



HOLYBROOK PARISH NEWS

Proudly serving the residents of Holybrook since 2000

August 2023



Dear Holybrook Residents

Thank you to the 146 residents who took time to respond to our Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) monies questionnaire. This, albeit a low level of responses, does, nonetheless, provide the Council with valuable insight into residential views. Thank you also to those residents who provided information above and beyond the questions asked. Whilst this round of public consultation has now closed, the Council welcomes ideas for improving and enhancing our community environments for the benefit of all our residents at any time (our contact details can be found on page 2).

It would be impossible to reflect all the comments received in the newsletter but all comments and suggestions have been fully reviewed and considered by the Council. Please read on for an overview of the results and some of the actions the Council has agreed and/or taken.

Claire Tull, Chairman

Community Infrastructure Levy Monies: Overview of Questionnaire Results

Almost all the projects the Parish Council would like to take forward require permission from West Berkshire Council. Therefore, any actions listed are subject to consent.

SPEEDING:

- ⇒ Although 60% of respondents felt that 30mph is an appropriate speed limit for the Parish, 80% would support a reduction in the speed limit to 20mph and 82% of respondents would support the speed limit being painted on the roads.
- ⇒ 29% of respondents said they would be prepared to train to be speed indicator device operatives.
- ⇒ Many suggestions were put forward as to what would encourage you to slow down on our roads. The most common responses being: *I already do, children/schools, safety, speed cameras/signs and enforcement.*

PARKING:

- ⇒ 98% of respondents indicated they have off-road parking at their property with 84% always using it.
- ⇒ 34% of respondents wished to see formal parking measures introduced with line markings being the most popular option.
- ⇒ 70% of respondents support wildflower planting although some concern was noted about the potential for verges looking scruffy with possibly increased litter and reduced visibility.

BINS & NOTICEBOARDS:

- ⇒ 60% of respondents would like to see more dog/litter bins with the main requests for: Charrington Road, top of Mill Lane, all bus stops, Linear Park entrances and Underwood Road.
- ⇒ 24% of respondents would like more noticeboards. The main location being Underwood Road.

FURNITURE:

- ⇒ 53% outdoor gym, 44% table tennis table and 39% ornament trail in Linear Park. 17% of respondents would rather none of the suggested equipment was installed in the Parish.
- ⇒ The use of The Garage (located in Linear Park) results were very close with 58% opting for refreshments at the weekend, 49% preferring community club use and 44% supporting the idea for a food bank.
- ⇒ There were many additional comments/suggestions in this section which included: *better footpath surfaces in Linear Park, more planting, signs to remind dog owners to keep their dogs under control and toilet facilities.*

ACTIVITIES:

- ⇒ The most popular activity was litter/ditch clearance with 42% of respondents selecting this option. Tea and a chat and a pop-up pub were selected by 35% of respondents with 30% seeking a quiz/film night and 20% opting for walking football and knitting and crafts.
- ⇒ Although 35% of respondents were keen on the idea of a pop-up pub, concerns were raised over the potential for anti-social behaviour.

FINAL COMMENTS:

- ⇒ Final comments were many and varied with a lot of people thanking the Friends of Linear Park for all of the hard work they put into keeping the Park a beautiful space in our Parish. A space, of which, we can be very proud.

Selection of other comments:

- ⇒ *Paths and parking in Linear Park need improving, a footpath is required at Orkney Close, more benches on walking routes, more police presence, more control of overgrown foliage from neighbours' gardens, mend pot holes, increase the opportunities to socialise, solar panels on Beansheaf Centre, bus sump cameras, remove verges and install parking bays, convert cycle lanes to solid white lines (to prevent parking).*

www.holybrook-pc.gov.uk

Clerk: clerk@holybrook-pc.gov.uk. General Enquiries: admin@holybrook-pc.gov.uk

Or, call the Parish Office on 0118 945 4339 or 07704 663397

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[RAW MEAT AND FLY-TIPPING]

Piles of raw meat have been dumped on the Holymead recreation ground. This is not permitted. Not only is it a serious health hazard (as well as the foul smell and flies, raw meat can attract rodents and may contain salmonella and E. coli) 'the illegal deposit of any waste onto land that does not have a license to take it' is fly-tipping.

Please do not use the street litter bins for bags of household waste. They do not have the capacity for this and, if people fill them up in this way, they cannot then serve the purpose for which they are intended.

