

# HUTTON PARISH COUNCIL

## HUTTON PARISH COUNCIL CLERK'S REPORT (Information only) February 2008

- The new notice board has been received and will be erected as soon as the location has been agreed
- Work with regard to the LCC/Parish Council Charter is progressing and a seminar has been provisionally arranged for Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2008. Clerks and Members of the Council are invited to this seminar to discuss Parish Planning and the relationship with District Sustainable Community Strategies. At this stage no action is required other than for members to mark their diaries should they wish to attend. Further details will be announced in due course.
- The Following is a short report following a meeting with LCC concerning the A59 User Audit.

### A59 USER AUDIT MEETING REPORT

On Monday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2008 Councillors John Wilshere and David Parkes together with Bill Jopson met with David Curry of Lancashire County Council to discuss the draft A59 Vulnerable Road User Audit (issued to the Council in November 2007).

The section of road within the Hutton Parish boundaries was discussed in detail, especially in respect of pedestrian and cyclist crossing facilities, and David Curry's observations in the draft report were generally agreed.

Possible future improvements, which were positively discussed, included extension of the speed limit along the A59 from Hutton Roundabout to south of Sanders Lane, better advance signing of pedestrian and cyclist crossing points (including interactive signing) and changes at the junction of Lindle Lane with the A59 dual carriageway.

David Curry will now finalise his audit report. It will then be necessary to pursue implementation of improvements with LCC officers.

- Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service have published their new Risk Management Plan which can be accessed at <http://www.lancsfire.gov.uk/index.asp> and can be responded to by the public up to the 7<sup>th</sup> March 2008 when the statutory consultation period comes to an end.
- The web site can now be accessed @ [www.huttonparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.huttonparishcouncil.co.uk). The site still needs more population of items which will be an ongoing feature over the next few months. The March Newsletter will feature a launch article.
- Work has started on the portfolio to be submitted as part of the Council's Quality Status application. A feature will be included in the next Newsletter to inform residents of the details and requirements of Quality Status
- LCC have declined permission to place barrel planters on the public pavement in front of the local shops on Health and Safety grounds. The Green Partnership Award of £500 which had been agreed will not now be available unless alternative sites are identified as appropriate and manageable.
- SRBC have now completed a 'Review of Community Engagement' which incorporates recommendations as to the future management of Area Committees. For the Western Parishes there is little difference apart from a reduction in the number of co-opted members and the introduction of 'surgeries' prior to the main meeting at which resident individual complaints may be raised with the Borough Councillors who will be present rather than during the Committee Meeting itself thus focusing the main meeting on local issues rather than individual complaints. The full text (23 pages) is available to residents for comment through SRBC and local advertising of the new proposals will be widespread over the coming weeks.
- A meeting with LCC with regard to maintenance issues in the village has been held and a report is detailed below:

## HUTTON PARISH MAINTENANCE ISSUES

The Clerk together with the Chairman of the Parish council met with Mike Walsh LCC on site on the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2008 to look at and consider various maintenance issues which had been raised over the past few months and to which no specific response had been received. The issues are detailed below and grouped where appropriate setting out the LCC response and guidelines where required with regard to any deterioration in the present position:

### POT HOLES

1. Anchor Drive Estate Area in general. It was accepted that a number of pot holes exist all be it they are generally not considered dangerous at the present time nor in need of immediate action apart from two holes outside 46 and 53A Fensway where arrangements have now been made to infill. The remaining holes are not sufficiently deep enough to allow temporary repair (any filling would simply come away) and require digging out to effect any long term improvement which would have to be done under an extensive repair programme once initiated. The position particularly on Anchor Drive and Greenacres is that HGV's accessing the Greenacres development are likely to worsen the situation over time and works will be required to bring the area back satisfactory standards. Mike has stated that the whole area will be the subject of an extensive repair programme at some time in the next financial year and following completion of the Greenacres development. In the mean time should any of the pot holes worsen to a dangerous state then residents should contact the LCC Contact Centre with specific details of the location so that a temporary repair can be made by the response team.
2. A manhole cover at the junction of Fensway and Greenacres has evidence of road subsidence around the cover itself. Mike has established that LCC are responsible and it will be dealt with.
3. Further pot holes were examined on Moor Lane and at the junction of Skip Lane and Ratten Lane however here again these were not considered significant at the present time. Those on Moor Lane are to be included in the extensive repair programme highlighted under (1) above. Again any deterioration to a dangerous level should be reported to LCC direct.

