

# MICHELDEVER PARISH COUNCIL

# NEWSLETTER

## July 2019

***In these unusual times we hope that all residents and their families remain safe and well. The Parish Council, the local Churches and other public-spirited residents are seeking to assist the community and we would encourage all to take advantage of any help which they require and to make themselves known to those who are willing and happy to assist them. These are times for communities to come together and to support each other. This has benefits for all and we hope that the care we take for our neighbours will continue in better times.***

### **The Origins Of Parish Councils**

Parish Councils were established by the Local Government Act of 1894. Under this Act, most of the civil functions of the Church of England and other bodies were transferred to the new councils, which were created only in rural areas. In 1894, two of the primary functions were to provide a clock and washing facilities. There have been many subsequent Local Government Acts and parish councils today manage recreational land and facilities, allotments, some of the general maintenance of villages and many other locally specific activities, whilst having a role in local planning and interacting with the other layers of Local Government. Parish Councils are statutory corporations. Whilst they have no physical existence, they have a separate legal personality apart from their members. They never die and therefore exist in perpetuity. The acts of a council are distinct from the acts of its members. A parish Council must hold at least four meetings a year and a parish meeting or assembly. The Coronavirus Act 2020 has, for the first time, allowed meetings to be held virtually. The new legislation applies to meetings up to May 2021 and Micheldever held its first virtual meeting in June. At this time it is not known

whether we will need to continue with virtual meetings or can return to holding meetings in the village halls but details will be posted each month on the website and noticeboards. Residents can join virtual meetings via the link which will be provided on the website. It has not been possible to hold the annual Parish Assembly this year but the report seeks to cover the matters which the Parish Council have been involved with in the last year.

### **PARISH REPORT**

#### **Micheldever Station**

Speed surveys were carried out on Overton Road and Andover Road in September 2019. On Andover Road the average speed is close to the speed limit of 30mph. Speeding between 31-41mph is worst between 3pm and 5pm, speeding between 41-51mph occurs and is most common between 8am and 10am and 3pm and 5pm. On Overton Road the majority of traffic travels south at between 31-46mph and north at between 26-41mph. This occurs throughout the day and is not specific to early morning or late afternoon. In view of the high average speed of cars travelling south on Overton Road, the Parish

Council have held a site meeting with HCC and asked them to draw up plans for a village gateway feature, with speed limit reminders, to reinforce the speed limit on entering the village. Funding has been sought, for some time, for an extension to the pavement on the Andover Road approach to the railway bridge but this has not been successful. The Parish Council are therefore now engaging with HCC Countryside Services to see what improvements can be made to the informal path through the trees on the opposite side of Andover Road. A grant was made to the Warren Centre for paving around the hall. A grant was also made available, should they need it, to the community group working on a bid for The Dove Inn. Until the Coronavirus restrictions took effect, Liz and Mike were carrying out regular fitness training sessions on the equipment at Warren Field and the Council are grateful for their enthusiasm and commitment. In June, whilst the Warren Centre is closed, it has been necessary to block many of the entrances to the grounds due to the potential movements of travellers. This has resulted in logs at the entrances and should any resident see interference with these please report this to the Police immediately on 999.

### **Micheldever**

Environmental Health have taken into account the community opposition to the silencing of the clock chimes at night and have confirmed that they will be taking no further action at this time. The Parish Council are continuing to work with the Worthies Youth Football Club and have made a grant towards new goal posts. Further pitch treatments are being carried out and the car park is being extended and upgraded. This work is scheduled to start during the week of 15th June and parking of vehicles on the LRPF

area will be prohibited while work is carried out. Repairs have been made to the bus shelter on Duke Street and quotes are being sought for repairs to the wall around the War Memorial. A deferred loan has been made to the Community Hub involved in seeking to establish a shop at the Half Moon and Spread Eagle.

### **East Stratton**

A grant has been made to assist with the sanding of the floor at the village hall and an additional dual waste bin has been requested, near the hall, to help with the problem of dog fouling.

### **Carousel Park**

Following the Public Inquiry, the Inspector's report has now been published. Due to the complexity of the situation, specialist Enforcement Officers are being engaged by WCC to carry out a full review of the site. The Parish Council continue to press for prompt action to be taken.

## **AROUND THE PARISH**

### **Planning Winchester Local Plan 2038 and Micheldever Parish Village Design Statement**

In 2018 Winchester City Council (WCC) began the process to update their Local Plan which sets out the strategic priorities for development in an area. As part of this WCC conducted a call for sites for commercial housing development through their Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA) process. A number of sites in Micheldever and East Stratton were submitted to WCC by landowners and developers, in addition to the proposal for a new town at Micheldever Station. These sites, along with hundreds of other sites across

Winchester, are being considered by WCC. WCC will then publish a revised Local Plan, setting out which sites across Winchester they consider suitable for new commercial housing development. WCC are due to publish a public consultation on the available options to meet the district's development needs this Autumn. Our local WCC Councillors, Micheldever Parish Council, the Dever Society and many residents have already made clear to WCC our strong opposition to the inclusion of any of the proposed SHELAA sites in our parish and that none of them should be included in the new WCC Local Plan. The Parish Council has also updated the Micheldever Parish Village Design Statement, last published in 2002. The VDS provides guidance to those undertaking development or making changes to buildings in a village as well as to local planners. It provides a means of ensuring that any new developments are designed and located in a way that reflects both the characteristics and the qualities that local residents value in our villages and their surroundings. Following a parish consultation on the revised text last year, the revised VDS was submitted to Winchester City Council for formal approval earlier this year. A response is awaited.

