



Southam Parish Council



MINUTES (subject to agreement at the next Council meeting) of the
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING of SOUTHAM PARISH

which took place in the Village Hall School Lane, Southam at 7.30pm on Tuesday 8th April 2025.

Present: 12 members of the public, County Councillor David Gray, Borough Councillor Cheryl Agg, Parish Councillors S Lennon (Chairing), R Prince, P Sissons, R Torrington, K Fish, J Calam, Clerk/RFO

1. Welcome from the Chair

Cllr. Lennon welcomed everyone to the meeting and to partake in refreshments.

Annual Report of Southam Parish Council

This year councillors have been absorbed in planning matters adversely affecting the Greenbelt. During that time we have seen a change in Government and amendments to the National Planning Policy Framework. This has stalled some work to the Strategic Local Plan and Tewkesbury Local Plan. The Planning Inspectors attitude to the Greenbelt/Grey Belt will be revealed in the first few Appeal Hearings under the new regime. The Council has done its best to represent the views of residents and is grateful to everyone who funded specialist planning advice. We await with interest the outcome of the planning appeal relating to the Land East of Kayte Lane, which is being dealt by written representations to the Planning Inspectorate.

We are now being consulted on devolution and what it means to the lower tier of local Government. It is likely that Cheltenham Borough may evolve into a Town Council. Parishes might take on further responsibilities and parish boundaries could change. Every authority is moving into unchartered territory.

In 2025/2026 we hope to focus on more positive things, bringing benefit to the community with expenditure from Community Infrastructure Levy. We will consult you about this.

During early March, the PC conducted a well-attended walkabout in Southam and Noverton, to highlight parts of the parish that may warrant further attention.

Throughout the year we have closely monitored the footpaths around the village and reported matters requiring attention.

We will be launching our new website on the 14th April 2025 and will be changing over to new email contact addresses. These details will be published on our noticeboards and through the newsletter.

During the year we made a donation to the Royal British Legion who help to organise the Remembrance Day Parade. We would encourage local organisations to apply to us for funding for any community activities which are run on a non-profit basis as we are here to help.

We have participated in licensing reviews in relation to events held local to the parish, to ensure that due consideration is given to the impact on residents and noise/traffic nuisance mitigated where possible.

We have said a reluctant farewell to Cllr. Joseph Welsh and welcomed Cllr. Karen Fish. The Council would like to thank volunteers that have helped during the year in relation to the Remembrance Day Parade, monitoring and reporting on traffic speeds, tending the village planters and repairing the bus shelter/grit bin.

2. An Introduction to Foodbank

Gill Donovan gave a talk on the work of Foodbank. Bishops Cleeve is the busiest Foodbank and is run by Trussell and is part of the North Cotswolds Foodbank also serving Stow on the Wold, Chipping Campden. The charity does not get any funding apart from donations from the public. Food was provided for 1250 people in Bishops Cleeve last year and there has been a rise in numbers year on year with a shift from families to single and older people since 2021. Food is provided against vouchers obtained via GP, MP, CAB and schools. Foodbank work with nutritionists to identify foodstuffs to cover at least 3 days, these include donated vegetables, purchased fresh bread, vouchers for meat, toiletries and cleaning products. The latter are the most expensive and in demand. The Foodbank operates from St Michaels Centre in Bishops Cleeve where a drinks trolley is run by the church and the CAB provide benefits/grants advice. People are treated with respect and dignity. Trussel lobbies Government for policy change.

Donations are always welcome and a box for these is being considered at the village hall. The website advises on the shortages or via the app “Bank the Food”. Tesco are partners and have collection bins.

Q. Do you supply baby formula?

A. This isn’t provided. Foodbank also do not supply medicines.

Q. Are financial donations more useful?

A. Yes, these contribute to staff costs, and bought items such as bread. These can be gift aided. Currently a local firm Ontic helps with transporting goods.

