

PARISH LIAISON MEETING  
18<sup>th</sup> June 2014

PAPERLESS CONSULTATION

A successful workshop was held on 12 May for Parish and Town councils who wanted to know more about working electronically with planning applications. 17 parishes and 1 town council were represented, mostly by clerks. There were a number of presentations and some round table discussions, the outputs of which are now all published on a new webpage we have set up specifically to support parish and town councils here:

<http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/planning-and-building-control/planning/planning-advice-and-guidance/parish-and-town-council>

The event was opened by a demonstration from Martin Robinson, Chair of Dunkerton on how they work electronically in their parish meetings and not just for planning applications either. The whole meeting is presented on a screen in public so that everyone can see the agenda, actions from previous meeting, updates and documents from Defra, Highways etc and the planning application plans and photographs. The benefits for Dunkerton have been an increase in attendance and debate at meetings, time savings for the Clerk, reduction in printing postage and admin costs to the tune of over £400 a year. This means that the equipment they bought 2 years ago is now paid for in savings.

There was also a talk by Robin Vaissiere from the Planning Portal who showed that some local planning authorities are consulting with their parishes electronically on over 80% of applications.

The round table discussions produced some lively discussion and debate on benefits and barriers plus some requests for us to change the way the website displays information such as including a date field. Some requests we are hoping to be able to deliver and information on this will be available as we get it.

We also shared a number of useful funding sources for the purchase of equipment to enable electronic working. It appears that none of the parishes represented had previously applied for funding and Robin seemed confident that if they did, they would be successful.

Most of the barriers that were raised did produce some options for possible solutions and these are all documented on the webpage.

We have asked the parish and town councils to register their interested in us running another workshop (later start at 5.00pm) and so far 3 have said they would be - Wellow, High Littleton, Compton Martin.

The 7 electronic parishes now are: Cameley, Corston, Dunkerton, Farrington Gurney, Hinton Blewett, Priston, Wellow

Parish & Town councils who attended the workshop were: Bathford, Chew Magna, Clutton, Combe Hay, Compton Dando, Englishcombe, Farmborough, Keynsham, Markbury, Newton St Loe, Priston, Publow, Saltford, South Stoke, Stanton Drew, Stowey Sutton, West Harptree, Whitchurch.

Clerks and Chairs are encouraged to register interest in another workshop.

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