



Hucclecote Parish Council Headlines

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Excerpts from the Chairman's report for 2015-2016

Parking restrictions - Parking by non residents is still causing a problem despite the introduction of single and double yellow lines. In practise they are not quite as successful as first anticipated and a number of residents particularly on Cranham Gate are unhappy with the position of the lines particularly in Bird Road. We have been in touch with Gloucestershire Highways to raise concerns and to request a site visit from them.

M5 Noise - The situation regarding the M5 noise is ongoing despite the meeting held in January 2015 between Councillors and Highways England. Due to a lack of funding no assurances have been given regarding increasing the height of the wooden barrier through the Parish. We will continue to push for action including a quieter noise road surface.

Coopers Edge - The Coopers Edge development is continuing to progress, planning for two further parcels of land (1 and 3) has been submitted and is expected to be approved.

The Multi Use Games Area, Skate Park and Playground are proving to be very popular with the residents although parking in the vicinity is an issue.

Plans have been submitted for a football pitch, Rugby pitch, changing facilities and allotments in POS1, there is a provision for some limited car parking. A few local sports clubs have expressed an interest in taking over this facility and are in discussions with Tewkesbury Borough Council.

Village Hall extension - The Parish Council has submitted and has been granted planning permission to extend the Village Hall, to include a new information hub and larger store room. The extensions will improve the current facilities at the village hall and provide a host of social, community and council services.

JCS - The Joint Core Strategy as part of the Local Development plan which will see 1500 homes, together with health and sports facilities also a Primary school, built on land along side of the A417 from the A46 to the bypass. Plans were approved by the Secretary of State recently. Although this is not in the Parish it will affect traffic movements etc. through the Parish.

The Councillors continue to be involved with various issues relating to the Parish, reviewing and commenting on planning issues, attending meetings with various organisations, ensuring the Council is compliant with the latest legislation. If anybody is interested in joining the parish council and would like to know more please contact either Sarah or myself for more details.

I commend this report to the Parish.

Maggie Dillon
Chairman
May 2016



Coopers Edge

Some good news! The frequency of grass-cutting is much improved on last year. We have just had our third cut, compared with one at this time last year.

We have recently written to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Bovis Homes highlighting the continuing issues affecting the part of Coopers Edge that falls under Hucclecote P.C. namely;

- 1) Potholes
 - 2) The many trip hazards
 - 3) Blocked storm drains
 - 4) Unfinished road and footpath surfaces
 - 5) Lack of functioning street lighting
 - 6) Open spaces not yet landscaped
-and a few other issues

The CEO replied the next day and by the time you receive this we will have met on-site with area representatives and the Building Consortium Manager (14th July), so hopefully will be able to report some progress in the next newsletter.



M5

Representatives of the council met with senior managers of Highways England's regional team from Bristol in the parish to discuss residents' long term concerns about noise pollution from the M5. We were assured that our section is one of the regional priority areas, and is scheduled to have a low noise surface laid down in 2018/19.

We pressed Highways England on this timescale, and were told that if there was any potential to bring a scheme forward from the planned date, it would be ours. We were disappointed that no consideration was being given to

improve the height and density of the barriers, particularly on the elevated section between Hucclecote Road and Junction 11A. However, elsewhere in the south west, local communities have managed to supplement noise reduction measures put in place by Highways England by accessing certain funding streams, and your council will explore this option.

(A map detailing the areas to be covered by the low noise resurfacing can be found on our website).

An inspection was also made of the embankment in Sussex Gardens where trees had been removed, and concerns raised about the impact on residents. The ditch maintenance had not taken place due to access problems and this would be investigated and rectified. The planting would also be checked as the Laurel hedge had not grown as anticipated and the protective collars needed to be removed from the saplings.

STUMP LANE

Repairs to Stump Lane

The state of Stump Lane has been causing concern to local residents – a long section is heavily potholed and flooding on the corner has become a regular problem.

After lobbying from the Parish Council funding has been allocated to investigate the best way to address the drainage issue (and with luck this money will also be able to pay for the work to be done). In addition Gloucestershire Highways has committed to undertake significant works to the potholed section.

The surfacing works will include filling in the gullies on either side of the track, and tidying up the main surface using a technique known as 'jet-patching'. The specialist team that does the jet-patching is expected in Gloucestershire later in the summer/early autumn. Our local Highways manager says he is confident the Lane will be in a much-improved condition well before winter sets in.

