

CHISELDON PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Points of interest and extracts from the meeting held in
August 2015

www.chiseldonparishcouncil.com

e: clerk@chiseldonparishcouncil.com t: 01793 740744

New Parish Councillor

I am delighted to report that Mr Matthew Harris has joined the Council and, as a result, we now have our full complement of fifteen Parish Councillors, all of whom give freely of their time to help ensure that the business of the Parish runs smoothly. I know you will join me in welcoming Councillor Harris and in thanking his colleagues for their continued service.

Police report

PC Draper, having just returned from leave, was unable to attend this month's meeting of the Full Council so the latest crime figures were not presented. However, the Parish Clerk has received various reports of vehicles illegally off-roading in the Washpool and in local fields. There are very few 'Byways Open to All Traffic' in Chiseldon Parish so if you see anyone using a motorbike or other vehicle in an off-road location then please call 101 and report them to the police.

In addition, residents are encouraged to call 999 if they witness an incident that is likely to place someone in immediate danger. This could include someone riding a motorbike without a helmet or someone suspected of taking illegal substances.

Highways

The New Road build-out is due to be discussed at a meeting of the Council's Environment Committee and an update will be available next month.

The order for yellow lines at either end of Turnball has now been made and the work should be carried out in the next two to three weeks. With regard to the Hodson junction, a request has been made for changes to road markings as well as new signage and it is hoped that this work will take place later in the year.

Councillor Caroline Brady, our Chair, recently met with Robert Buckland MP to discuss the possibility of installing a filter lane at the end of New Road and the issues being caused by traffic continually backing up around Junction 15 of the M4. Our Borough Councillors have also been involved in similar meetings. These discussions are ongoing.

Speeding

The Clerk has received a number of communications from residents concerned about the amount of speeding taking place in the village, especially on roads which do not have pavements.

The Parish Council would like to see the speed limit reduced to 20mph across all of our villages and we have the support of our Borough colleagues in these endeavours. The problem, as ever, is access to funds but we will continue to try and identify any opportunity to put suitable traffic calming schemes in place.

In the meantime we will continue to operate our regular Speedwatch sessions and we ask for your support, both in terms of reporting incidents to the police and in driving carefully on our narrow roads and lanes.

Parish Plan

A group of five residents is now holding regular monthly meetings with the aim of developing a new Parish Plan for Chiseldon, to follow on from the document drawn up in 2004. The Chair of this Group, Mr Paul Maycock, will provide regular updates on the progress of the Plan at Full Council

meetings and there will be an extensive consultation exercise across the Parish towards the end of the year to determine community priorities.

Village Appearance

The missing posts at the Strouds Hill car park are being replaced and some of the over-hanging branches are also due to be cut back. In addition, the hedges at Saxon Mill will be cut back in September and some of the trees will also be cut back in December.

Drop kerbs are now in place in Well Close and New Road and the tree root that is disrupting the footpath at the end of Strouds Hill has been marked and will be tackled.

Several residents have kindly cut back hedgerows and bushes that were impacting upon roads and pavements but there are still a few properties where work is required. We would be extremely grateful if residents could ensure that public spaces are kept free from obstruction so that pedestrians, in particular, can move freely and safely around the villages. We also ask that homeowners clear any cuttings from roads and pavements and dispose of them appropriately.

Councillors are currently in the process of conducting a walk around the villages to identify priorities for cutting back and tidying up. Please feel free to contact the Clerk if there is an area that you feel requires attention. Maintenance is an ongoing challenge in this time of austerity but if we all pull together to look after our individual 'slices' of Chiseldon Parish then we will ensure that this remains an attractive and safe place to live.

Other Matters

There are some major changes to bus stops in Swindon over the next six months and an important consultation on the use of concessionary bus passes being run by Wiltshire County Council so please take the time to read Councillor Hill's bus service update elsewhere in this issue.

Finally, people wishing to book the Memorial Hall for a function should contact Peter Snipe on 741164. John Legge is one of the current Trustees for the Hall but he is not in a position to take bookings.

Next Meetings

The monthly Borough Councillors' surgery will take place on Saturday 5 September between 11.30am and 12.30pm in the Old Chapel, Butts Road. This is an opportunity for residents to discuss any concerns with both Parish and Borough Councillors so do come along and say hello.

The next Full Council meeting will be on Monday 14 September, starting at 7.30pm in the Recreation Hall. Residents are welcome to attend and there is a public recess at the start of proceedings, after which residents can choose to leave.