

NEWSLETTER – APRIL 2021

Frith Wood/Valley Copse – by the time this article is read, 54 trees in Frith Wood and 27 in the Valley Copse will have been felled. This is happening all over the country. It is so sad that so many trees will disappear. Although we can't replace them immediately, we will be investigating what can be planted in their place so hopefully at this time next year we can start planting.

Parish Council Elections – Police and Crime Commissioner, County, District and Parish Council elections will take place on Thursday, 6 May 2021. Do you care about where you live and are passionate about your community? Have you considered becoming a Parish Councillor? Want to know more; then get in touch with the Clerk. Nomination packs can be obtained from the Parish Council. Deadline for completed forms to be delivered to Stroud District Council is 4 pm on Thursday 8 April 2021.

“Barry” is back! After a defrost and a refill, our faithful Freezer of love is full of nutritious readymade meals from The Long Table. Barry is at the Parish Centre. Just ring the doorbell and you can access him to the left of the door. The meals are available for anyone in our community. Any financial donation is welcome.

Playing Field disabled accesses – we have looked at what can be done to improve access into our playing fields for wheelchair/mobility scooter users. Although we have a disabled access to France Lynch Pleasure Ground, via Highfield Way, there is a need to have more. The organisers of Chalfest have kindly offered to investigate this and to carry out work to other entrances at this site on behalf of the Parish. It has been agreed a further disabled access is required at Bussage Pleasure Ground. A footpath group volunteer, trained in building dry stone walls, has volunteered to create one at the corner entrance, near to The Frith/Velhurst Drive. Thank you to both parties.

Dog fouling – unfortunately, we need to continue to address this problem which has increased over the last few months. Reports have been received of dog fouling found near to play equipment and along footpaths. Again, it will not be readers of the newsletter but if anyone witnesses a dog owner not picking up after their pet, please contact Josie Oak, SDC Dog Warden, on 01453 754490 or email her at josie.Oak@stroud.gov.uk. An owner can be fined up to £1,000.

Public Right of Way signs - The green Public Right of Way (PROW) signs are common in our Parish, but when the Footpath Group carried out a survey in summer 2017 we found there were some missing. The rules are simple – where a PROW leaves a road, there should be a PROW sign, but where a PROW leaves another path, there is no need for one. However, what's simple in theory is more complicated in practice – there may be no convenient place to put a post, for instance, and as a matter of practice signs are not usually put up in residential areas where, for instance, a path between houses is obviously open to the public (but just to complicate things still further, not all paths between houses are classed as PROW).

As a result of our survey, one tranche of signs was installed in summer 2018. There have been hold-ups with a second tranche, requested for 2019-20, but it is hoped the signs in second request will be installed soon. The request focuses on Chalford High Street, Rack Hill and Coppice Hill.

FOURWAYS CROSSROADS - In conjunction with the Police, SID has been positioned monitoring this junction over the past 6 weeks. During that period 36,104 vehicles entered the Parish from the Bisley direction. Of these, 20,345 (56%) were law abiding in so much as the speed was below 30 mph. Another 6,249(17%) crossed the junction at speeds between 31 to 35 so fall outside prosecution. There were 12% (4,348) who would have received a caution (probably not watching the speedometer or had failed to activate the speed limiter). Leaving 14% or 5,162 vehicles that the Police class as in the “naughty zone” i.e can be prosecuted.

Speeds between:

40 to 44 3,078 vehicles or 73 a day
45 to 49 1,348 vehicles or 32 a day
50 to 54 509 vehicles or 12 a day
55 to 59 137 vehicles or 3 a day
Over 60 90 vehicles or 2 a day

Over the 6 week period, 122 vehicles travelled in excess of 60 mph!

When children cross the road on their way to school (8am to 10am) in the morning, 16 vehicles cross over Middle Hill at speeds over 40 and in late afternoon/evening (4pm to 6pm) 14 vehicles cross the road over 40.

It shows just how dangerous that junction is. Please ensure that you take all reasonable care when crossing.

The gateway scheme will be installed later this month and that should make a difference. We are working with Gardiners Construction and GCC Highways to construct a lay by at parish expense so that the Police Camera Van can be positioned to hopefully catch these 5162 wayward drivers and that could lead to prosecutions.

We have all the statistics that we are very willing to share with anyone who would like a copy.

Why Not Join a Council Meeting?

All our council meetings are open to the public and are currently held via Zoom. If you would like to join us, please let the Clerk know and an invitation will be sent to you. You can see the full schedule of forthcoming meetings on our website. The April meeting will be on Thursday, 1 April 2021, commencing 4.00 p.m.

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