

**PAULTON PARISH  
COUNCIL**

**NEWSLETTER**  
and  
**BUSINESS PLAN**  
**2008/2010**

# **THE AIM OF PAULTON PARISH COUNCIL**

To try to make Paulton a better place to live, work in and visit.

## **WHAT IS THE COUNCIL'S ROLE?**

- To ensure "best value" in relation to local taxes
- To listen to and represent local peoples' interests
- To improve the local environment
- To ensure areas of land and properties they hold as owners and lessees are administered efficiently and in the best interests of parishioners
- To submit views on planning applications
- To provide local services i.e. street cleansing and the maintenance of open spaces including public rights of way
- To support voluntary and community groups for the benefit of the parish
- To attract Government, lottery and other grants into the local area
- To provide leadership in the community
- To promote local business growth
- To ensure its own employees are managed and trained to perform their duties to their best ability
- To encourage parishioners to participate in village life/activities

## **HOW DOES THE COUNCIL FULFILL THIS ROLE?**

Paulton Parish Council has 21 parish councillors who, by attending meetings, discuss, debate and decide on matters affecting local people.

The following committees, with delegated responsibilities, undertake the work of the parish council:

- Amenities (local environment and facilities)
- Health and Safety
- Highways
- Parks and Cemetery (Memorial Park, Miners Welfare Recreation Ground, Wallenge Open Space, cemetery and war memorial)
- Planning
- Finance and General Purposes

In addition to the above there are several sub-committees and working parties. Parish councillors also serve as representatives on local management committees and organisations.

## **2008/2009 PRECEPT INFORMATION**

A "precept" is the money a parish council raises in order to carry out its duties and functions for the year. For the 2008/09 financial year Paulton Parish Council has raised a precept of £150,000 – the same as 2007/08. This is an annual charge of £88.47 for a Band D property in Paulton (£1.70 per Band D property per week).

Council reserves have been allocated for expenditure in 2008/09 to enable the precept to be retained at £150,000

## PERFORMANCE AGAINST 2007/2008 TARGETS

TARGET	PERFORMANCE
Install a 'mobilus' unit the play area in the Memorial Park	The unit was installed in March 2008.
Install floodlights and repair/replace the fencing around the tennis court in the Memorial Park	The floodlights are installed and the fence will be replaced in April/May 2008
Agree a programme of maintenance for the public footpaths to ensure they are adequately maintained	The council renewed their agency agreement and is paid by B&NES to cut the surface vegetation from the footpaths
Install new flooring in the village hall	A new floor was laid in April 2007
Purchase a new tractor for use in the recreation areas around the parish	A tractor was purchased in April 2007
Encourage community action and participation by instigating the preparation of a Paulton Community Plan	The council supported the formation of a Paulton Community Plan Steering Group and the members are working, independently of the council, on the preparation of a Community Plan
Improve the drainage of surface water from the upper area of the Miners Welfare Recreation Ground	A French drain was built which has improved the drainage of surplus water from the upper football pitch and the BMX track

## NEW TARGETS FOR 2008/2009

Much of the work of the parish council continues from year to year but the following are new projects/targets proposed for 2008/09:

- Renovate and upgrade the toilets in the village hall
- Install an extension to the 'Nexus' play unit in the Memorial Park
- Install a multi-activity hard surfaced sports court in the Memorial Park
- Produce a report on the environmental impact of the services provided by the council with a view to setting future targets for energy reduction
- Produce an up to date map of the village which will show the routes of all the public rights of way in the parish
- To liaise with the developers and the planning authority during the planning process for the development of the former print works site.

Funds for the above works have been allocated in the council's budget for 2008/09. It must be noted however that it is possible that financial pressure from other essential services undertaken by the parish council may, by necessity, affect priorities.

## POSSIBLE TARGETS FOR 2009/2010

During 2008/2009 the parish council will be considering and costing projects and targets to be undertaken during the following financial year. Currently the following are under consideration and comments on these and any alternatives will be welcomed:

- Renovate the bar area and redecorate the village hall
- Upgrade the Purnell Memorial Garden
- Campaign for the installation of controlled pedestrian crossings at appropriate places in the village
- Produce a leaflet of a parish rural walk
- Seek funding to improve play facilities at Wallenge Open Space and the Miners Welfare Recreation Ground
- To consider alternative uses for the cemetery chapel
- To continue to lobby Somerfield to upgrade the precinct in the centre of the village
- To seek funding to replace the changing rooms at the Miners Welfare Recreation Ground
- To create a fund for the future maintenance of the council's recreation facilities.

## **CHALLENGES FOR THE FUTURE**

The council is very aware of the profound impact that the proposed development of the former print works site will have on the village and its residents and businesses. It is therefore important that the council is informed and understands the needs of both residents and businesses in order to represent their interests.

The issue of "double taxation" is also a particular concern for the council. The parish council does not receive any financial assistance for the general maintenance of the cemetery and recreation areas in Paulton but parishioners pay towards the maintenance of similar areas in Bath. The council considers the resolution of this issue to be an ongoing challenge until it is satisfactorily resolved.

**Please complete and return the form below and let the council know your views, hopes and concerns for the future of your village**

### **Comment from the Chair of Paulton Parish Council**

The idea that Paulton Parish Council should produce a Business Plan was put forward in 2006 by a relatively new member of the council. We found that the process of preparing the plan gave added focus on how the council delivers its services and a better idea for future planning. Our first Business Plan was well received and members unanimously agreed to continue producing annual plans.

Please contribute to this process and forward your comments on the Business Plan to the council. Members are particularly interested in hearing **your** views on the section titled 'Possible Targets for 2009/10'.

**Graham Dix**

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**Your views are needed!**

**Please respond to:**

Paulton Parish Council, The Village Hall, Farrington Road, Paulton, Bristol BS39 7LW  
Telephone: 01761 413644 Fax: 01761 413679 E-mail: [paultonparishcouncil@btconnect.com](mailto:paultonparishcouncil@btconnect.com).

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

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**What is your opinion on the council's suggested targets for 2009/10 as listed overleaf?**

**Do you have any other suggestions/proposals/comments that you would like the council to consider?**

Name:

Date:

Contact address/tel/email: