

TEMPLE GUITING PARISH COUNCIL - LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Contents:

1. **Introduction:** a forward-looking Council engaging with its community
2. **Review of the Council and its community:**
 - 2.1 TGPC: statutory role, day-to-day functioning, public participation
 - 2.2 People
 - 2.3 Housing
 - 2.4 Education
 - 2.5 Health
 - 2.6 Communications
 - 2.7 Other amenities and organisations
 - 2.8 Crime
 - 2.9 Energy Efficiency
 - 2.10 The changing environment
 - 2.11 The local economy
 - 2.12 Planning
3. **Conclusion:**
 - 3.1 Establishing a community perspective
 - 3.2 Agreeing priorities for the Parish
 - 3.3 Implementing continuity and change
 - 3.4 The impact on current and future spending

Appendices:

- 1 Some matters for initial consideration by Councillors

1. Introduction:

Creating a simple plan for the Parish to underpin decision making, especially with regard to agreeing an annual budget and setting the Precept

This document is not intended to form the basis for a Local or Neighbourhood Plan unless circumstances change and Temple Guiting Parish Councillors decide to embark on a more formal planning process.

Rather it is intended as a review of pertinent aspects of the Parish which might underpin decision making and budget setting, as well as give the Council a clearer direction for its future deliberations.

Some of what is included here may be obvious to some and new to others - the intention is to provide a summary of facts pertinent to TGPC's forward planning and budgeting.

2.1 TGPC: statutory role, day-to-day functioning, public perception

Temple Guiting Parish comprises:

- Farmcote
- Ford
- Temple Guiting
- Kineton
- Barton
- Outlying farms and estates including Pinnock, Bemborough, Trafalgar, Jackdaws stile and Farmcote Wood.

The parish is one of the largest, in area, in the Cotswolds. It is a rural parish with a very low population density. It is characterised by open, rolling farmland interspersed with areas of woodland. The River Windrush is a prominent feature - it flows through the Parish from Ford through Temple Guiting and on to Kineton and Barton. Farmcote lies outside this valley, with views to the west over the Severn Vale.

Temple Guiting Parish Council (TGPC) exists to further the needs and interests of all residents in the Parish of Temple Guiting, not merely those of Temple Guiting village.

The Parish Council's operation is prescribed in law and the Council constitutes the third rung in local government.

TGPC is serviced by a part-time paid Clerk; seven Councillors are elected every 4 years, with the next election due in May 2019.

The Parish Council has a variety of functions:

- to respond to consultation requests regarding Planning Applications in the Parish
- to oversee amenities and the environment within the Parish

Temple Guiting Parish Council – ‘Looking to the future’

- to act as a focal point for representations regarding local matters
- to fulfil the legal obligations of a statutorily established Parish Council
- to determine priorities and initiatives for the Parish
- to set a Budget and the annual Precept, which forms part of the Council Tax paid by all households in the Parish
- It is not within the current means of TGPC to create a so-called 'Development Plan'

Temple Guiting Parish Council (TGPC) usually meets on the first Wednesday of every second month, with an additional meeting in December (to agree the budget and Precept); the Annual Meeting (at which officers are elected) is held in May, along with the Annual Parish Meeting.

TGPC also meets occasionally as a Planning Committee (referred to as 'site meetings'), to which the applicants and residents are invited, in order to frame an on the spot response to some Planning Applications.

TGPC liaises both formally and informally with:

- Cotswold District Council (planning, refuse collection ...)
- Gloucestershire County Council (planning for quarries, highways ...); Councillors seek to meet annually with representatives of Gloucestershire Highways to review the state of roads in the parish and lobby for future maintenance and improvements)
- Temple Guiting Recreation Society (which maintains the Village Hall and Play Area)
- Temple Guiting School (TGPC contributes to the maintenance of the Recreation Field which is used mainly by the School)
- St Mary's Church Temple Guiting (TGPC contributes to the maintenance of the churchyard)
- The Guiting Power Estate/Praedium Properties, the main local landowner (from whom the Council rents the Recreation Field and Village Hall)
- Corpus Christi College, Oxford which still owns some houses, lanes and areas of woodland in Temple Guiting and Kineton
- Cotswold District Councillor Richard Keeling and Gloucestershire County Councillor Nigel Moore.
- Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils (GAPTC) which provides advice, training and general support for the Council and Clerk, CPRE, Cotswold Conservation Board and similar bodies as and when the need arises.

TGPC has a good record of responding to local needs and maintaining an effective structure for local development. Recent initiatives include:

- lobbying for 30 mph restrictions in Ford, Kineton and Temple Guiting
- bringing about road improvements, including at Barton and Buckle Street
- promoting Community Speedwatch in the Parish
- acquisition of two redundant phone boxes for community use
- replacement of the 'Coronation Bench' in Temple Guiting

Temple Guiting Parish Council – ‘Looking to the future’

- successful representation to close down an intrusive shooting school at Pinnock
- successful lobbying and liaison regarding improved Broadband provision
- setting up an effective TGPC website
- provision of dog waste bins at Temple Guiting Village Hall and at the entrance to the Gallops at Ford
- improvements to the two fords and additional signposting in Kineton
- For a number of years TGPC has sought to constrain the Precept and hence the percentage increase in the Parish Council's share of local residents' Council Tax (usually less than the 2% permitted by central government).

TGPC's share of the Council tax for a band D property in 2018/19 was £18 of the total of £1603.

The main, and often recurring, items of expenditure include:

- The costs of running the Council including: Clerk's salary, audit fees, insurance, payment for use of Village hall for meetings, Councillors' and Clerk's training, membership fees (GAPTC)
- Payments for specific maintenance including St Mary's Church grounds, and the Recreation Field in conjunction with Temple Guiting School
- An annual grant to support the work of the Temple Guiting Recreation Society (often referred to as 'the village hall committee')
- Small donations to local voluntary organisations
- Local maintenance (including for example: Parish notice boards and the phone boxes at Kineton and Temple Guiting, Kineton allotments, hedge cutting)
- Creating a small 'sinking fund' for possible future, exceptional expenditure
- Professional fees (for example valuation of Kineton allotments)

TGPC holds the residual funds associated with the Village Green Energy Project (which featured in a Channel 4/BBC 4 television programme in 2017).

TGPC assets include:

- notice boards at Ford, Kineton, Temple Guiting Village Hall and Temple
- street furniture such as benches and litter bins
- the allotments at Kineton (professionally valued at £25,000, though listed under local authority rules as £1!)
- Former telephone boxes at Kineton and Temple Guiting
- Defibrillators at the Village Hall in Temple Guiting and beside the pub in Kineton.

TGPC has its own website which includes full details of the membership and activities of the Parish Council including its Standing Orders and Policies as required by law. Agendas, papers and minutes of Parish Council Meetings are routinely published on the website.

Attendance at Parish Council meetings by members of the public is sparse and it is rare for any parishioner from Barton or Farmcote to attend. It is possible that

residents of Farmcote and Barton, and to a lesser extent Kinton and Ford, do not see the Parish Council as relevant to their communities.

The Clerk issues (electronically) a regular Newsletter to update parishioners, who receive Parish Council emails, on the work of the Council and related events in the Parish and adjoining areas.

2.2. People

Approximately 360 people live in the Parish.

The most up-to-date (2016) and detailed socio-economic analysis of Temple Guiting Parish can be found at:

www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/1521321/glos-parishes-cotswold-temple-guiting-cp-glos_li_parish_e04004276-20161108220416069.pdf

This fifty-page document includes such information as: age, ethnicity, health, employment, qualifications, housing, travel, home ownership ... (but little about economic activity).

This socio-economic profile confirms the impression of a relatively prosperous area (with expensive housing) and above average number of retirees and few young people.

It would appear that there is a diminishing number of families with school-age children in the Parish, which is consistent with many Cotswold villages. Due to a combination of limited employment opportunities and the cost of housing there has been a steady migration away from the area; most of the young people who leave the Parish to attend college or university seek employment and live elsewhere.

