

## **NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 2020**

Not one, but we have three new councillors; Pam Ayres and Matthew Lupton will represent Bussage Ward and Alistair Pearson the Hill Ward. Pam has lived in the area over 16 years, Alistair for 23 years and Matthew 5 years so they know the Parish well and have varying interests they want to get involved in.

**Parish Centre** – although the Centre has been closed since March, we have not been turning people away if they call with an issue. We will be opening the building officially from the 1 October. If you do visit, there are precautions in place to protect both the employees and public from the dreaded virus. You can of course continue to contact us by email or telephone.

**Four Ways crossroads** – we have held discussions with Highways as to how the stretch of road from the Bisley junction to the crossroads can be made safer and we have explored all options. The fastest speed recorded along this stretch was 91 mph!! We all agree that the 30mph limit sign should be further back nearer the Bisley junction but as it is a national speed limit road with no street lighting the sign cannot be moved. So what have we managed to achieve? The Welcome to Chalford sign will remain. The statutory width limit sign will be moved nearer the junction. The crossroads sign will be replaced and we will have a gated sign on the nearside (the opposite side of the road is in Bisley and has trees that would hamper the installation). The sign will say 'Chalford Welcomes Careful Drivers' and there will be a SLOW painted on the road and 6 dragons' teeth. The current 30 mph limit signs will be replaced by larger signs on a yellow background with a 30 painted on the road surface. As an additional safety feature there will be a metre strip of red road surface laid next to the 30. All white lining will be renewed. The Council will need to fell some self seeded trees on the verge and a householder will be approached to cut back a leylandii hedge to increase visibility. Our thanks to County Cllr Rachel Smith who, together with the Parish Council, will fund these improvements. We are hoping the work can be carried out before the onset of winter.

**Parish Council Web site** – Regulations for public bodies are due to come in at the end of September which are all about web site functionality and delivery of information to the user to make it accessible for all. We are aware that our current web site is not as compliant as it should be. To correct the faults would cost far more than a new web site so we have been speaking to providers who are able to provide us with a compliant web site. So, watch this space!

**Re-routing of the 61 bus service** - It has been brought to our attention that the 61 bus service route has changed. To collect pupils from Thomas Keble school, the 14.51 bus at Bussage Village Hall travels along The Frith and at the junction with Abnash turns left to Bluebell Rise. It then becomes the 15.15 (961) service solely for school children. The same thing happens with the 16.01 bus at Bussage Village Hall. This means there are no buses along Burcombe road, Burcombe way, Brantwood Green and Middle Hill from 2.00 pm until 5.00 pm. We will be taking this up in the strongest terms with both Stagecoach and GCC Integrated Transport. Until a parishioner brought this to our attention we had no knowledge of this. There is no bus at 3.00 pm from Chalford to Stroud.

**Footpaths - Work almost complete on popular path** - Your Footpath Volunteers have spent eight weeks (including some cancelled because of rain) working on the popular path into Dimmel's Dale from Coppice Hill. Over 15 tonnes of type 1 stone, paid for by Gloucestershire County Council's Public Rights of Way, have been laid – a wheelbarrow at a time. At the Dimmel's Dale end of the path we've cut back brambles, and made a gate usable again – which will make it easier for walkers to carry on up the valley towards France Lynch. We've also put up a temporary fence close to the Coppice Hill end of the path as a safety measure where the vegetation has fallen down the steep bank. Watch out for the final bit of our work - a permanent fence.

**Council Meetings** – although we are not holding meetings face to face, we are conducting meetings via Zoom. The next meeting will be on Thursday, 1 October 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](mailto:info@chalford-glos.gov.uk). Web site: [www.chalford-glos.gov.uk](http://www.chalford-glos.gov.uk) or follow us on Facebook