

NEWSLETTER – NOVEMBER 2020

Parish Centre – we are open but for the safety of staff and members of the public, we would ask you to wait in the foyer for attention. Please sanitise your hands, wear a face mask and check in using the NHS Test and Trace QR code and/or record your name and contact details in the book provided. Keep safe and thank you.

Dog Fouling - This continues to be a problem throughout the Parish. Several areas have been highlighted and we are working closely with Josie Oak our Dog Warden and Peter Tiley our Neighbourhood Warden, to try and tackle this.

If you witness a fouling incident, please report it to us. If you know the name/address of the person then our Dog Warden, Josie Oak can visit. If you don't have a name or address, then please get a description of the person and their dog(s), together with the time of day/place that you witnessed the incident so that Josie can carry out targeted patrols. A fine of up to £1000 can be issued for not picking up after a dog. Together let us beat this problem!

Foliage - There is a legal duty of homeowners to cut back and keep in a safe condition any hedges and trees that are overhanging footpaths or highways. If foliage is blocking access of a footpath this can cause accidents by forcing people into the road and can make passing for wheelchairs and pushchairs impossible. If growth does obstruct users of rights of way or blocks light from public lamps, the Council can take enforcement action and reclaim costs from the owner.

Fourways Crossroads - Further to our report in the last issue we have been asked by a parent if a pedestrian crossing could be installed here for the protection of our youngsters who walk to and from Thomas Keble and other schools.

There are about 100 children crossing this busy junction on a school day and the latest results from speed monitoring along this road show that 43% of all motorists exceeded the 30 limit at the times children are crossing. The highest speed recorded was 62 mph on 2 October during the afternoon walk home.

We will need to wait until the road safety scheme has been put in place along the road, which will be towards the end of the year. Following that, we can monitor speeds and behaviour and then we can seriously look at the crossing.

A Facebook page has been set up to address this matter and we need the involvement of all parents so that we have a stronger voice in trying to persuade County that this is critical. We have a long way to go and it will be an uphill fight but we are sure that with support from the community we can succeed.

Bus rerouting

We have been communicating with Stagecoach about the changes to the 61 bus route. The route does not cover Chalford Hill late afternoon so youngsters returning from Stroud are now forced to walk home along Middle Hill road. It appears that the County Council has enforced a pre-cleaning process for any bus commencing a 'school bus' as part of the Covid-19 safety measures. This means that the bus needs to be parked up and all interior touch points are wiped down. That takes time with the consequence that there is insufficient time for the Chalford Hill stops. We feel there are alternative ways of overcoming this and have suggested these to Stagecoach management. They are receptive and may be able to make tweaks to the service without a totally new timetable. One of our suggestions is that the bus travels along Burcombe Road and then turns left on to Middle Hill thus missing out Burcombe Way and Brantwood Green.

You have probably noticed that Stagecoach are now running double deckers in the parish. About a third of all services are now double decker busses due to Thomas Keble student numbers exceeding the number of seats available in a single decker.

Road Safety Group - We are planning to relaunch this initiative and if any Parishioner would like to join us they would be very welcome.

We want to look at all aspects of road safety including speeding and work closely with our PCSO and PC. Ideas are always welcome and indeed it was a Parishioner who first mooted the idea of a pedestrian crossing.

Freezer of love - Funding from the Governments Coronavirus community Support Fund has given money to enable 6,500 meals to go into Community 'Freezers of Love' based throughout Stroud District. Distributed by the National Lottery and organised by the Long Table, Chalford Parish Council will be hosting one such freezer in their Office.

The frozen ready meals are there for everyone, not just those who are short of money but those who are short of time, need support getting food during the current restrictions, are ill or just need a delicious meal. Cooked by local people with love the meals are there for free, however should you like to make a donation you can make a contribution by going to the Long Table web site at www.thelongtableonline.com/donations

You can come into the Parish Office and collect a meal for yourself or a neighbour or friend in need during the Office opening hours Monday-Thursday 10.00-15.00.

Footpaths – Yes we did!

Last month's article described (among other things) making a gate on the path from Coppice Hill into the top of Dimmel's Dale and France Lynch usable again. This month, we've got a picture of the gate lost in brambles, and a picture of the same gate, now easy to use, to prove we did it!





Oh – and we had to cut through a substantial chain (with the landowner’s agreement)!

Council Meetings – although we are not holding meetings face to face, we are conducting meetings via Zoom. The next meeting will be on Thursday, 5 November 2020 commencing at 4.00 p.m. If you wish to join the meeting, please let the Clerk know and she will make the necessary arrangements.

Our contact details are: Tel: 01453 887204. Email: info@chalford-glos.gov.uk. Web site: www.chalford-glos.gov.uk or follow us on Facebook