

Dorstone Parish Council – Update – **January 2010**

In an effort to improve communications between the Council and Parishioners a quarterly update will be published reviewing activities and issues being dealt with by the Council. This Update will appear on the Dorstone Web Site, usual Notice Boards and in the Dorstone Front Room, with an abbreviated version in the Link and Golden Valley News. A copy will also be circulated directly to those who have registered for a direct E mail from the DFR on Village news and events. Anyone who wants to comment or obtain further information can contact any of the members of the Council, listed below or Chris Hendy the Parish Clerk.

Main issues and activities are as follows:-

Parish Plan

The Parish Plan has been finalised and submitted for formal approval by Herefordshire Council. Many of the action Plans contained in the Plan rests with the Parish Council and will form much of the agenda for us in the coming months. A formal review of progress on the Plan will take place every 4 months with members of the Steering Group with the first review due in April 2010.

Speeding

Speeding traffic through the Village and on the B4348 was probably the number one issue in the Parish Plan. Herefordshire Council has agreed to undertake surveys of speed at critical points. Problems with their equipment has prevented these being done as hoped during the last 2 months but assurances have been received that these will be completed soon. This is the first stage in attempting to get speed limits being established in and around the Village Area.

Road and Path Maintenance

Work continues with Herefordshire Council and its main Contractor Amey to address the various "blackspots" in the Parish where road conditions are poor. An Engineer from Amey and me, as Honorary Surveyor for the Parish Council, have recently carried out an extensive survey of roads and potholes throughout the Parish and Amey has been asked to address these problems.

This is in addition to the work carried out under the terms of the Parish Lengthsmen scheme which concentrates on ensuring the minor road maintenance issues are quickly dealt with. He also recently assisted in spreading salt and grit from the boxes provided by the Parish Council on the worst icy minor road areas. Any highway problems can be reported by Parishioners to Herefordshire County Council via the Streetscene web site or via myself. Streetscene can be contacted on 01432 261800 or e-mail at streets@herefordshire.gov.uk. The Parish

Council also participates in the parish path partnership. If there is any work that needs to be done to footpaths in Dorstone please contact any member of the Parish Council.

Street Lighting

Street Lights at Dore View had been modified so that they go off between the hours of 12.30am and 05.30 and then come back on until daybreak. Dorstone is one of the first Parishes to look at ways to save energy and contributing to a reduction in Herefordshire's carbon footprint caused by street lighting.

Dorstone Front Room

The Parish Council has agreed to assist the DFR by submitting a Planning Application in respect of the change of usage from Shop/Post Office to Community facility.

Mobile Post Office

Following the problems being experienced by the Mobile Post Office, due to a lack of mobile phone signal, the Council contacted the Post Office. As a result the Post Office have agreed to install a permanent land line link box, attached to the Shop building, which will mean that the Mobile Office can fully operate without reliance on mobile signals. This work should be completed by early February. Assurances have been received from the Post Office that the breakdowns in service during this period will be fully taken into account if the mobile PO service is reviewed in the future.

Precept 2010/11

This is the amount of money needed to run the Council for next financial year starting in April 2010. The Council has agreed to keep the Parish precept to Herefordshire Council at the same level as charged for 2009/10, that is £1700. This is possible, this year, as there is a limited reserve arising from the decision not to go ahead with car parking at Brooklands. This will allow the Council to possibly consider supporting some modest expenditure that may arise from the Action items contained in the Parish Plan.

Co-option of the New Parish Councillor

Councillor Nigel Davies has tendered his resignation owing to ill-health. Nigel has provided long service to the Council and was Chairman from May 1976 to May 1984. He has also served as District Councillor. We wish to thank Nigel for many years of service to the Parish of Dorstone. Colin Thomas, who chaired the Parish Plan Steering Group, has been co-opted on to the Council to fill the vacancy.

Parish Freighter

A Parish Freighter for the disposal of certain household waste items will be available on Saturday January 30th in the Shop Car Park. See separate notice for details.

Any comments or questions on the above or any other topics please contact any member of the Council – listed below

Pat Rye (550257); Simon Gaze (550926); Mary Hessian (550300); Doug James (550111); Elisabeth Lane (550215); Peter Smith (550026); Colin Thomas (550788) or the Clerk to the Council – Chris Hendy (550652) – e mail clerkdorstonepc@aol.com

Everyone is welcome to attend Council meetings which are held on the second Wednesday of the month in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

Pat Rye – Chairman
January 09