2.3. Housing

The social profile of the Parish reflects the fact that the majority of homes in the parish are owner-occupied. Some homes are still owned by Corpus Christi College Oxford and have been let to the same tenants for many years. There are relatively few other let properties (some still belong to Corpus Christi College Oxford), most of which are occupied by farm/estate workers. There are only two remaining 'housing association' properties left in the Parish. Most houses in the Parish are built of traditional materials. Houses in the Parish cover the whole spectrum of rural housing from Band A to Band H. There are relatively few 'second homes' in the Parish

Cotswold District Council's Local Plan does not envisage any significant house building in the Parish as it is situated within the Cotswold AONB; major developments are envisaged locally only at established centres such as Bourton-on the Water. There are few opportunities for new homes since most potential conversions of redundant buildings have already taken place and there appear to be few potential 'in-fill' opportunities. Some new housing has been permitted recently for agricultural purposes.

There are two areas within the Parish, in Temple Guiting Village, where it is anticipated that applications may be made for new housing in the future. Praedium Properties, in liaison with the Parish and District Councils, has prepared plans for new housing at the redundant New Barn Farm site, though these plans are currently in abeyance. An area of land opposite the Templars was retained by Corpus Christi College Oxford when it disposed of the Temple Guiting Estate and this may have some potential for new housing. There may also be some redundant farm buildings in Kineton.

Alterations, extensions and new developments are required to comply with CDC planning conditions which specifically relate to design and materials that seek to maintain the traditional character of buildings within the Cotswolds AONB.

Although this document is not intended to take the place of a Neighbourhood Development Plan, it may be surmised that to build a number of 'executive homes' without some measure of rentable social or affordable (to first time buyers and those with children of school age) housing would not be in the best interests of the future development of the Parish.

As already stated, most young people who attend College or University tend to seek employment and live elsewhere, so it is difficult to evaluate how many of the diminishing cohort of young people who have grown up in the Parish would wish to live in the Parish in their own homes and seek work locally or commute to towns further afield.

It is also apparent that most people who are employed locally, for example in quarries, commute from urban centres such as Bourton, Tewkesbury and Cheltenham, and often further afield. This reflects the high cost of houses and the absence of sufficient affordable housing in the Parish.

It is some years since a comprehensive survey of housing needs (and other matters) was conducted in the parish, so a new survey may assist the Parish Council and the local Planning Authority in identifying local needs in response to central government policies. This could take the form of a 'Local Plan'.

2.4 Education

There is a Church of England Voluntary Controlled primary school (founded in 1871) in Temple Guiting village and is part of the Gloucestershire Local Education Authority. (<http://www.templeguiting.gloucs.sch.uk>)

There are currently 80 children enrolled at the school, of which about 20 live in the Parish.

Although some children from the Parish attend the Cotswold School (an Academy) in Bourton-on-the-Water, a few parents choose to send their children to Winchcombe, Chipping Campden and Cheltenham All Saints high schools.

Both Temple Guiting School and the Cotswold School are highly regarded, with very good test and examination results and Ofsted Reports.

There is a pre-school nurse in the neighbouring village of Guiting Power. There are many independent nursery, preparatory and senior schools in Cheltenham and other accessible centres.

2.5 Health

There are no medical facilities in the Parish. Parishioners tend to make use of the surgeries at Winchcombe, Bourton or Stow. There is a local hospital (part of the North Gloucestershire NHS Trust) with a minor injuries unit at Moreton-in-Marsh. The main hospitals for this area are in Cheltenham and Gloucester (the latter with 24 hour A&E).

There are chemists in Winchcombe, Stow, Bourton, Broadway and Moreton.

Cotswold Friends is a local charity providing friendship, support and transport to older and vulnerable people in the north Cotswold community.

2.6 Communications

2.6.1 Highways

Apart from the B4077, which traverses the Parish from Three Gates above Ford to Rooks Pool beyond the Trafalgar Estate and 'Buckle Street' (the road from Snowhill to Bourton which crosses the B4077 at Trafalgar crossroads), roads in the parish are classed as 4 & 5, that is to say suitable for local traffic. The road to Farmcote is a 'No Through Road'.

The road from Ford Bank to Barton Bridge, not wide enough for two vehicles to pass safely in many places, is much used by local residents (most of whom have cars), people seeking access to the Village School and to Guiting Power, as well as by a multitude of delivery drivers and tourists, as well as drivers using what was the old (medieval or earlier) road from Northleach to Chipping Campden as an alternative route.

