

News from Ibstone Parish Council

This newsletter is designed to give you an overview of the work being carried out by the Parish Council on your behalf. If you would like to comment on any of these topics please call our Clerk, Deirdre Hansen on 01494 562254 or at clerk@ibstone.org.uk.

The proposal to close the M40 bridge next year continues to be a source of great concern to the residents of Ibstone and Stokenchurch. Meetings of both Parish Councils have been held with John Gardner of UK Highways and the erection of a temporary Bailey bridge was suggested. It is clear that the Highways department had underestimated the impact of closing the Junction 5 bridge and have now also taken on board the unsuitability of some of the suggested diversions. Ted Howard Jones carried out a survey to show the impact that any bridge closure would have on the inhabitants of Ibstone. Ibstone PC will continue to liaise closely with Stokenchurch PC in negotiating an acceptable compromise with the Highways Department

The Parish Council has had a meeting with the Parochial Church Council about the proposed plans to remove the parking area in front of the church and replace this with a larger car park in the field next to the church. This car park would be constructed by Lady Getty's estate and would use 8 of the spaces for staff parking. The Parish Council objected to the principal of using agricultural land for car parking and is concerned about the suggestion that hearses would have to reverse up a slope to gain access to the car park. We have written to WDC Planning department with these views.

The Parish Council has now had drainage put into the school path to prevent muddy sections. We are now waiting for Bucks County Council to put down the promised top surface to keep the path dry in wet weather.

The reduced speed limit through the village should be introduced in the next few months but we are looking at other measures to make our village even safer. We have applied for planning permission to erect a Speed Indicating Device on the Mace to warn traffic about the school. We are also applying for permission for a SID on the Common as agreed at the last Open Meeting, but there has been some feedback recently that this might not be a popular move. There has been discussion about hiring speed guns for village volunteers to catch speeding motorists and also the idea of introducing speed chicanes. We would like to know what you think about these suggestions.

The public notice board has suffered over the years and we are getting quotes for replacing it. Since the meeting, the PC notice board has been damaged by very high winds and we are trying to get the doors refitted. We are also trying to get the door on the telephone box repaired.

We have decided to increase our PC meetings from 4 to 6 a year so that we can respond more quickly to local issues. We have agreed a trial year. Our meetings will also start earlier.

Our next meeting is March 17th at 7.30pm in the cricket pavilion. We'd like to see you there.