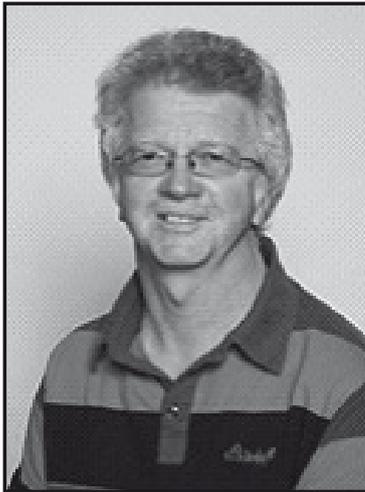


Communicating with and working for you all year round.

# Hilperton Update

Autumn/Winter 2013



## Cllr. Ernie Clark.

Your **Independent**  
Wiltshire councillor.

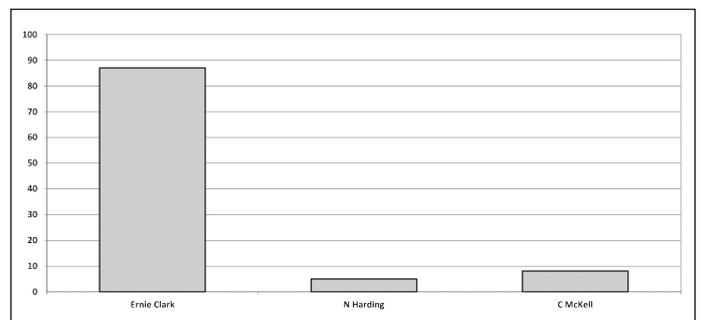
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*Dear Resident,*

### **A belated 'Thank you!'**

May I thank everyone who voted for me in the Wiltshire Council election back in May. I am grateful for the overwhelming support that I again received and, for the second consecutive election, you have given me the biggest majority of any councillor in Wiltshire! In addition, I'm told that you gave me the biggest percentage vote in the county as well.

For those of you who did not see the result, the polling was as follows:-



Ernie Clark (Independent)  
1,329 votes (87%)

N. Harding (Labour)  
74 votes (5%)

C. McKell (Conservative)  
118 votes (8%)

I will ensure that I continue to look after Hilperton's best interests at Wiltshire Council.

*Ernie Clark.*

## **Keeping in touch**

As an Independent councillor I feel that it is vitally important for me to keep residents up to date with what is going on in Hilperton and at County Hall.

To that end I have my web site and I also publish a monthly e-newsletter as my 'Hilperton Update' bulletin, such as this one, is printed on a longer time scale.

If you would like to receive the monthly update via email please contact me using the details at the bottom of this page. Your details will not be passed to anyone else.

## **Individual Electoral Registration**

The move to Individual Electoral Registration is well underway, and should be in place by the end of 2014. The Electoral Registration and Administration Bill working its way through parliament will introduce a major change to our system of electoral registration – Individual Electoral Registration (IER), which will require

electors to register individually rather than through heads of household as now.

The government responded to preliminary consultation by removing the 'opt-out' option from its original proposals, and there will be a civil penalty for individuals who fail to register following a system of reminders. It has also made some concessions on the timetable, although the aim is still to have IER in place for the general election in 2015.

## **Community Facilities**

Hilperton is fortunate to have two 'village halls' within its boundary. For those of you new to the area, there is the Community Centre, located at the local centre on Paxcroft Mead, and the Village Hall at Whaddon Lane in the 'old' part of Hilperton. Both are great facilities to hire and they also both have licensed bars.

More details are on their respective web sites.

**For up to date news on local issues,  
or to register for my e-newsletter, please visit**

**[www.ernieclark.org.uk](http://www.ernieclark.org.uk)**

## **St. Stephen's Place**

The new Odeon cinema is now up and running with various restaurants due to open during the next few months. If you are planning to visit the complex please remember that you can use the car park at County Hall after 6.00 pm during the week or any time at the weekend and it's FREE!

## **Speeding**

If there is one issue which seems to unite Hilperton it must be the issue of speeding. From Paxcroft Mead to Hilperton Marsh there is obviously a huge problem which the police seem unwilling, or unable, to tackle.

PC Hough, our local 'beat bobby' does his best and, on occasions, a traffic car will assist him in issuing £100 fine/three penalty points tickets to errant motorists. However, their visits are few and far between and seem very fleeting in their duration.

I realise that this is a cause of frustration to residents but it is an issue that really needs to be brought to the attention of the Police & Crime Commissioner

(PCC) by members of the public; he is probably sick and tired of hearing from Wiltshire Councillors!

One idea the PCC has come up with is to revamp the Community Speed Watch (CSW) campaign by putting extra investment into the 'backroom' office staff who send the warning letters out.

Of course, for the 'new' CSW to succeed, it needs the support of the public by getting new volunteers .

As I have said before, I know that a lot of people feel it is the job of the police to tackle speeding and they are right. However, the reality is that if we want something done about the endemic speeding in Hilperton, then it is up to us to do something about it.

If you would like more details of the CSW scheme please get in touch with me.

Like all areas of local government, the PCC budget is getting tighter and tighter with less money having to go further and further. So, basically, the message coming from police HQ is 'Don't expect the police to prioritise speeding in the near future.'

**Ernie Clark, your local councillor.**

**Experience Competence Energy Action Results**

## Hilperton Relief Road

Whether you are 'pro' the road, or 'anti' it, the fact is that it has planning permission and, unless Persimmon wriggle out of their obligation to build it, it should be open to the public by August 22nd 2016 at the latest.

Construction is tied-in with the new houses being built on the 'East of Trowbridge' development and WC advise that as at April 1st 2013 there were 99 houses occupied. The trigger for the completion of the road is 450 houses, or August 22nd 2016 as a backstop, so we are still some way off the trigger either in completions or the backstop date.

Being a confirmed cynic where housing developers are concerned, I would not be at all surprised to find Persimmon asking for the timetable to be relaxed - probably on the grounds that they (Persimmon) aren't making enough profit from the sale of the houses to fund the road.

Assuming that the 'backstop' date is the one that Persimmon will aim for, Wiltshire Council has said that it will review the number of completions as at April 1st 2014 and then decide 'when to start prodding' for the road to start!

## How to contact me

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