

## **NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2021**

**Coronavirus Vaccinations** – we are so pleased to hear that so many of our residents have or are about to receive their initial vaccination. Hopefully, it won't be too long before we can meet up with friends and family again. In the meantime, we must all play our part in helping to eradicate this virus by keeping our distance, washing our hands and wearing a face covering. Please be aware of Covid-19 vaccine scams. The NHS will **never** ask for payment, the vaccine is free and would **never** ask for your bank details or arrive unannounced at your home to administer the vaccine and would **never** ask you to prove your identity by sending copies of personal documents such as your passport.

**Shopping Area Car Park Flooding** - last year we communicated at length with the management company regarding this problem. As a result, they carried out work to correct it but recent heavy rain has shown it has not been fully resolved. So, once again we will be communicating with them in the hope that the drainage can be improved.

**Middle Hill Development** – many of you have noticed that work has commenced here. We are in close contact with Green Square, the developers, and they have been very helpful in addressing our concerns. One of the main ones is the safety of youngsters walking to and from Thomas Keble and Chalford Hill Schools and Green Square has put in place precautions to protect them. We have also received concerns about a compound installed outside of the development area. Stroud District Council has said that planning permission is not required for this as it is a temporary structure for the duration of the build. Upon completion of the development the grass will be reinstated. The sewage pumping station that was due to be installed will not now be built. The foul water will be disposed of via a drain along the footpath. Whilst this work is being carried out, the footpath will be closed meaning further disruption for pedestrians. We are in talks with Green Square as to how to alleviate the problem.

**Speeding** - From an embryo of an idea, we held initial discussions with Highways and the Police Road safety team about positioning a police camera van on the grass area at the top of Old neighbourhood with the result that it is becoming a reality.

After an initial assessment by the Police Road Safety team, it was agreed it was feasible. The ground will need a hard surface for parking and a local groundworker has been approached for the installation of "grasscrete". We are in the very early stage of planning but once the ground has been made suitable, the van will be in position every 3 weeks. Speeding motorists will be prosecuted and fined. This coupled with the gateway scheme will make this junction safer.

Our speed indicator device is currently situated at the crossroads and the latest statistics show 25 motorists exceeded 60 mph and one over 80mph! during one week.

## **Valuing and using our footpaths**

During this pandemic more of us are getting out and exploring the paths in our Parish. It is easy to take our Rights of Way for granted but the Don't Lose Your Way campaign, led by the Ramblers, have found 49,000 miles of potential lost rights of way in England and Wales. The next stage in this project is to identify paths which should be restored to the maps before the opportunity to reinstate them is lost in 2026. There are no significant missing paths in our Parish but there are some in surrounding areas. If you would like to know more about the project, see the map of lost paths or get involved you can find out more at <https://dontloseyourway.ramblers.org.uk/>

Another project for walkers is Slow Ways who are developing routes linking cities, towns and villages across the country using existing off-road paths and bridleways. The aim is to encourage people to walk between locations rather than driving or take public transport. The first draft of potential routes has been drawn up and the project need volunteers to test draft routes and develop new routes. They had planned to launch this in January but have delayed because of current restrictions. If you would like to know more or volunteer to help, the project website is <https://slowways.uk/>

## **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 March meeting will be on Thursday, 4 March 2021, commencing 4.00 p.m.

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