

Dorstone Parish Council – Update – June 2010

This second newsletter has been delayed in order to report developments on certain items included in the Parish Plan, namely, the results of the speeding survey and also progress on the preparation of the further Planning Guidance.

Parish Plan

A joint review meeting of the Parish Plan Steering Group and the Parish Council was held on April 19th. Full minutes of this meeting can be accessed via the Dorstone Web Site. The main points discussed are summarised below:

- A Parish Planning Guidance document (Appendix F in the Plan) was agreed and has been available for comment on the web site and in the Dorstone Front Room. The document has now been confirmed by the Parish Council and has the support of the Officers of the Herefordshire Council Planning Department. The complete Parish plan will be submitted for formal approval by the Council's Planning Committee.
- The results of the Speeding Surveys carried out by Herefordshire Council have been received. These indicate that there is a case for a 30mph speed limit both in the Village area and along the stretch of the B4348 from the Mynydd Brith Junction to Crossways. The procedure for introducing such a limit is a protracted one and could take some time. In addition there is a waiting list of 70 locations in the County where new speed limits are required. A general review of speed limits on the County's B roads may bring about an earlier introduction. The results of the speed survey are available in the DFR. Youth Club members took part in safety information sessions on speeds of vehicles through the Village.
- Close liaison is being maintained by the Parish Council with the Council Contractor Amey on the state of roads in the Parish. Improvement work on main B4348 has started and pot hole repair work is currently being carried out on minor roads.
- Detailed consideration has been given to the provision of a Bus Shelter in the centre of the Village. Having a bus shelter on the small village green area was not felt to be a good idea. Therefore a proposal to move the bus stop to the Shop Car Park was discussed with the Shop Association. However the Shop Committee felt there were too many difficulties involved in re-siting the stop to the Car Park area. It is unlikely therefore that a suitable site can be found.
- On environmental issues, the Council will be arranging for water quality testing to be carried out in the Pont-y-Weston stream. This will also help determine whether there is any need to consider a sewerage scheme for the Village.

- Whilst provision of dog poo containers is considered to be too expensive, dog owners are reminded that it is an offence, with fixed penalty fines, if dog mess is not cleared away by dog owners. This particularly applies to the Playing field area. Consultation is taking place on Herefordshire Council's proposed changes in rules and penalties governing dog fouling in public places.
- Increased use of the Dorstone Web site and e mail communications via the DFR continues.

Planning Issues

An open Parish Council meeting was held to discuss the issue of Signs around the Village. Details were provided on the planning and highways rules governing the size and placement of these signs. The Parish Council felt that existing practices were satisfactory and helped to keep Parishioners informed of Village events and facilities.

The Development Control Manager for the County, Mike Willmont, met the Council to discuss and explain the processes associated with individual planning applications. In this context discussions were held over the new building at the Pandy Inn, as some complaints had been received from Parishioners. Since the meeting Mr Willmont has written to the Council to explain the agreements and conditions reached but essentially confirmed that the Pandy building is in accordance with agreed Plans agreed with his Officers.

Parish Meeting

The annual Parish Meeting took place on May 19th. Pat Rye was re-elected Chairman with Simon Gaze continuing as Vice Chairman. Claire Rouse the Red Cross Warden for Peterchurch gave a presentation on benefits available for senior citizens. Mary Hessian outlined the objectives and history of the Dorstone Relief in Need Charity.

Plant Day

On the Village Plant Day, "The Museum on the Move", sponsored by the Parish Council, attracted a good attendance, 41 children and 63 adults.

Pat Rye
Chairman – Dorstone Parish Council