3. An Introduction to Community Led Housing (not yet confirmed) GRCC did not respond to invite to attend

4. Village Walkabout – List of issues raised and actions – discuss volunteer involvement

Cllrs. Torrington and Sissons gave an overview of the problems identified with damaged road signs, overgrown footpaths/pavements and litter. A comprehensive list of issues raised and will be progressed via other local authorities, in house or by volunteers. Cllr Sissons explained how easy it was to become a litter picking volunteer. Cllr Calam commented that the walkabout had been very useful in that it gave an opportunity to meet with residents and discuss their concerns. A resident had explained a problem with a streetlight. Residents were keen on having a footpath map available via the website.

Number	Quick ref	Where	Comment/Issue	Action
1	Clean/tidy	War memorial	Grass and planting always well maintained. However, surrounding area - road and footpaths, verges untidy	Do road sweepers clear any of the road in Southam Parish? If so which roads, when and how frequently.

			with overgrown vegetation, debris from trees etc.	Otherwise see if volunteers can clean up twice per year,
2	Clean/tidy	Richmond Old Road	Couple of residents said they cut back grass around the bus stop/bench and overhanging tree branches so pedestrians can walk along the pavement without having to mind the branches	Gill to contact residents. If they are not able to cut back, can Southam volunteers do this as a one off?
3	Clean/tidy	Pentille, Southam Lane	Fence to East on Old Road. Overgrown with brambles, blackthorn, ivy and ground cover needs a tidy up.	Gill to contact residents. If they are not able to cut back, can Southam volunteers do this as a one off?
4	Highways	Old Road from bottom of Sunset Lane to top of Southam Lane	There has been an issue with running and standing water which creates a pool outside Springbank and becomes icy in winter.	Was reported via FixMyStreet in November. Area Highways Rep Nicki Kelly advised that it is a possible collapsed drain. Going to issue a ticket for a dig down to investigate/ 26/11/2024. Obtain an update
5	Highways	Junction B4632 and Old Road	When heading North from Prestbury, visibility is poor at night as no street lighting. Suggestion - could Highways paint the kerbs white here.	Ask Highways?
6	Monitor	Ellenborough Park layby.	Litter on pavement (binned) Resident asked up to check as gas cannisters had been left in the hedge near the bins (seen 27/2/2025). Must have been removed as not visible 1/3/2025.	Routine check - say one a month?
7	Water	Bentley Lane	Water has been running off the hill from side of Bentleys all winter.	Monitor - this looks like a surface water run off issue in winter
8	Footpaths	Bentley Lane	Swing gate onto ASM118. Standing water and very muddy for 2 meter radius	Could some hard core be put down?
9	Clean/tidy	Sunset Lane	Pavement covered with moss/lichen and has been for years. Can be slippery.	Also mentioned in 41. General comment - check with Highways?
10	Monitor	Bus Stop B4632	Clean, a few leaves. Some water - run off from hill?	Routine check - say one a month Cleand 26/3/2025.

11	Clean/tidy	B4632 Old Road to New Road	Grass verges some encroachment onto footpath	Lengthsman Service or Highways?
12	Sign Highways	New Road opposite Spring Cottage	30mph sign leaning over	what3words ///pringing.riots.heats - refer to Highways
13	Highways	New Road stream outside Spring Cottage	Bank has collapsed from pavement side and resident is concerned that someone may fall in. Reported on FixMy Street.	Nicki Kelly from Highways sent a long email about Riparian Rights 3/12/2024. Need to look at deeds, but the bank has collapsed at the pavement side not the house side. Will ask Nicki to review.
14	Water	New Road opposite Willow Cottage to Belclare	There has been water on the road all winter. Resident thought this could be another issue with the iron water main which has ruptured several times at the top of New Road in the last couple of years.	Monitor - this looks like a surface water run off issue in winter.
15	Sign Highways	New Road opposite Clevedale	30mph sign faded on side facing the sun	what3words ///slim.second.fired - refer to Highways
16	Monitor	New Road opposite Mole End	Hedge next to stile and dog flap overgrown and dog flap inaccessible and needs easing	Made safe/accessible. Nesting season so review again in August.
17	Clean/tidy	Back of the Fold New Road.	Pavement is being encroached by grass and brambles need cutting back. Tree on grass verge could do with pruning and brambles removing.	Lengthsman service or resident?
18	Clean/tidy	B4632 Back of New Road to Haymes Drive	Pavement is being encroached by grass.	Lengthsman service or Cotswold Wardens?
19	Clean/tidy	Layby between New Road and Haymes Road	Untidy, littered, overgrown. Footpath not usable and walkers use the road through the layby. Road surface in layby full of holes and arches. Issue with camper vans and lack of sanitary facilities	Needs attention to tidy and cut back growth. Camper Vans awaiting update from David Gray. Residents wanted the layby keeping open. No objection to occasional overnight stops, but several vans have been living in this and other local laybys for months, Could we investigate "No overnight parking". Lengthsman or Cotswold Wardens to tidy?
20	Clean/tidy	Haymes Road to Lye Lane	We didn't walk this but two resident from Cleeve Hill said the footpath was being encroached by grass and	PS to walk with these two resident and look at Ashleigh Lane, Lye Lane, Spring Lane,

