

# **Taynton Parish Council**

## **Chairman's Report**

**5th May 2024**

### **Planning**

The main focus for the Parish Council since April 2023 has been several important planning applications and decisions.

The first was the Planning Approval with conditions, for the development of land at Highleadon, Laynes Farm of a Solar Array capable of producing 49.9MW of power over the next 40 years. The development was in Highleadon with Rudford Parish, but bordered Taynton at the western end. Taynton Parish Council (TPC) objected to the application in the form it was presented and suggested changes to the area of land at the western end, which affected Taynton residents. The Development Committee at the Forest of Dean District Council (FoDDC) did not consider our objection important.

There is an ongoing application, yet to come to the Development Committee of FoDDC, for another Solar Array, of 49.9MW, at Moat Farm, Newent. This development borders very closely residents of Taynton in Kents Green. TPC have sent their comments to FoDDC objecting to this development. The land north of Kents Green slopes downhill and the array would be clearly visible to many residents of Kents Green. The proximity of the array to some residential properties is far too close in our view. Given the approval of Laynes Farm Solar Development and the existing smaller array at Rymes Place, TPC consider that the cumulative impact of a further huge development would drastically alter the existing landscape and would have significant environmental impact. Our comments to FoDDC can be seen on the Planning Portal at FoDDC.

Another Planning Application for change of use of agricultural land and erection of a farm shop in Moat Lane Taynton was rejected by FoDDC. There was opposition to the application from local residents and TPC.

### **Councillor Resignations**

Two councillors tendered their resignation during 2023 because of personal work pressure. We received an application from Sarah Fishpool of Taynton to replace Jason Smerdon, and TPC was delighted to co-opt Sarah Fishpool as a councillor, on 13th December 2023. Sarah brings a wealth of experience to the position.

Jo Burston, of May Hill also resigned and as yet, the vacancy for a councillor, preferably from May Hill, has not been filled.

The Chair would like to put on record the Council's thanks for the hard work and interest by both Jason Smerdon and Jo Burston in their time as councillors.

## **Broadband**

At long last, most of the residents of Taynton Parish, have access to full fibre to the premises for their broadband provision. This is provided by Gigaclear, together with a land line digital telephone service if residents wish.

## **Highways**

There have been ongoing Highway issues, in particular, the sleepers on the road at Hownhall remain.

Road closures of the Taynton to Newent road, since March 2024 until 3rd May 2024 have greatly inconvenienced residents and, we believe, has led to worsening of the road surface on alternative routes, such as through Anthonys Cross, Kents Green, and the Glasshouse to Cliffords Mesne road. Unfortunately, the road will be closed again at the junction with Judges Lane from 7.5.24 to 28.5.24 for Severn Trent to lay a new mains pipe. Judges Lane itself will be closed for 3 months.

All TPC meetings are open to the public, although public participation is limited, by the Standing Orders of the Council. An annual residents meeting is the forum for residents to raise issues with the council. This will be on Thursday 9th May at Taynton and Tibberton VH at 7.30pm.

David Sillince

Chair, Taynton Parish Council

5.5.2024