### **Housing Needs Survey Report**

The parish council remains opposed to more commercial housing in the parish but, due to the high cost of housing in this area, Micheldever Parish Council has traditionally been supportive of identifying opportunities for additional affordable housing in the parish. This is so that residents who cannot afford to buy or rent locally will not be forced to move away. People with a genuine local connection to the parish are given priority for these homes. The process is separate to that for commercial housing and does not

form part of the Local Plan process. It allows sites not included in the Local Plan – known as exception sites – to be identified where only affordable housing can be built. A few small affordable housing developments, most notably at Barron Close in Micheldever, have been taken forward in recent years. The last affordable Housing Needs Survey for Micheldever Parish was conducted several years ago. A new survey of all residents to assess the current need for affordable housing and gauge community support for more affordable homes was conducted during December 2019 – January 2020. 141 responses to the survey were received and these have been analysed by Action Hampshire. Their report is available on the Micheldever Parish website at [www.micheldeverparish.org.uk/notices/Micheldever\\_HNS\\_May\\_2020.pdf](http://www.micheldeverparish.org.uk/notices/Micheldever_HNS_May_2020.pdf) The parish council will need to work with WCC to consider the Action Hampshire report and its recommendations. This will involve further discussions and consultation on next steps. If residents have any questions or comments on the report, or wish to register their interest in being considered for affordable housing, please contact the parish council clerk, Jocelyn Jenkins, at [micheldeverpc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:micheldeverpc@hotmail.co.uk) or on 01794 368951. A new bench has been installed at Cowdown.

### **Allotments**

It is disappointing to report that, despite previous requests, there have been further incidences of dog waste and dogs off leads at the allotments. More seriously, there have also been incidences of theft of equipment and produce. If you wish to walk through the allotments, please ensure that your dog is on a lead and that you clear up after them. Please respect the hard work and dedication of the allotment holders and do not tamper with their belongings or produce. All the

allotment plots are now occupied and it is wonderful to see the renewed enthusiasm and the improvements which are being made.

## Hedge Cutting

It has become very noticeable again that a number of properties have not cut hedges back adequately during the winter period to allow for summer growth and to still be within the resident's property. This endangers road users in traffic situations where opposite direction traffic is pushed into the centre of the road and damages the mirrors on buses and larger vehicles. We would ask that all residents look at road side hedges, consider road users, and retain growth behind the metalled (tarmac) surface. Hedges should also, legally, not extend to a height of over 5 metres vertically and many properties would fall foul of this criteria if it were enforced.

## Dog Fouling



**Did this belong to your dog?**

With more people and in particular families walking the footpaths during lockdown would dog owners please pick up anything their dog leaves behind or at least have the decency to make sure their dogs do not foul on the footpath. I have had several complaints about this, none more than Pub Lane, from the Northbrook Arms to New Farm Lane,

currently nicknamed \*\*\*t Alley. It is very unpleasant for people clearing footpaths and has health issues for small children. We all rightly complain about people leaving litter everywhere but this is much worse. I have requested a dog poo bin to be placed in the area by the village hall, position to be agreed. This, I hope will encourage people to pick up after their dogs and place it in the bin. I know in the past dog owners have used the village hall waste bin to deposit their dog poo bags, which was fine, but now the village hall users are no longer able to place any soiled articles in the village hall refuse bin. It is an industrial waste bin and the hall will be fined if any unsuitable articles are found in it. Please be responsible dog owners and think of other footpath users.

**Thank you.**

Over the past year the Lengthsman has been working to keep drains clear and cleaning signs following graffiti as well as carrying out other maintenance work. We are aware of jetting requirements at some locations and are trying to get this actioned.

A grant has been made to the Rights of Way Volunteers group who are installing information boards in the Parish. Further grants have been made to the churches and to Citizens Advice and Victim Support who both provide assistance to residents of the Parish. This copy of the Dever is provided free of charge to all residents by the Parish Council. The Chairman and Councillors would like to thank Liz and Mike, who provide the fitness training; James, Lynsey and the Rights of Way Volunteers, the Upper Dever Benefice and Church Wardens, the local Hampshire County Councillor and the three City Councillors. Thank you also to all those volunteering to assist others in the current crisis, providing practical support, companionship and compassion.