			debris and only wide enough for one person. Therefore with a dog, one has to walk in the road.	Rising Sun Lane and B4632 on 8 March 2025.
21	Slip/fall	B4632 metal steps down to Haymes	Residents said these were slippery and therefore avoided	PS checked with residents 8/3/2025. Agreed these were fine.
22	No issues	Haymes Road	No issues	
23	Highways	Haymes Drive	Tree on verge split down the middle this winter. Reported by local resident on FixMyStreet. Highways have attended and removed half of the tree. The other half is close to telegraph wires and needs attention. May need a cherry picker.	Re-reported on Fix My Street. Acknowledged and to be attended to. Still outstanding 31/3/2025. Fixmystreet case still open.
24	Highways	Gravel Walk	Resident asked for help dealing with highways. Signage/wall at the top of the lane make it inaccessible for emergency vehicles	Reported that flat bed lorry able to access, so emergency services should be able to access.
25	Website	General - Footpaths Map	Many residents commented how interesting and useful this was and asked where they could get a copy.	Gill can we include this on the new website?
26	Litter picking	General - Litter	A number of residents were really annoyed about the amount of litter dropped - even right next to bins. Suggestion was that we organise a regular litter pick to cover all areas of Southam Parish.	Anita and Kevin Wilcox already litter pick around Southam and are registered with TBC. Details obtained from TBC. They provide insurance and training. Gill to circulate details to residents?
27	Neighbourhood Watch	General - Neighbourhood Watch	A couple mentioned more frequent updates for residents on what is happening in the local community.	Gill to circulate information provided by John Donovan via email facebook and website.
28	Mailing list	General - Mailing List	2 residents from Cleeve Hill asked to check they were on the mailing list and also asked whether we could put more frequent updates out on Facebook	On the mailing list. Should we post a brief note through all doors to ask residents whether they want to be on the mailing list/neighbourhood watch list and obtain up to date contact details for all? Gill suggested questionnaire. Rob followed up on old Facebook page (Karen)

29	clean/tidy	General - vegetation	There were quite a few untidy verges and sedges/stinking iris growing in and around streams.	Gill can we remind residents that they are responsible for verges adjacent to their properties and also riparian rights in relation to streams on boundaries. Woodmancote did something recently on riparian rights/Gambles Lane.
30	Sign Highways	School Lane	30 speed sign on School Lane needs re fixing, fallen on the ground	what3words ///gently.inches.coast - referto Highways
31		Old Road	Pavement on left side of Old Road completely overgrown from corner with Southam Lane to school road junction	Duplicate of 2 and 3 above.
32	clean/tidy	School Lane	Ground clearance needed near post box on entering School Lane and electricity substation at the top of Gravel Walk	Are SPC responsible for this or is it Richmond on Old Road? Can volunteers deal?
33		School Lane	Slightly overhanging tree at Southrise on School Lane	This is satisfactory.
34	Clean/tidy	School Lane	Hedge overhanging pavement outside nos 7 & 8 School Lane, very difficult to pass especially for disabled/elderly/prams etc. pavement also usually blocked by car outside no.8?	Gill to contact residents?
35	Village Hall	School Lane	Corner of hedge (School Lane/Ratcliff Lawns) outside village hall over pavement – M.P. will speak with village hall gardener	
36	Grit bins	School Lane/The Close	Redundant salt bin needs removing opposite village hall	There is a GCC Highways grit barrel outside School House (what3words ///packet.spring.cycles) and a redundant and damaged grit bin on the Close (what3words ///belt.native.drift). We don't know who owns the latter. It either needs removing or replacing.
37	Damaged road sign	Ratcliff Lawns	Ratcliff Lawns sign loose opposite village hall– needs fixing	Is this Highways or volunteers?

