

West Farleigh Parish Council Newsletter - Nov. 2008

The Parish Council intends to issue this newsletter on a quarterly basis. Its aim is to inform you on some of the different topics that are discussed at Council meetings. Should you have a particular subject that you feel requires further explanation and would be of interest to the rest of the village please let us know through the Clerk, Vikki Stancombe and we will try to include it in the next issue.

Future village speed limits

For as long as I can remember one of the few things that has religiously brought people to the Parish Council meetings is their concern over village speed limits. Therefore with the introduction of this newsletter it was thought by the Councillors that this subject should be one of the topics that would interest you all.

You have for many years been represented by your Parish Councillors at meetings where speed limits were the main topic and in all honesty despite the considerable amount of unpaid time, very little has been achieved. This lack of progress is generally felt by us to be as a result of both Kent Highways with their constant lack of impetus and funding and by the Police who recently told us that they would not support any speed limit unless they could enforce it! Your councillors have met with the Authorities on many occasions and have walked and driven them round this village, once again putting our feelings over to them and seemingly getting their agreement to do something yet again with nothing happening as a result. You have probably guessed by now that we were totally frustrated at this lack of action, until the publication of a review by Jacob's.

The changes as previously reported are as follows:-

- B2010 Lower Road, between East Farleigh and Old School House [reduction in speed from 60 mph to 50 mph.](#)
- B2010 Lower Road/Smiths Hill, between the Old School House and Vale House [reduction in speed from 60 mph to 40 mph.](#)
- B2163 Ewell Lane, between the junction with the A26 to the 'T' junction of Heath Road [reduction in speed from 60mph to 40 mph.](#)

The downside of this is the time it will take to introduce these changes, but at least we now have their commitment to do it.

We are now continuing with our endeavours for a speed reduction in Charlton Lane which unfortunately due to its classification has not been covered within the Jacob's report. After meeting recently with Susan Hollister and Ben Hilden from Kent Highway Services we were promised that they would install the strips that record speed and volume of vehicles so that they could then have some of the documentary evidence needed for the imposition of a 30 mph for at least part of Charlton Lane. The realisation of this is that it will be a challenge for the Parish Council and will no doubt need all our continuing efforts to achieve our aim of a reasonable, enforceable speed limit throughout Charlton Lane.

Bruce Scott. 01622 814476

West Farleigh Playground

Every year the Parish Council employ an agency to assess and maintain the safety of the play area on the green. For a while members of the council have been aware of the mini roundabout looking rather past its best, and have felt that it was not really providing much stimulation and fun for children.

At the end of 2007 Parish Councillors wanted to upgrade some of the equipment and were thinking of changing the roundabout for something else. So I went to visit the two groups for young people that

meet in the village and also spoke to local children. In total I interviewed 14 young people (from aged 3 to teenagers).

The general consensus was that the young people loved the roundabout - but wished it were bigger and faster! They would also like some more adventurous play equipment such as swinging bars, rope swings and a slide and they also wanted the area to be bigger. Some of their wishes were not possible e.g. to have a larger football area with two goal posts (we hope they'll use the football pitch just down the lane), and to have a basket ball area (we don't really have the space on the green). But it was really helpful to hear what they would like see happen in the play area.

The Councillors decided upon a plan for the next two years to try and replace the roundabout, and to develop the play area further. We applied for grants towards the costs of replacing the roundabout in the first year, and in September we heard that our bid for funding had been successful.

We hope our new super-doooper roundabout, a larger circle which will also allow wheelchair users to be able to play on it, will be fitted in the New Year.



This year we are about to put in a bid for the play area to be slightly enlarged to accommodate a new piece of equipment - we hope some kind of slide with climbing and swinging bars. So keep your fingers crossed that we are lucky again.

Beverley Hards 01622 721181

Over twenty years on West Farleigh Parish Council

I joined West Farleigh Parish Council more than twenty years ago. My first meeting was held in the cricket pavilion since when there have been a number of different venues. We have met in **all** the pubs in the village, sometimes in the bar and sometimes in a meeting room, in various councillors' houses, Hunton Village Hall and most recently in All Saints Church. One day hopefully, we will be meeting in our own village Community Centre.

Over the years there has been quite a turnover of councillors and it says a great deal for West Farleigh that there is always someone willing to stand when there is a vacancy. We have also had a number of Parish Clerks who, somehow, have kept all the paper work moving and the councillors under control.

While the speed of traffic through the village is of most concern to parishioners now, when I started 20 years ago, the main problem seemed to be pot holes. Not surprisingly this problem has never gone away but, as we are now dealing with different pot holes, we must have had some successes over the years proving that persistence pays off.

We don't know what the future will be for Parish Councils but I am convinced that if problems arise in the village, a parishioner will always be willing to take on the task for the benefit of the community.

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