



# HOLYBROOK PARISH NEWS

*Proudly serving the residents of Holybrook since 2000*

## SPECIAL EDITION

### IMPORTANT —

### Community Infrastructure Levy Monies:

In 2018, the Parish Council asked residents what infrastructure projects should be delivered using the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) monies raised from the Bellway (The Chase) and Lidl developments. Many of the projects requested were completed including: outdoor equipment for Kennet Valley School, upgraded playground equipment, a new bus shelter, connecting footpath on the Holymead, new noticeboards, new bins, Kennet Valley Community Centre toilets refurbishment, Linear Park footpath improvements and picnic area, and additional benches. The Sharnwood Drive footpath currently remains outstanding.

The Parish Council is now in receipt of further CIL monies from the Bellway and Beansheaf Farm Developments (off Dorking Way) totalling £207,529.07. The Parish Council, in April 2021, asked residents to, once again, suggest possible infrastructure improvements. Thank you to everyone who took the time to respond. Responses were varied and are valuable, giving the Parish Council a sense of residential priorities.

Some of these requests were actioned immediately, for example, the repair of pot holes: issues such as this can be reported through West Berkshire Council's (WBC) 'Report a Problem' (<https://www.westberks.gov.uk/reportaproblem>) webpage. WBC will survey the issue and determine if it meets the criteria for action. And, on-going, historical issues, with signage in May Park were brought to the attention of WBC and resolved.

Whereas, some items are, currently, undeliverable. For example, a footpath along the Burghfield Road (from Underwood Road to The Cunning Man) as there simply is no way to safely provide a footpath there. Or, providing a green link between the east and west of the Linear Park as the land between is privately owned. Other items, including the prevention of verge parking, are countryside issues and the funding towards projects of this type is significant. Plus, if you prevent it in one location, the problem tends to resurface a bit further up the road. This is similar for installing double yellow lines or making cycle lanes solid to prevent roadside parking. Additionally, any measures of this type are subject to public and emergency services consultation and, typically, if people are choosing to park on the road, they will not vote for preventative measures.

**So, what now?** Projects close to residents' hearts are highlighted over the next two pages. Please take a moment to review the information and then complete and return the associated questionnaire. You can return your questionnaire on-line (using the QR Code or via the link on our website), to the Parish Office directly (at the Beansheaf Centre, Charrington Road), or why not come to the Parish's Annual Assembly on Monday 27th March to speak to your councillors directly (see back page for more details).



**Thank you so much for taking a moment to complete and return the questionnaire.  
Your feedback is invaluable in enabling the Parish Council to take projects forward.**

**Please complete the following information and return your form by 31st March 2023**

Name:

House Number:

Postcode:

- 1) Do you think that 30mph is an appropriate speed limit for our Parish? **YES / NO**
- 2) Would you support a reduction in the speed limit to 20mph? **YES / NO**
- 3) Would you support the Parish Council in gathering more speed data by training to be a Speed Indicator Device Operator? **YES / NO**
- 4) Would you support speed limits being painted on the roads? **YES / NO**
- 5) What would persuade you to travel at less than 30mph in the Parish:

Road safety and inconsiderate parking are always high on the agenda and are national, as well as local, problems with the increasing numbers of vehicles and lack of appropriate infrastructure. Unfortunately, possible actions are limited, particularly in Holybrook, because of the original layout designs.

- 1) Do you have a garage/off road parking at your property? **YES / NO**  
**If yes, do you use it: ALWAYS / MOST OF THE TIME / LESS OFTEN / PREFER NOT TO SAY**
- 2) Would you agree to formal parking measures i.e. parking permits, double yellow lines etc outside your property to help prevent inconsiderate parking? **YES / NO**
- 3) Would you support wildflower planting in the verges outside your property as a possible deterrent for verge parking? **YES / NO**

The Parish Council has agreed to install the following street furniture using CIL monies: a dog/litter bin in Dorking Way (near noticeboard) - awaiting approval from WBC. A bench in the Linear Park, near Corsham Road (to be installed early 2023/24 financial year). 'Welcome to Holybrook' entrance gates with speed reminder and wild flower planting at Dorking Way, Charrington Road, Mill Lane and Underwood Road.