38	Footpaths	Ratcliff Lawns	Footpath sign on Ratcliff Lawns – post needs rubbing down and repainting	Check with Cotswold Voluntary Wardens
39	Clean/tidy	Pigeon House	Pigeon House hedge/willow fence onto footpath down to church needs serious attention – PC to contact owner	Gill to contact residents?
40	Clean/tidy	Ratcliff Lawns	Land at top of footpath to church (from Ratcliff Lawns) needs clearing as walkers having to use neighbour's driveway	Volunteers to deal?
41	Clean/tidy	Southam Lane	Moss on pavement on Southam Lane opposite church road & comment made about general litter along the lane	Moss also mentioned at 9. Volunteers to deal with litter.
42	Signs	Southam Lane	Village made speed signs (30) on Southam Lane need replacing – need new 30mph stickers	Not sure here to get these from
43	Sign Highways	Southam Lane	30mph sign outside the "Genoa House" needs refixing/painting/replacing	what3 words ///pipe.many.plant - refer to Highways
44	Clean/tidy	Southam Lane /Gravel Walk	Bottom of Gravel Walk needs clearing on right (as you walk up) in front of garden wall. Property Revelstoke, Southam Lane.	Gill to contact resident and ask if volunteers can deal.
45	Clean/tidy	Gravel Walk	Overhanging brambles on left of Gravel Walk	Volunteers to deal?
46	Clean/tidy	Gravel Walk	On right a lot of brambles and general ground clearance up to Cottages	Volunteers to deal?
47	Clean/tidy	Gravel Walk	Overhanging branch from tree in Cottage 1 could do with removing	Volunteers to deal?
48	Clean/tidy	Gravel Walk	Conifer trees at top of Gravel Walk could do with cutting back to allow vehicles to pass	This is Richmond, same as item 2. Gill to contact residents?
49	Comms	General - Communication	Noverton residents use facebook and online more so we need to make sure that the new website and the posts we do links into our Facebook page. They mentioned that we could be reposting things like what's on i Cheltenham etc. Regarding the FB page i	Update from Rob/Karen. Who is managing SPC facebook content going forward?

			contacted Karen who ran the original page to see if we can get access and she is looking into it. This is better than using the one spelt with 2 ll's in my opinion but will see what happens.	
50	Clean/tidy		Pictures 4467-4473 attached - The area down by the balancing pond in Noverton is very scruffy and needs clearing. The fence will need replacing soon too. This could be a good spot for some fruit tree planting? Said we were waiting to see if we were getting the fruit trees.	Not sure exactly where this is and who owns the land? Highways or Cotswold Voluntary Wardens?
51	Flytipping	Cockroft Lane	Fly tipping in Cockroft Lane - Keep an eye out - Pics 4474 & 5	Monitor
52	Land		Can we confirm when TBC are taking ownership of the open spaces?	Gill to follow up? Can we identify open spaces we are referring to, does this include the playground?
53	Footpaths	Footpath adjacent to Cockroft Lane near houses	Paths used to be weed killed and needs more gravel. Agreed with neighbors that we should get together and tidy up the hedge in spring time as close to our houses. (pic 4476)	Is this the ASM89? Volunteers to deal or ask Cotswold Voluntary Wardens?
54	Clean/tidy	Haymes Road to Lye Lane	Pavement from Haymes Drive to Lye Lane is very overgrown in places, with brambles, clematis, hedging sticking out and grass encroaching on the pavement. It is poor around Mulberry House and brambles further up. Prams and wheelchairs struggle at present. You cant walk two abreast or with a dog without having to step into the road at Mulberry House.	Gill suggested lengthsmen. I emailed David Gray about this 24/3/2025. No response.
55	Dog waste bin	Cleeve Hill above Rising Sun Lane on Cleeve Common side	Dog waste bin at the top of Rising Sun Lane (on the Cleeve Common side) is damaged and needs replacing.	Gill confirmed this is SPC responsibility. Emailed photo to Gill 30/3/2025 and asked whether we can get