You can find out more about the jet-patching technology here -

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/magazine/8529964.stm>



Broadband Speeds

Are you struggling to get a decent download speed? We understand that some parts of our Parish are poorly serviced, and we are keen to identify these.

As you may be aware the county council is involved in an initiative called 'Fastershire'. This organisation is driving a programme of works that should lead to download speeds of 30 Mbps being available to almost everyone. For example, in the Cotswolds £3m has recently been spent upgrading connections to nearly 6,500 homes across a number of villages, and a similar £4.5m programme is planned for homes in the Forest of Dean.

The next major programme of work – which should start towards the end of 2016 - will aim to 'mop up' any other homes in Gloucestershire. We are keen to find out those parts of our Parish that currently have a poor broadband connection (for example, below 5Mbps) so that we can encourage Fastershire to include these homes or businesses in this phase.

Please e-mail the Parish Clerk with details of your location and your current typical broadband speed. If you know how many properties have this level of service that could also be very helpful. You can check your broadband speed via BT's website -

http://bt.custhelp.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/9354/~ /test-your-bt-broadband-speed

Find out more about Fastershire here.

<http://www.fastershire.com/>



Borough Council News

The Joint Core Strategy Interim Report has now been issued by the Planning Inspector and there are a few amendments to the plan she has suggested. All three councils now have to discuss these issues and let her have comments back by the 6th July. The review will then continue and once the Inspector has concluded her findings, the plan will be available to go out to public consultation with the amendments.

Please contact me direct if you have any issues you think I could help with- Email: gillblackwell6@hotmail.com

Tel: 01452 859388

Gill Blackwell

Borough Councillor

Further information about the JCS can be found at www.gct-jcs.org

To contact the Parish Council:

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The Parish Council Office is open: Mon – Fri 09.00 to 12.00

The Parish Councillors are:

Cllr Mrs Maggie Dillon (Chair)

Cllr Mr Andrew Pugh

Cllr Mrs Gill Blackwell

Cllr Mr David Bentley

Cllr Mrs Brenda Bentley

Cllr Mr Ted Stevens

Cllr Mr Oliver Mountjoy

Miss Sarah Moore - Clerk to the Council

Borough Councillor :

Mrs Gill Blackwell – 01452 859388

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Healthcare Services - Let us know your views

Plans to provide a new 'community health hub' for the Hucclecote and Brockworth areas are being progressed by the NHS. The new £4.75m facility is expected to serve the residents of both parishes, and it could be built and open for business by the middle of 2019.

The proposals do, however, have a few hurdles to clear before then. Firstly the project will require both the current Hucclecote and Brockworth GP surgeries to work together, and agree the location of the new joint facility. It is also dependant on a suitable site being secured and a successful application to the NHS's Estates and Technology Transformation Fund.

Assuming both the GP practices agree to relocating to the new hub, what sort of facilities might be provided? It is still early days, but it could be something like this:

- Much more spacious surgery facilities for both practices, with the potential to accommodate additional new GP's. At present both the current surgeries are undersized (one needs an extra 30% of space, the other an extra 45%) . The new facility would probably have nearly 2,000 sq m of space.
- Complementary accommodation for local social care support teams.
- There could also be a minor operations surgery, a Well Being team and other health/fitness related services like a foot care clinic or acupuncturist.
- Some hubs offer appointments with specialist GP's – so, for example, a doctor from one of the surgeries that's an expert in dermatology, or paediatrics.
- Good on-site car parking provision, and close links to footpaths, cycleways and public transport.

Because the project is seeking financial support from the NHS's Estates and Technology Transformation Fund it is likely that the new hub will offer extended opening hours, and possibly even seven day a week appointments. The facility would also cater for the growing local population, as a result of new housing on Coopers Edge and the Perrybrook site. At present the two current practices each look after about 9,000 patients. The new hub would be able to cater for about 27,000 people.

The Parish Council is liaising closely with the NHS's Clinical Commissioning Group, and with neighbouring parishes to help shape the proposals and ensure the best possible outcome for local residents.

We would like to gauge your thoughts on the proposals, so we can feed this into the NHS's consultation process. To facilitate this we have set up a Survey on our website – see the home page of the Parish's website (www.hucclecotepc.gov.uk). If you have five minutes to spare please complete the questionnaire.



One key issue will be agreeing the final location of the new facility. This isn't confirmed yet, but it is likely to be on the land allocated for the new Perrybrook development. The most likely location on the western edge of this, close to a new roundabout that will be built off Valiant Way.