- 1) Do you believe that the Parish requires: a) More bins: Dog / Litter Locations: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 b) More noticeboards (location): \_\_\_\_\_

The following items have previously been suggested for the Parish. Please indicate if you would support the installation of any of the following:

- 1) Outdoor table tennis table:  preferred location: \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) Ornaments/statue trail in Linear Park:
- 3) Use of 'The Garage' (Linear Park) i.e. refreshments at the weekends  community club use  food bank
- 4) Outdoor Gym (near Beansheaf Centre):
- 5) Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) None of the above:

The Parish Council is keen to promote more events and activities in Holybrook. What would you be keen to attend or support:

- |  |                          |                                     |                          |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1) Walking Football Club;                | <input type="checkbox"/> | 4) Quiz/film night—Beansheaf Centre | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2) Tea and a chat;                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | 5) Knitting/crafts;                 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3) Community litter pick/ditch clearance | <input type="checkbox"/> | 6) Pop-up pub                       | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**Final Comments/Anything else:**

## Did you know?

## Speeding

- Charrington Road and Carters Rise already have the optimum number of build-outs for the road type.
- Stops signs are not recommended for roundabouts, instead, physical features, such as fences and hedges, are used to control traffic.
- In the eyes of the law, you are liable for a speeding fine as soon as you exceed the limit. So, if you are going 31mph in a 30mph limit, you are breaking the law!
- If you hit someone at 30mph it is the equivalent of a 8.8m fall (third storey) but, at 20mph, it is the equivalent of 3.6m fall (1st floor).
- Speed bumps are not a practical solution for Holybrook because of the bus service.

At the end of the day, the data is irrelevant to any family should a loved one be killed or seriously injured on our roads. And, we all have a role to play: the Council to collect data and engineer the road to encourage drivers to keep to speed limit; the police to enforce the limits and the drivers themselves to keep to the speed limit as they are in control of their actions - if you speed, you have made a conscious decision to do so.

Speeding has, over many years, been raised as an issue in our Parish. West Berkshire Council carried out speed surveys in November/December 2022 on Charrington Road, Carters Rise and The Chase. The results of the speed surveys on these roads show that 85% of drivers are compliant with the speed limit and this is in-line with speed checks that the Parish Council completed in 2018. During the days surveyed there was an approximate average of 1970 vehicles travelling on the Parish Roads. Meaning that there were around 295 vehicles per day travelling above 31mph. However, the average mean speed was 24.7mph.

**The results of the speed surveys do not trigger West Berkshire Council's protocol for action.**

## Road Safety and Inconsiderate Parking

### Did you know?

- The Chase is too narrow to enable a pedestrian crossing.
- West Berkshire Council, following your feedback, will be conducting a 'dropped kerb/crossing point survey' of our Parish to see where, and if any, improvements can be made; a particular area of interest to the Parish Council is Mill Lane (from Red Kite Close to Low Lane).
- Rule 243 of The Highway Code prevents you from parking, amongst others: - near a school entrance - opposite or within 10 metres (32 feet) of a junction - opposite a traffic island - where the kerb has been lowered to help wheelchair users and powered mobility vehicles - in front of an entrance to a property - on a bend.
- It is every landowner's responsibility to ensure that there is no foliage overgrowing into the footpaths or highways from their properties. WBC has devolved, to the Parish Council, the ability to serve resident notices on this matter.
- WBC will be completing some improvement works to the Mill Lane footpaths in the 2023/24 financial year.
- Cyclists\*, e-scooters and mini motorbikes are not permitted to use footpaths (\*unless the pavement has been specially designated and segregated. (i.e. north of the A4)).

**\*\*\*NOTICE: Most works require permissions from outside agencies and, particularly, West Berkshire Council as the Highways Authority. There are many reasons some works cannot be completed such as the roads being too narrow or rejection following formal public consultation. At this stage, the Parish Council is seeking an overall view of residents' opinions to help avoid the pursuit of undesired changes in the Parish.\*\*\***

# Holybrook Parish Annual Assembly

**Monday 27th March 2023**

Drop-in: 6.00pm until 7.30pm

Speeches commence at 7.30pm

**Beansheaf Centre, Charrington Road, Calcot RG31 7AW**

The Annual Assembly is **NOT** a parish council meeting, rather it is the opportunity for residents to hear about the work of the Parish Council over the last year, and some of the various bodies with which it has associated; what it has achieved and what its aspirations are for the coming financial year.

More importantly, it is an opportunity for residents to question people and organisations on any issues relating to the Parish. As the Annual Parish Assembly is not a parish council meeting, it is not conducted in the same way or governed by the same rules as a parish council meeting. Members of the public are encouraged to make statements on relevant matters during the meeting and any resolutions passed do not bind the Parish Council.

**FREE refreshments. FREE packet of seeds. A chance to have your say on how the Council should spend the Community Infrastructure Levy monies.**

## The Coronation of King Charles III



**Join us for a Big Picnic in the Park – linear Park**

**Sunday 7th May 2023**

**12:00 noon until 15:00**

Don your crowns and capes, wave your flags; bring your own blanket/seat and bring along your own picnic, family and friends to join us for an afternoon of celebratory family games and music.

**This is a FREE\* family event offering our community the chance to come together to celebrate this momentous occasion for our country.**

\*There will be a charge for refreshments bought from the bar