Please report incidents of fly-tipping directly to West Berkshire Council (WBC) using their Report a Problem website page (<https://www.westberks.gov.uk/article/37565/Report-a-Problem-here>). Alternatively, you can send a text message (07704 6633 97) to the Parish Council and we will onward report to WBC.

'Anyone caught fly-tipping could be liable for prosecution. If found guilty, punishments could include fines of up to £50,000, or five years' imprisonment.

[DOG BINS]

Over flowing dog bins have been a hot topic in the Parish but, hopefully, by the time this newsletter is published we will see the service back to normal.

West Berkshire Council worked with their contractor to resolve the issues that had arisen from new members of staff to systems that required upgrading.

If you experience any further issues with the dog bins please use the West Berkshire Council 'Report a Problem Page'.

Finally, if a bin is full, please do not exacerbate the issue by putting bags on top of or around the bin. Please dispose in your black wheelie bin at home.

Current Council Agreed Next Steps:

- ◆ Purchase one mobile Vehicle Activated Sign. **Costs:** signs, installation including groundworks survey. On-going maintenance (foliage cutbacks/cleaning), repairs.
- ◆ Unfortunately, West Berkshire Council has refused our request for speed limits being painted on the roads.
- ◆ Review current speed signage and see if more is required or whether the existing could be better placed. Resident feedback welcome on possible locations.
- ◆ Work with Friends of Linear Park and West Berkshire Council on a spring bulb planting event ensuring that any planting does not interfere with the grass cutting schedule. **Costs:** bulbs and planting equipment.
- ◆ Liaise with West Berkshire Council on possible designated parking areas.
- ◆ Purchase a noticeboard for the Underwood Road Area (from the Council's Community and Environment earmarked reserves). **Costs:** noticeboard, installation, groundworks survey.
- ◆ Install more dual dog/litter bins (exact locations to be agreed). **Costs:** bins, installation, groundworks survey. Ongoing bin emptying costs.
- ◆ Friends of Linear Park and West Berkshire Council have advised that extending the Trim Trail is not a priority and this will not, therefore, be taken forward at the present time. Item to remain on list for future consideration.
- ◆ The furniture results were presented to the Countryside Department of West Berkshire Council to see if any of the projects/suggestions are deliverable with a view to possible collaboration.
- ◆ The Garage: seek pre-planning advice from the Planning Authority for possible kiosk/refreshment space.
- ◆ Outside toilets (Linear Park): Trial opening schedule agreed for the summer 2023. Consider possible improvement works.
- ◆ Friends of Linear Park have been consulted on a capital works programme; one new footpath and two footpath extensions have been identified as priority in addition to the improvement of the park accessibility entrance gates. Quotes awaited before any further decisions are made.
- ◆ The schedule of community litter picks to continue alternating between the West and East of the Parish (details of the next pick included on the back page of this newsletter).
- ◆ Investigate the possibility of running some of the suggested activities; who will run them and when? Ensure all activities are well advertised and advertise some of the suggested activities that are already available, for example, Walk for Health which is held in the Linear Park.
- ◆ Produce information for residents to highlight what is the responsibility of the Parish Council vs the District Council and the Police.
- ◆ Contractor has been consulted for dropped kerb works required from Dorking Way to Orkney close including some new/footpath extensions. Quote awaited.
- ◆ Boardwalk for Linear Park discussed with West Berkshire Council and Friends of Linear Park. This is a very expensive project and not currently a priority. Item to remain on list for future consideration.

M4 Junction 12/A4 Bath Road/Dorking Way — Questions and Answers

At the Holybrook Parish Annual Assembly, issues with the M4 Junction 12/A4 Bath Road/Dorking Way were raised. The Parish Council has no authority over the highways but is keen to work on behalf of residents to get issues considered when raised. Therefore, the Highways Authority was contacted and here are its responses on some of the points raised (NOTE: the Parish Council will be going back to the Highways Authority on some of these points):

