question is at a significantly higher level single storey properties should be built to avoid the development being overpowering".

Those who spoke on behalf of Wimpey made their case for building two storey properties and one of the main reasons for their decisions was obviously centred around the profit they would receive. The drop in floor space, if bungalows were provided, would give "an unthinkable drop for a house builder" we were told. They were proposing properties which would maximise their profit and appeared to have little or no consideration for the effect on those living in adjacent roads.

Throughout the two days the inspector was most accommodating. He gave residents the opportunity to question the appellants and at the end of the inquiry went to the homes of all those in Fenshurst Gardens, Pear Tree Avenue and Perry Road who requested a visit. This meant he was able to see very clearly just what the proposed development would mean to those already living there. It was wonderful to have residents taking such an active part as I believe it is the local voice which is so important. We have certainly done all we can and must now hope the Inspector, who plans for the decision to reach us by the end of June, will dismiss this appeal.

Proposed developments south of Bristol in North Somerset are still receiving attention. We are now given to understand that the final recommendations on the Regional Spatial Strategy should be published at the end of June. Whenever this does come to hand we shall be able to see just how much notice has been taken of all the objections made to the excessive number of dwellings proposed!

Another area being threatened is the land which lies to the east of Wild Country Lane as we understand Bristol University want to seek planning permission for a large number of dwellings. At present this land lies in the Green Belt so this news is far from welcome! and any such plans will no doubt be opposed.

Mary Uppington - Chairman, Planning Committee.

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## **Annual Granny Trek 2009**

### **for Children's Hospice South West**

The fourth Annual Granny Trek for Children's Hospice South West was held at Charlton Farm on 26th April and was a resounding success. Six hundred walkers took advantage of the fine weather to tramp through the bluebell woods and those tackling the six miles found the new route through the Tyntesfield Estate most enjoyable and far less taxing than previous years.

It is hoped that last year's total of £38,000 will be surpassed and huge thanks are due to the Rotarians of Bristol Severnside who do so much to help with



children's hospice  
SOUTH WEST

the organisation and manning of the walks and car parks. However, even more gratitude goes to all those who took part and gave generously of their time and money.

Next year's date for your diary: Sunday, 25th April 2010.

[www.grannytrek.co.uk](http://www.grannytrek.co.uk)

# ALL SAINTS CHURCH LONG ASHTON



## Dorian String Quartet

Haydn, Op. 77 No. 1 Allegro, adagio, minuet, vivace.

Mozart, K464 Allegro, andante, minuet, allegro

Mozart quintet K581 allegro, minuet, largo, variations

**TUESDAY 30 JUNE 2009**

**7.30 pm**

**Tickets £7 (including refreshments)**

**From the Church Office 393109  
or Church Warden**