

## **PC monthly report Dec 2022**

In public comment, three residents from Dovecote Close raised concerns about a planning application for a bungalow on the site of an old builder's yard which is within the green belt. This is a private road with its own specific issues, but in planning terms the debate was whether this application met the National Planning Framework exceptions which can outweigh the basic presumption that any development into the green belt is harmful, in that it would replace a current eyesore. In this case, Councillors decided that this may set a further precedent in eroding of the green belt, which is under pressure, and will object to it. Another resident attended in relation to a revised application for change of use for a storage facility at Topfield farm. The main concern here is that the storage also involves distribution which would increase HGV & 'white van' traffic along Kneeton Road, as well as the narrow lane from the Red Lodge junction, so the Council voted to further object to it.

Two residents from Main Street attended to express concern about increasing levels of traffic which was often going too fast, so was there any progress with statutory 20mph limits? County Councillor Purdue-Horan was present and said that a system of county-wide 20mph limits in residential areas was still being investigated. He also said that he has asked for the resurfacing of Main Street as a priority for the 2023 programme. The PC has previously asked for police speed checks, but decided that specific data was needed. VIA has ruled out further surveys of the kind used to inform the effects of the A46 dualling, so the PC will consider purchasing a movable speed-indicating sign which also collects data.

This was one traffic issue amongst many reports from the public in the past few weeks. Where appropriate, residents are reminded of the various methods of reporting problems online or through the NCC call centre, but in summary the other issues are:

Brooks Close resident - Main Street road condition, discomfort for drivers/passengers with back conditions, & overdue a full resurface. Problems with on-road parking for the Medical Centre on Brooks Close and Cross Lane

College Street residents - parking on the narrow part of the road (PC is pushing for extension of the yellow lines); street light shadowed by hedge in same area so not enough light to see edge of pavement ( a serious pedestrian fall in that area has been reported).

Kneeton Road residents – ongoing surface water/flood problem just upwards of school entrance in heavy rain. Pedestrian pushing a wheelchair having to enter the busy narrow road because a car was parked across the pavement. Street lights not working on path from Kneeton Road up to Scout Hut (also reported online by the Scouts).

The news that the Scouts have secured the hut has been very well received in the village. Finger posts pointing to it are being repainted with the Scout symbol, and in future it will be referred to as the Scout Hut.

On the communications issue, a query has been received about the 'village diary', after a clash between two events being held on the same night. This used to be kept at the post office and the intention was that any events being planned could be entered in there to try and prevent double booking, but it now no longer exists. Cathy Smith, who also manages village hall lettings, has very kindly agreed to set up a new 'village diary' on Facebook and will liaise with the Clerk so that it will also be available on the village website.

An increase in dog fouling has been noted, and reports received that not all dog owners are carrying bags to put it in. This now a legal requirement as new PSPOs have been enacted by RBC, and notices to this effect are placed at the entrances to Butt Close. The dog warden will be approached about attending the village to check the situation.

In view of the challenging economic situation for everyone, Councillors resolved to set a precept such that the PC element of the Council tax for a band D property in 2023-4 will have little or no change from last year.

The next meeting will be on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm. The Parish Council wishes everyone a Happy New Year for 2023.