- *Personal Injury Accidents have not increased along this section of the A4 from the M4 to Charrington Road during years 2017 to 2022 compared to the previous five years. According to Department of Transport traffic count data, traffic along the A4 by 2022, was still significantly less than pre COVID 2019 traffic volumes.*
- *Existing signage and lining at junctions is regularly reviewed by our Maintenance Team and, when necessary, they will remove or replace signage and lining accordingly. I can confirm that we have placed an order for the markings to be replaced (where required) along the A4 between the Reading Boundary and M4 Junction 12. This should cover the areas you have mentioned. The markings should be refreshed in the coming weeks.*
- *It is considered that there is sufficient time in the signal staging when the A4 eastbound and right turn into Dorking Way run or during inter-green periods (between the end of the Sainsbury's exiting phase and the A4 westbound stage). This should allow traffic to safely exit Dorking Way, but we can look into this further if required.*
- *All signage at the approach to the junction clearly identifies Dorking Way as being for local traffic only.*
- *The junction (Sainsbury's/Dorking Way), when provided during 2015/2016 with the Ikea development, was subject to a full safety audit and was confirmed as being acceptable.*
- *The traffic light jumping at the A4 crossing (near the petrol station) is being investigated separately as part of the School Street work we are currently carrying out associated with the Calcot Primary Schools.*

Your Parish Councillors

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(Chairman)

MARY BEDWELL: 0118 942 0196
(Vice Chairman)

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Meetings

Parish Council meetings are open to the public*. All meeting dates are published on the Council's website: www.holybrook-pc.gov.uk and in the Council's noticeboards.

**subject to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meeting) Act 1960.*

Scouting Family Camp was a hit!

1st Theale & Calcot Scout Group recently hosted a Family Camp. Almost 190 people travelled to Earleywood Scout Centre for a Christmas themed weekend. The children, parents, grandparents and siblings took part in archery, pyrography, making snow globes, paper marbling, campfire activities and much more. We even had a full Christmas dinner!

The Scout Group provides exciting activities across 3 Beaver Colonies, 3 Cub Packs, 2 Scout Troops, and an Explorers Unit. We're even getting ready to launch a Squirrel Drey for younger members. We are supported by a fantastic group of volunteers, and are always on the lookout for more. If you could spare a few hours to volunteer and support the young people of Theale and Calcot, we'd love to hear from you (GSL.1standc@gmail.com).

COMMUNITY LITTER PICK

Thank you to everyone who came to our community litter pick on Saturday 3rd June 2023 where litter was picked from Fairfields to Pollards Way/bus sump and the side roads between including Cow Lane and up to the A4. A great job done and new friendships made. Who knew picking litter could be fun!



'The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intension'

Oscar Wilde



The next event is taking place in Fords Farm, setting off from Kennet Valley Free Church, on Saturday 9th September at 10:00am. Refreshments will be provided. Please keep an eye on our noticeboards for more information.

Friends of Linear Park – The Green, Green Grass of the Park

Global warming or climate change, call it what you will, but the 'Friends' have experienced either deluges or searing sun on their work days but this hasn't deterred them. Maintenance continues with trimming back some of the entrances, cutting back along the footpaths and strimming around the benches and trees including the 'skirting' of the willow trees around the football field (have you seen the photo on Facebook?). The railings around the car park have also had a 'Friends' paint-over!

Several complaints have been received regarding the cutting of the grass in the Park and the Friends are liaising with the contractors as regards to the way forward.

School holidays are upon us, so why not pack a picnic and head to the Park; pack some games, your cricket bat and wickets and try the (new) cricket strip. Don't forget to take your litter home with you when you leave. Thank you! As always, if you have any ideas, queries or would like to lend a hand, the Friends can be contacted at: hello@folp.com or through our website: www.folp.uk.

Calcot Infant and Junior School

This term we celebrated sports and creative arts weeks. Children benefit from the expertise of professionals across these fields to learn new and demonstrate their teamwork skills, and meet inspirational people to extend personal ambitions and horizons.

Highlights from Sports Week include visiting athletes: Pierre-Henry Fontaine (basketball), Jackie Burns (Reading FC Women) and local running group, Reading Joggers, who supported our Sports Days. Throughout the week, children had the opportunity to experience a range of new sports and activities including Zumba, lacrosse, karate, fencing, tag rugby, Ultimate Frisbee, water polo and football. The climbing wall, supplied by Outdoor Academy, was a great success where lots of children overcame their fears and displayed immense determination and teamwork.



Opportunities during Arts Week included Salsa, Balinese, Bollywood, Street, Maypole and Irish dancing alongside workshops on Dhol drums, steel pans, Djembe drums and junk modelling. Children created their own collaborative art pieces and visited our on-site art gallery with amazing art work from local secondary schools. The whole school carnival opened with our school Haka and performances throughout the afternoon brought together professionals and children to celebrate the week. We ended the day with our summer fayre organised by the PTFA.

Thank you to all the providers, professionals and coaches who came in to give our children these wonderful opportunities.