				quote and raise on future agenda
56	clean/tidy	Ashleigh Lane	2 empty 25l cooking oil cans under the hedge at the top of Ashleigh Lane where the lane changes to footpath. There were also a lot of tin cans and bottles at the top of Ashleigh Lane.	Removed and disposed of. Follow up on litter picking with TBC.
57	Speed Limit	New Road to Rising Run	Speed Limit is 50mph Two residents on Cleeve Hill would like the speed limit reducing to 40mph all the way from the golf club to Prestbury. They gave numerous examples of incidents when turning into their own drives and cyclists freewheeling at excessive speed down the hill. Meanwhile the owner of Ashleigh House disagrees. He feels most stick to the limit and it would be better to put a camera up and get the data before making any decisions.	Meeting with Prestbury PC, Woodmacote PC and Southam PC set up 25/3/2025 to discuss speed along this road. To be in future council agenda.
58	Pavement/Hedging	B4632 Ellenborough Park to Shaw Green Lane	Pavement needs attention all the way, whether overgrown hedging, grass and vegetation encroachment. There are cracks in places and grass growing through.	Highways? PS emailed David Gray about lengthsman service but no response to date.
59	Sewer	ASM11 - Back of Ellenborough Park	Resident from Haymes Drive asked what was happening with the open sewer. Took a couple of photos.	Asked Gill to follow up 25/3/2025 as she had dealt with this previously. Is it Ellenborough Park or Severn Trent?
60	clean/tidy	Kayte Lane/GWSR	Resident mentioned GWSR had cut back the vegetation on the railway sidings to east, but had left that behind Green Orchard and LEKL.	Gill to contact GWSR
61	signs	Southam Lane near Rugby Club	Traffic light sign approaching crossroads from Southam leaning and needs attention.	Highways?
62	Water	Ashleigh Lane	Resident mentioned water run off from land near stables that impact the path and also runs down Ashleigh Lane.	Monitor. Not an issue at present so it may be a seasonal water run off issue.

			Resident resported it to Highways, but no action taken.	
63	Footpaths	Ratcliff Lawns ASM6 and ASM7	Residents emailed regarding fields being ploughed and PROWs not being left open/visible	Raised with Hilary Grace at GCC and copied Cotswold Warden 24/3/2025.. Cotswold Warden suggested ASM7 could be changed to a permitted path so that the path ran around the boundary. GCC to raise with Landowner.
64	signs	Pentille, Southam Lane	Redundant post adjacent to property of Old Road	Highways? Can this be removed. Looks like an old bus stop post? What3words ///firewall.cared.snoozing
65	signs	Old Road/B4632 junction	50mph speed limit sign leaning and twisting	Highways?

5. Share your views, concerns, questions and visions with the Council

The Speedwatch team had made a data report available to the Council.

- Concern was raised about the speed of traffic on the B4632 with the variance in speed limit from 40mph to 50mph to 60mph back to 30mph, the number of traffic accidents and danger to pedestrians and horse riders.
- Residents were concerned about the traffic congestion which would be caused by the closure of the A435 from May to August. GCC have not communicated how they will deal with this.
- Can TBC share their emergency contact number for environmental health concerns

County and Borough Councillor reports were circulated and presented to the meeting:

Annual report 2024/25 – April 2025 Councillor David Gray – Winchcombe and Woodmancote Division Gloucestershire County Council

This has been the fourth and, depending on the results of the election on 1 May, possibly my final year in post on the County Council. The elections go ahead because Gloucestershire was not selected by the Westminster government as one of the counties that will participate in the so-called “first tranche” of local government reform. Given that we were not selected, there is now considerable doubt as to when local government reform will impact Gloucestershire, although the Westminster government has committed to eliminating all two tier local government structures, so the most likely date is within the next 3 years. The fact that there are county council elections on 1 May means that it is difficult to write a report without it sounding like an election leaflet, especially in view of the local government reform.