The County Council (the Highways Authority) has recently installed advisory notices indicating that this route and the road through Temple Guiting Village are unsuitable for HGVs. This does not prevent access by HGVs to local farms.

The road from Three Gates to Lynes Barn (which gives access to Farmcote Village) is single track. There is a minor road from Buckle Street to Kineton which is clearly signposted as unsuitable for motor vehicles because of the deep fords at Kineton, but these signs are often ignored by drivers reliant on their Satnavs.

The general increase in traffic has resulted in erosion of verges and localised deterioration in the quality of the road surface. The increasing size of agricultural

tractors and farm machinery is also having an adverse impact on the state of the verges.

There are 30 mph speed restrictions at Ford, Temple Guiting and Kineton but the experience of local Speedwatch volunteers indicates that many drivers ignore these restrictions and it is apparent that, elsewhere, many cars are driven at speeds unsuitable for narrow country roads.

There have been a number of fatal and serious injury road accidents in the Parish, particularly on the B4077.

The B4077 and Buckle Street are well maintained by Gloucestershire Highways. Parish councillors meet annually with representatives of Gloucestershire Highways to monitor routine maintenance (such as gully and gripper cleaning), request repairs to pot holes and propose other maintenance and possible improvements, including to signage.

Gullies are cleaned and leaves swept by contractors working for the District and County Councils. The Arkells are the 'Snow Wardens' for the Parish.

2.6.2 Public Transport

Most households in the Parish have at least one car. However there are a few households without a car, which can be problematical and costly.

There is no longer a regular daily bus service (which might be used by commuters) in the Parish. However, there is a middle-of-the-day service to and from Cheltenham via Andoversford on Tuesdays.

There is a railway station at Toddington (Gloucestershire and Warwickshire Railway) with regular steam and diesel services (from Easter to the end of October) between Broadway and Cheltenham racecourse. Mainline services are accessible at Moreton/Kingham (Cotswold Line to London and Hereford) and Cheltenham (West Coast main line to Bristol and Birmingham and beyond).

2.6.3 Footpaths and Bridleways

There are thirty-nine Public Footpaths and Bridleways in the Parish including a section of the Cotswold Way at Farmcote as well as parts of the Winchcombe Way and the Wardens' Way. These are part of the remit of Gloucestershire County Council (Highways).

There have been few problems with these routes. Gloucestershire County Council appealed unsuccessfully to upgrade the 'No through bridleway' at Pinnock, and the ancient milestones in Farmcote Wood have been removed by the landowner. Walkers, riders and other users are informally dependent on landowners maintaining the public rights of way on their land.

There are several unmade roads which are public rights of way, notably from Barton to Tinker's Barn and from Kineton to Mill Lane.

The Parish Council appoints a 'Way Warden' annually to monitor these public rights of way and keep abreast of possible changes to the status of public rights of way.

There are dog waste bins - at Temple Guiting Village Hall and at Ford at the start of the gallops. There are other waste bins by the school and shop in Temple Guiting.

2.6.4 Telecommunications

Temple Guiting Parish is well served through the Fastershire scheme provided by Gigaclear which provides FTTP (Fibre to Property) to all homes and businesses in the parish, with speeds ranging from 50MB to 1GB, with unlimited downloads. One significant beneficial consequence of this recent innovation is that self-employed residents and local businesses that are reliant on internet access can now flourish in this area.

There is now reduced demand for the landlines provided by BT Openreach. Mobile phone coverage in this rural area varies, dependent on the provider, in spite of the mobile phone mast located close to Guiting Power.

2.7 Other amenities and organisations

St Mary's church in Temple Guiting is one of seven churches in a combined benefice. Its churchyard is the Parish's burial ground. The Rector lives in Lower Slaughter. This historic (Grade 1 listed) church contains many significant features including a Georgian Royal Coat of Arms, a First World War Memorial and a restored 18th Century Decalogue.

There is usually a Sunday service as well as a Thursday prayer service in the church. The annual Village Carol Service takes place in the church. Coffee mornings, which provide an opportunity for local residents to meet, take place on every other Saturday morning. The church is also used regularly by the school.

