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Village Green application

The 'Church Field' (the field by Hilperton Cemetery) application has crossed another hurdle.

At a meeting of the Western Area Planning Committee it was agreed to refer the application to a non-statutory public inquiry. This will be held probably in early 2020; things don't rush themselves in local government!

A number of people have expressed an interest in looking at the other fields on the Hilperton side of Elizabeth Way. If you are interested please contact me. The more people that are involved, the less work per person!

'Rat running' through the village

Another issue that is regularly raised is the number of vehicles still coming through the village rather than using Elizabeth Way. A possible solution would be the

closing of Devizes Road as a through route.

This will obviously benefit many residents but would also cause annoyance to many too.

The parish council has agreed to publish, and distribute, a survey to residents of Devizes Road. The wording/questions will be provided by WC highways department.

Depending on the result of this very limited survey, the matter may, or may not, be taken further.

Should the decision be to proceed with closure, Wiltshire Council would then issue a Traffic Regulation Order. At this point everyone would be able to comment both pro and anti the idea to Wiltshire Council. The portfolio holder would then look at all comments received and decide whether or not to go ahead with it.

The whole process could take between two and three years.

How to contact me

- Web site** www.ernieclark.org.uk
- E-mail** ernie.clark@wiltshire.gov.uk
- By post** **3 Stonelea, Hilperton, Wiltshire BA14 7QQ**
- By phone** **01225 769940 or (mobile) 0794 120 1995**

Hilperton Update

Summer/Autumn 2019



Printed and delivered at NO COST to the tax payer



Cllr. Ernie Clark.

Your **Independent**
Wiltshire councillor.

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Dear Resident,

Hilperton Gap

As I write this we still have the backlash of the unauthorised encampment on the Gap.

As it is private property it was the responsibility of the land owner (HGT llp) to apply to the courts for possession of the land; they will also have to pay for the land to be cleared of all the rubbish etc. that has been left behind.

This is a far from ideal situation but the powers of both Wiltshire Council and the police are limited.

By the time you receive this news-

letter the matter will, hopefully, be resolved with lessons learned.

Keeping in touch with you

I intend to continue with my Hilperton Update newsletters.

However, I also send out a monthly e-newsletter that has much more 'topical' news. It also allows me to contact residents regarding important local issues. If you wish to be added to the mailing list (your details will not be passed to anyone else) **please register via www.ernieclark.org.uk**

Ernie.

Speeding in Hilperton

From the number of e-mails I receive on the topic, this continues to be a major concern to many residents.

As I have said before, it would be nice to think that the police will take action, but I regret that, with the cut back in the number of police officers, that is simply not going to happen on a regular basis.

However, the Community Speed Watch team is still operating in the parish and they would be very happy to greet new volunteers especially from the Hilperton Marsh area.

The time requirement is not onerous - the commitment is only about one hour a month. The police provide a short training session and all volunteers are insured whilst carrying out CSW duties.

Please contact me for more information if you are interested.

Change of leadership at County Hall

After many years at the helm, Jane

Scott recently stood down as the Leader of Wiltshire Council. She has been replaced by Phillip Whitehead.

It will be interesting to see the route he chooses to take in the run-up to the next WC election in May 2021.

One thing which Scott did do was to make the decision making process rather more open than it had been in the past. Let's hope that this continues under the new Leader.

Defibrillators

Hilperton Parish Council decided earlier this year to invest in providing defibrillators for the village.

To date there are three which are fitted and operational. All are accessible 24/7.

One is at the village hall, Whaddon Lane. It is situated at the main entrance lobby to the hall.

The second is at the 'Tin Church', Horse Road. It is situated at the main entrance to the church.

The third is at the Lion & Fiddle, Trowbridge Road. It is situated on the rear wall of the entrance porch.

It is planned to install two further units, one at Marsh Road stores, the other at Hilperton Primary School.

Once these are installed there will be an announcement on both the parish council and my web sites.

Parish boundary review

Following the review a few years ago, it now seems almost certain that the changes to Hilperton's boundary (it no longer goes south of the A361) will be reflected in the new Wiltshire Council division boundaries to be announced in time for the May 2021 election.

Those houses that now find themselves paying council tax to Trowbridge Town Council, will be moved out of Hilperton Division and into Trowbridge Paxcroft Division.

No doubt, when the election comes along, the Lib Dem candidate (whoever it might be) will keep very quiet about how his/her political group voted in the Community Governance Review!

Elizabeth Way

When the road was opened a few years ago, the expected 40mph speed limit was actually set at 50mph. In addition the 'low noise' road surface was dropped from the scheme.

Other local councillors and I tried to get these decisions reversed but the Wiltshire Council highways engineers thought that they knew best. The residents closest to the road now know that WC made a bad mistake.

I honestly cannot see WC admitting their mistake and re-surfacing the road, but it is an issue which will be pursued.

New parking spaces in Church Street

Various parking arrangements were changed a few months ago, the new parking adjacent to the village pump causing many comments!

I have asked WC to erect temporary warning signs but they are refusing to do so.

Ernie Clark, your local councillor.
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