And the recent blow up in the world economy triggered by the Trump administrations reckless activities, make the outlook exceptionally difficult to predict. I will stick to some high level observations. Finances All councils, borough, county and unitary or combined are already under increasing financial strain. This is the result of a number of factors, including: • High inflation, which, although having fallen substantially from the peak driven by the war in Ukraine pushing energy prices higher, at 2.8% and rising, remains well above the target 2% • Exceptionally high domestic energy prices, which impact many council activities, including road resurfacing costs, which are energy intensive • The increasing aging of the population which is driving up care costs that county councils pay for • The increasing cost of employment, with wages rising at more than double the rate of inflation and substantial increases in employer (and councils are employers, both directly and indirectly, through purchased services) national insurance and minimum wages – these will surge from 1 April 2025

Faced by this economic backdrop, many local councils have either had to raid reserves, cut services or request permission to increase council taxes above the 4.99% standard rate of increase (2.99% inflationary and 2% social care levy). Somerset County Council have, for example, done both, increasing council tax by 7.5%, and Cheltenham have been forced to start selling assets, including car parks. Not least because of the profits generated by selling the energy generated from the Javelin Park waste incinerator, Gloucestershire County Council still has strong finances and has been able to publish a balanced budget for 25/26. It is forecast to generate a small surplus in 24/25. The sound basis of Gloucestershire's finances are a blessing given the likely strain that the rapid onset of a world economic crisis that the Trump administration's tariff actions may well trigger. The possible implications of that crisis for local government are very difficult to predict, but like a ship heading into a storm, the fact that we are in good order, with sensible, healthy reserves, reserves built up (often in the face of criticism) to shelter us from just such inevitable periods of turbulence, will at least cushion some of the impact of the severe buffeting that lies ahead; other less financially prudent councils may join the list of those already facing immediate crisis and having to take painful decisions around which services to cut even whilst levying eye watering increase in council taxes. Roads and infrastructure The strength of the County's finances have allowed it to continue to invest in its infrastructure, opening an additional Special Educational needs school and planning for both more such schools and care homes, to meet increasing demand.

Roads remain the biggest financial investment of the council. In the last year some 100,000 potholes have been fixed. This rate of completion is helped by the public using the enhanced web based application FixMyStreet that has made reporting them easier and started to speed up the delivery of solutions. However, fixing potholes is often not the most cost effective form of road management over the longer term, with full resurfacing representing a better investment. This has been the focus in Gloucestershire. More than 100 miles of roads have been resurfaced in Gloucestershire over the last year, an exceptional rate of progress. Nevertheless, despite these record levels of activity, it is clear that considerable work remains to be done on the roads, especially as regards local roads as past investment has tended to be focussed on the major roads that have the highest volumes of traffic. It should be remembered that all major resurfacing inevitably comes with some level of short term disruption. However, construction disruption on local roads is more commonly caused by utility works, which are outside the direct control of the Highways Authority. Best efforts are made to organise this necessary work such that there continues to be "through routes" open at all times and actual closures are limited to off-peak times, where possible.

This management of traffic will be particularly important during the planned partial and complete closures on the A435 Evesham “racecourse” Road starting in late May 2025. Whilst the partial closures relates to the construction of the new cycle and pedestrian infrastructure, the full closure is also designed to address long term issues with the strength of the railway bridge; these issues cannot be resolved without a full closure for a period. Combining the railway bridge work with the infrastructure build will avoid further closures in the future. I have discussed the plans many times with the Highways team and they will try to minimise disruption, but you cannot reinforce a bridge whilst it is open to traffic, so disruption is inevitable. Unfortunately, despite Highways exploring the issue with them, the Racecourse are unwilling to allow access to their land for through traffic. One final point on the cycle spine work – almost all of it has been financed from funds won from central government active travel funding in competition with other authorities.