The Parochial Church Council is currently considering plans and associated fund-raising to extend the community use of the church.

There is a historic church at Farmcote (in the same benefice) which also has regular Sunday and annual services. It is situated alongside the ancient pilgrims' way to Hailes Abbey.

Much of the land and most of the older houses in Temple Guiting and Kineton were at one time in the ownership of Corpus Christi College Oxford, which acquired the former Templar 'estate' on its foundation in the mid 16th Century. While most of these houses and almost all of the land are now privately owned (including the Temple Guiting Estate and Temple Guiting Manor), the College still retains some houses and small tracts of land, including the mature beech trees in Temple Guiting village and some other amenities. The College's continuing involvement in the Parish is currently

(2019) under review; the College's agent has indicated that this may be unsustainable in the long term.

A piece of land, adjacent to Buckle Street and let to a local contractor, is known as the 'Poor Lotts'. This belongs to a historic local charity and the rental income enables the charity to provide financial support to some pensioners and students in the Parish. A Parish Councillor is a member of the steering committee.

The centre of Temple Guiting Village is characterised by its mature beech trees, most of which are on land still in the ownership of Corpus Christi College Oxford. It has been mooted that ownership and therefore responsibility for routine surveying and maintenance of these trees, and other small parcels of land, should be passed to the Parish Council. The area of land by the village shop in Temple Guiting, with the bench and notice board, is known as 'the Village Green'.

The Village Hall in Temple Guiting was provided for the residents of Temple Guiting and Cutsdean parishes by Corpus Christi College Oxford. This is managed by the Temple Guiting Recreation Society. The Village Hall and Recreation Field are currently held on a short term lease from Praedium Properties. The Village Hall could be replaced by a more modern building, but any such scheme is dependent on securing a long-term lease from the landowner as well as the necessary funding. The village school is the principal user of the hall and recreation field. The hall is available for public and private events.

TGPC owns the allotments at Kineton which are currently let to four allotment holders for an annual rent of £20 pa each. The allotments in Temple Guiting village were formerly situated where there are now houses known as 'The Templars'. The private allotments at Colman (owned by Praedium Properties) are no longer available to rent.

A former 'Tree Warden' was responsible for planting native hardwood trees in various locations in the Parish.

2.8 Crime

In common with many rural communities, Temple Guiting Parish has been affected by recent incidents of theft from vehicles, houses, outbuildings, farms and quarries. This may be attributed to ease of access from several major conurbations via the M5 and M50 motorways and the A46/B4077, and diminishing police numbers and hence much reduced availability to respond to incidents. Few other crimes are reported in the Parish.

There is no longer a Neighbourhood Watch scheme in the Parish though some parishioners have opted to receive 'community alerts' from Gloucestershire Constabulary.

2.9 Facing the challenge of global warming - energy efficiency

Temple Guiting village featured in a Channel 4 / BBC 4 programme *The Great Village Green Crusade* hosted by a local resident, the writer, actor and broadcaster Robert Llewellyn, in 2017.

This included aspects of the work of the Green Energy Group which sought to reduce dependence on the national grid by producing locally generated (solar, wind or water) electricity and reducing fossil fuel energy consumption in the Parish. This group is still working, with funds left over from the initial project, to find ways to address locally the challenge posed by global warming and promote sustainability.

The national grid in this area has at this time, limited capacity to upload locally generated electricity. There are relatively few opportunities for householders to install solar panels on their houses or in their gardens mainly because of the AONB location and their listed status. However, recent extensions to the farm buildings at Bemborough have included significant solar electricity generation and related energy saving measures.

102 of the 170 dwellings in the Parish were built before 1900 (several of them listed) and only 18 after 2000. These older buildings are unlikely to be energy efficient. It has been suggested that TGPC hire a thermal imaging device to show householders, who wish to make use of this facility, the heat loss from their homes with a view to their taking remedial action.

2.10 A changing environment

Intensive arable farming and the consequent use of chemical inputs in parts of the Parish has impacted adversely on the environment (for instance, high levels of Metaldehyde and nitrogen run-off have been detected in the Windrush catchment). The farming community will be faced with changes arising from 'Brexit'.