### KERB EDGINGS OBLITERATED BY OVERGROWN GRASS and OVERGROWN HEDGES

1. A number of sites were visited and whilst in most cases the level of grass overgrowth was not restricting the footpath to any great extent and certainly would not warrant immediate remedial works (this type of work is low priority) it was agreed that Mike would arrange for the response team to deal with the stretch between the A59 and No 4 Ratten Lane where the footpath had become severely reduced.
2. It was noted that arrangements had been made with the lengthsman to do some remedial works along the A59 cycle path notwithstanding the above comments however appropriate risk assessments must be undertaken prior works commencing.
3. Overgrown hedges were examined in Stryands, Stiles Ave and on Liverpool Rd almost opposite Moor Lane. The issue @ Stryands had already been reported and Mike will instigate a letter requesting the beech hedge be further cut back further when the rest of the boundary hedge is trimmed back due to its impingement of the pavement under the Highways Act 1980. The hedge on Liverpool Rd will be similarly dealt with and it was noted that this should have been done sometime back. The impingement on the pavement at Stiles Ave whilst technically in breach of the Highways Act 1980 did not appear to be particularly significant and it was felt inappropriate to send out an official letter for something which might be dealt with a quick friendly word by local neighbours if indeed they felt there was an issue to be answered.

### PAVEMENT MAINTENANCE

A number of pavements along Liverpool Rd were examined. It was found that whilst there had been many repairs made over the past the present condition of the pavements was satisfactory all be it not ideal and that there were no identified areas which were dangerous and in need of immediate action. Should any area deteriorate further and become in need of repair due to its dangerous state the resident should report such specific areas to the LCC Contact Centre for action.

It was confirmed by Mike that there is no resurfacing programme funding at the present time although funds did become available from time to time usually through Lancashire Locals/ Area Committees who would request parishes to then make bids for pavements in need of improvement. This had been done fairly recently and some other local parishes were to have slurry sealing carried out to some stretches of pavement.

#### GRASS VERGES ON MOOR LANE

A visit to Moor Lane evidenced damage to grass verges due to car parking. It was felt remedial works by filling with soil and grass seed would be no more than a temporary solution unless parking was restricted. It was suggested that bollards might be put in however it was also pointed out that this form of restriction often did no more than move the problem elsewhere. Since the parking it was thought emanated from the Grammar School the chairman is to ask the member who raised the issue to refer it to the working party currently looking at similar issues within the remit of the Village Plan in order to consider formulating a recommendation for the approval of the Parish Council.

#### PLANTERS ADOPTED PAVEMENT FRONT OF LOCAL SHOPS

We still await a final decision on the installation of planters. Mike seems reluctant to allow this due to safety issues for pedestrians and road users but will refer the matter to the road safety dept to obtain a formal decision. It does however look unlikely that permission will be granted.

#### NEW NOTICE BOARD

A visit was made to Lindle Lane to look at sites appropriate for the installation of the new notice board which has now been received. Initial thought were that it might be placed on Lindle Lane by the junction with the access road (Blackhurst Avenue) to the housing development near to Bamford's Wood. It was however thought that this was too remote a location and had issues with sight lines and alternatives were suggested as to land immediately in front of the tennis club next to the post box or perhaps on the 'green' at the centre of the development. Mike has confirmed that the land fronting the tennis club is not adopted highway so that the issue will need to be progressed with the developer direct in order to agree permission.

#### FLOODING TOLSEY DRIVE / LIVERPOOL RD

This issue needs to be reported to SRBC in accordance with procedures. Since at the time of the visit there was no evidence of flooding despite significant rain in the previous 24 hours no report will be made. Local residents are encouraged to report to SRBC at the time of any incident occurring so that the issue can then be investigated bearing in mind of course relative weather conditions generally and the frequency of the occurrence.

This also applies to any other areas within the parish which might be the subject of flooding issues.

#### MAN HOLE COVERS / SUBSIDENCE BETWEEN TOLSEY DRIVE AND MOOR LANE

No issues were found with regard to manhole covers in need of remedial works since any small levels of falling away were not in any dangerous condition. Should any deterioration take place the specific issue and location should be reported direct to LCC.

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