If we had not built the Gloucestershire cycle scheme, the result would not have been more funds in Gloucestershire for pot hole fixing, but rather another cycle scheme in Bolton or Manchester. For those who have a visceral dislike for cycle schemes, even when they don’t have to pay for them, the good news is that this is exactly the type of scheme for which central government is likely to cut funding if, as expected, funding collapses in the face of economic headwinds. Swindon Road HRC closure, Wingmoor Farm and Javelin Park Until recently Cheltenham Council operated a Household recycling Centre at Swindon Road. Faced by their increasing budgetary constraints, Cheltenham Council decided to close the Swindon Road site. The County Council operated site at Wingmoor has recently been refurbished and operates, as do all the County council HRCs, a booking system. So far the effects of the Swindon Road closure have been manageable, but management will continue to review the situation. It has been a privilege to be your county councillor for the last four years. However is elected on 1 May, I encourage parishes and residents to get in touch with their county councillor if they have any ideas or issues that they wish to discuss or which they believe the county council might be able to help with.

Tewkesbury Borough Council – Borough Councillor Annual Report Presented to Southam Parish Council – April 2025

1.. Introduction

Over the past 12 months, we have continued to represent Southam at Borough level, raising local concerns, and ensuring the voice of the parish is heard at Tewkesbury Borough Council (TBC). This report provides an overview of key issues, progress on ongoing matters, and relevant opportunities for community development.

2. Funding Opportunities for the Parish

There are several grant schemes currently available through the Borough Council and associated organisations that may benefit Southam Parish and its local groups:

- **Tewkesbury Borough Community Funding Scheme**

Open to parish councils, community groups and charities for projects that support wellbeing, community infrastructure, and local priorities.

Apply here:

[TBC Community Funding Grants](#)

- **National Lottery Awards for All (England)**

Funding between £300 and £10,000 for community-led projects.

Apply here:

[National Lottery Community Fund](#)

We are happy to assist the Parish Council or any local organisation with application support or letters of endorsement.

3. Environmental Concern: Cheltenham Racecourse Event Noise

One of the more persistent issues raised by Southam residents over the past year relates to **noise pollution from events held at Cheltenham Racecourse**, especially non-racing events such as music festivals or concerts.

TBC's Environmental Health team has received complaints regarding noise levels, particularly during the evenings and late hours. Although the racecourse lies within Cheltenham Borough Council's boundary, the cross-border impact on Southam is recognised.

We have:

- Raised this issue with **Cheltenham Borough Council** Environmental Health officers via cross-boundary councillor forums.
- Requested **TBC Environmental Health** to monitor sound levels where they impact Southam and to coordinate with Cheltenham BC for joint action.
- Supported residents in submitting formal complaints to both councils to ensure a pattern of disruption is evidenced.

If you experience excessive noise, please report it via the following link:

[TBC Report Noise Nuisance](#)

4. Planning Enforcement: Unauthorised Traveller Site

Planning Enforcement continues to investigate the unauthorised **Traveller encampment in the parish**, following concerns raised by residents and the Parish Council.

- **Status:** The site remains under **active enforcement**, with TBC having issued planning contravention notices and carried out a formal assessment.
- We are currently **waiting for the outcome of the Planning Inspector's decision**, which will determine the next steps.
- **Environmental concerns**, including unauthorised development on green belt land and waste issues, have been factored into the case.

We continue to monitor the situation closely and remain in regular contact with the enforcement team. Southam residents deserve to see planning rules upheld fairly and consistently.

If new activity is observed on the site, please report it directly using:

[TBC Report Planning Breach](#)

5. Looking Ahead

Southam continues to be a strong and engaged parish, and we are grateful for the work of the Parish Council and residents in keeping the community vibrant and responsive.

In the year ahead, we will continue to:

- Support action on cross-border issues affecting residents (including noise, transport, speeding and public events)
- Push for enforcement where planning rules are breached
- Promote community projects through available funding streams
- Work closely with the Parish Council to reflect your priorities at Borough level

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with us if you would like support with specific matters or to arrange a walkabout or site visit.

Borough Councillors Cheryl Agg & Nigel Adcock
Tewkesbury Borough Council