Interference with wildlife habitats and road kill are also negative environmental factors. Ash 'die-back' disease may well result in the disappearance of one of the dominant tree species in the Parish, possibly with a greater visual impact than Dutch Elm disease in the 1970s. Intense rainfall episodes (one of which caused serious flooding to homes in 2007) and hot, dry summers may impact adversely on the community. A recent government measure will curtail the Planning Authority's power to restrict exploratory fracking.

The Parish's air quality is reported as being good. Although light spill from neighbouring towns/cities does preclude the Parish from being in a 'Dark Sky' zone, visibility is good.

There have been some instances of fly-tipping which have caused expense as well as inconvenience to landowners. Some considerate parishioners collect roadside litter. There have been occasional instances of dog-fouling. No instances of vandalism have been reported recently. Some activities, organised outside the parish, have given rise to intrusive, albeit temporary roadside signs.

2.11 The local economy

Cotswold District Council surveys indicate that the main employment areas in the District include agriculture, mineral working and tourism. This is largely true of the Parish.

2.11.1 Agriculture

Temple Guiting Parish is located in one of the most beautiful and relatively unspoiled parts of the Cotswolds. Agriculture and related activities help to maintain the viability of the local landscape and environment.

There are several medium to large farms in the Parish, most of which are in private ownership. Bemborough Farm, which includes Adam Henson's Cotswold Farm Park, is rented from the local landowner.

Most arable farming activities are now undertaken by contractors and there is one major contracting partnership based in the Parish. The impact of arable farming on the day-to-day life of the parish is minimal except at harvest time. Sheep and cattle rearing also form part of most farming enterprises.

Some farms and estates also maintain shoots and small scale equine activities which are not always visually compatible with the traditional open landscape. Managed forestry operations also feature as an economic activity on several estates and farms in the Parish.

2.11.2 Mineral Working

Temple Guiting gives its name to the much favoured honey coloured 'Guiting' limestone which was historically extracted at Guiting Quarry (Hanson) which is located at the top of Stanway Hill, just outside the Parish; this is not currently in operation.

There are currently five working quarries in the Parish:

- 'Cotswold Hills (Smiths and Three Gates) near Ford
- '3 Gates' (Syreford) near Ford
- 'Oathill' (Johnston) near Temple Guiting
- 'Tinkers Barn' (Cotswold Stone) adjoining Bemborough Farm
- 'Naunton' (Breedon) which is partly located within Temple Guiting Parish

It not known how much employment these quarries provide, but almost nobody living within the Parish works there.

The output from the quarries varies but comprises mainly block stone, general building stone, worked stone for architectural detailing, roofing slates, agricultural lime, aggregate and concrete products. With the exception of agricultural lime, aggregate and concrete products (Naunton Quarry), these materials cannot be readily sourced elsewhere.

2.11.3 Tourism

Adam Henson's Farm Park at Bemborough Farm is a significant economic enterprise with a permanent workforce of 14 and up to 80 full/part-time employees during the season. It draws in visitors from far and wide.

There is a recently re-opened and upgraded village shop with a tearoom/restaurant in Temple Guiting Village. There are public houses (Donnington Brewery) at Ford and Kinton.

Some properties owned by local people are let to holiday makers. Temple Guiting Manor is an important short-term letting business.

Reference has already been made to the Public Rights of Way in the Parish which attract many walkers and some riders throughout the year.

2.11.4 Other businesses and sources of employment in the Parish include:

Agricultural contractor
Road haulier servicing local quarries
Jonjo O'Neill's Racing Stables at Jackdaws Castle
Equine facilities
Engineering workshop
Stone-wallers
Game bird breeding
Weekly shoots (in season)
School of Motoring
Herbs and chillies at Farmcote
Small scale egg production
Pilates and Yoga Instruction
Home based IT and related businesses

The nearest Post Office is an outreach service on Tuesdays (all day) and Thursdays (afternoon) in Guiting Power. There are postal deliveries on six days each week.

The former telephone boxes in Temple Guiting and Kinton have been purchased by the Parish Council for community use and are currently being redecorated by volunteer parishioners. The fate of the telephone box in Ford has still to be determined.

There is a thrice weekly milk delivery by Cotteswold Dairy from Tewkesbury. Daily bread and Sunday papers are delivered by Watson's bakery in Guiting Power.

The supplier for electricity is Western Power and the supplier for water is Thames Water, except for Farmcote where the supplier is Severn Trent Water. (The Thames/Severn watershed is evident at Lynes Barn.).

2.12 Planning

The local Planning Authority is Cotswold District Council. Gloucestershire County Council is the Planning Authority for quarries.

Developments within the Parish are constrained by the existence of Conservation Areas in Farmcote, Ford and Temple Guiting and the Parish's location within the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Beauty (AONB). Any proposed building work in the Parish and any tree work in the Conservation Areas needs planning permission from Cotswold District Council. Applications for quarrying are the remit of the local Minerals Authority, that is to say Gloucestershire County Council.

TGPC is a statutory consultee for all planning applications. Depending on the nature of a planning application, TGPC will consider the application either at one of its regular Meetings or by councillors meeting as a 'Planning Committee' (usually on site); rarely, and for minor applications or for amendments to existing applications which have already been considered, the Council may deal with the matter by email. Occasionally, for more contentious applications, the Council may enter into discussion with the appropriate County or District Councillor, and be represented at a meeting of the Planning Committee of the relevant Council. TGPC may only address planning matters such as appropriateness of design, materials, location, access and so forth. The Clerk is responsible for submitting TGPC's official response to a Planning Application to the appropriate Planning Authority.

TGPC also liaises with Gloucestershire County Council regarding on-going quarrying (especially with regard to the monitoring and implementation of conditions).

TGPC is concerned that the operation of the planning system does not appear to have sufficient impact on quarrying in the Parish. A new Local Minerals Plan (as required by central government), which will set the strategy for quarrying in Gloucestershire until 2032, is due to be approved in 2019. It would appear that this Plan may have limited bearing on the subsequent development of quarrying in the Parish.

The enforcement of conditions on quarry operators by the Planning Authority has been haphazard and ineffectual, although a recent meeting of Parish councillors with a newly appointed Enforcement Officer (and continuing liaison by the Clerk), suggests that compliance with conditions (such as wheel washing and annual outputs) may be more adequately monitored and enforced in the future.

It is the aim of TGPC to persuade the Planning Authority not to treat each new quarrying application in isolation but as part of a more coherent plan or "joined up thinking" taking into account the cumulative impact of multiple applications on the environment (especially noise and visual intrusion), roads (deterioration in road surfaces and deposition of quarry dust/mud) and the AONB.

It is ironic that the use of 'Guiting stone' which characterises house and walling in the Parish and wider AONB, should have an adverse impact on the residents of Temple Guiting Parish.

THIS SECTION CURRENTLY BEING DEVELOPED:

Conclusions: Where next?

Establishing a community perspective

Agreeing priorities for the Parish

Implementing continuity and change

The impact on current and future spending

Appendix 1: Some matters for initial consideration by Councillors:

Council: Statutory requirements - annual review of policies

Council: Promotion

- How to bring about greater community involvement across the whole Parish, including encouraging potential councillors ahead of next election.
- Review website

Council: Performance, including Audit
Clerk's views and response to annual audit (!)

Environment and Amenity, including Rights of Way:

- Review state of rights of way and signage
- Other areas for improvement in the Parish

Green Initiatives:

- Thermal imaging
- Charging point (CDC grant access)
- Encourage individual initiatives

Highways:

- Press for further improvements inc verges/passing places
- Linesman scheme availability
- Road safety

People and Housing:

Establish need

Planning:

- Can TGPC be more pro-active?
- TGPC policy re potential new housing
- Improve method of responding to applications lodged with CDC and GCC
- Establish clear guidelines to ensure consistency

Quarries:

- Work with GCC and Cllr Nigel Moore to bring about consistency and oversight to quarry development
- Prepare for response if recent pre-application becomes an application

Liaison and working with other bodies, local and further afield

Other initiatives suggested by parishioners:

- How might 'Community Spaces', such as the village hall, the west end of the church and the upstairs at the shop, enable the community to be cohesive.
- Is now the time to prepare a 'Local Plan' in collaboration with the community?