

Shipton Parish Council Newsletter – February 2017

Dog Refuse

Since the Parish Council made dog poo bags available in Shipton the problem of owners failing to pick up has improved considerably. It's positive to see the number of these bags being used, to the extent that last financial year we spent around £380 on bags alone. Now the clocks have gone back there has been a tendency in the past for the problem to get worse as some people either don't notice their dog depositing, or think that if it can't be seen under cover of darkness, it will miraculously still be invisible in the morning. Either that or they think they can get away with it. Cotswold District Council will endeavour to prosecute anyone who allows their dog to foul in a public place without clearing it up. CDC asks members of the public to come forward with any information regarding perpetrators, e.g. names, dates and times, or any information that may lead to a successful prosecution. Please contact CDC direct on 01285 623000 and ask to speak to George Lager the Environmental Warden. Failure to clean up after your dog is an offence for which fines are levied. This is also the case for animals allowed to roam unattended. For a first offence this is usually a fixed penalty fine, although in some cases prosecution can result in fines up to £1,000.

ShipFest 2017

After the tremendous success of 2016, the ShipFest committee is gearing up for next year's event, with a provisional date of July 15th. In 2016 a healthy sum was raised for charity and a good time was had by all. Please let us know if you would like to help with making 2017 ShipFest even better.

Community Transport

This has been on the Parish Council agenda for the last few months and we have been exploring various options to help improve the services to our parishioners. In the last few weeks it has become a more vital issue as we have learnt of the reduction in the bus services to Shipton Oliffe.

Gloucestershire County Council (GCC), have stated that the 804 service (along with others in the Cotswolds) is not viable because demand did not cover the costs of the service, even with a subsidy. Harris Ethical have been commissioned by GCC to help design and deliver an alternative. A meeting was held at The Royal Oak to clarify the proposals and GCC will be promoting a scheme called Parish Lift, a car-sharing and lift-offering scheme between the Parishes that had been served by the bus. If you can provide a lift or need a lift, you will be able to register and then make a request, by internet or by phone. It is hoped that this sharing service will help the transport needs of 1500 dwellings and their residents, helping individuals get around, meet fellow travelers, save some money, and spare the environment. The Parish Council already had initial discussions with Community Connexions, a charitable organization, based in Cheltenham. They offer cost effective, door-to-door services staffed by volunteers and paid drivers. Individuals can contact them directly to arrange individual transport. In addition, they can offer a weekly mini bus service to some villages, if demand is sufficient. Another option we have been considering is Cotswold Friends, based in Moreton In Marsh. They use volunteer drivers, to provide a bookable, personal transport service at a reduced cost. They are currently looking for volunteers in this area. More information on both services will be available shortly.

Sports Field

At the time of writing, negotiations are underway to lease Shipton's sports field to a strong local football club, bringing another (we already have cricket) high quality sport to the village, for spectators and competitors alike. It also helps with the cost of maintenance, and we hope will ensure the future of the field, the cricket and the classic car clubs.

Shipton Parish Council

*Hugh Thurbon – Chair, Richard Brown – Vice Chair, Lynn Hurley, Emma Locke, Paul Morrish,
Verna Spires - Parish Clerk*

Playground for Shipton?

It has been on the village wish-list for a long time, and the Parish council has recently been generously offered the lease of an area of land. It is not so simple as hooking up a few ropes and bridges, and there is a process of design, fund-raising and then maintenance to consider. So the next step is to form an interested committee and start that ball rolling, that swing swinging or that child being ill on the roundabout. Please let the PC know if you would like to help.

Reading Room

Anyone visiting the Reading Room may notice the old place looking in need of some work. Fear not – the Reading Room Committee and Parish Council are currently working to develop a comprehensive programme of maintenance and refurbishment which we hope will enable this vital village resource to continue to serve the community for at least another 100+ years. More information to follow.

Shipton Oliffe A40 Crossroads

Following the well attended public meeting in June discussions have been taking place with the Police, Highways and Gloucestershire Road Safety Partnership, regarding the measures that can be taken to improve safety at the junction.

We undertook to update residents on developments and am sorry this has taken longer than expected. However the following steps have been taken or will be taken in the near future:

- optimisation of the Traffic Light timings and an extension of the “all red” time.
- additional signage at the lights to warn drivers turning right onto A436 across on coming traffic.
- new ‘SLOW’ road markings on A40 adjacent to traffic light warning signs.
- Amey safety inspectors to monitor the road markings on their monthly inspections and ensure any maintenance required is undertaken in a timely manner.

- discussions are ongoing to see if some trees can be removed/cut back to improve visibility of the Shipton exit.
- pruning of foliage around the lights to improve their visibility.

Discussions are also continuing regarding improvements for pedestrians trying to cross the road. Given the cost of these improvements any work will take longer to arrange. In addition the possibility of adding rumble strips to the feeder lane for the A436 is also being assessed. The Police conducted a speed measurement trial at the junction and, based on the findings, were not supportive of the proposal to reduce the speed limit between the two sections of dual carriageway to 50mph. However we have questioned the methodology they used for this and I hope a further, more representative measurement will be carried out in due course.

Further updates will be sent out as matters progress. However all residents are encouraged to exercise the utmost care when using the junction which remains hazardous.

Winter Roads

There might be a hard winter this year and we are getting additional stocks of road salt just in case. It's therefore timely to remind residents that no one is officially responsible for spreading salt on the village roads at times of ice and snow. It therefore makes sense for everyone to carry a shovel in the car and if you come to an untreated stretch to spread the salt yourself. The Parish Council has put grit bins in the most hazardous locations and if anyone finds a bin getting low on salt please get in touch with Verna the parish clerk on shiptonparishcouncil@gmail.com

Get In Touch

We actively encourage residents to raise any issues they have and would love for you to contact us. You can just stop us to have a chat, attend one of our open meetings, or email the parish clerk at shiptonparishcouncil@gmail.com

Meetings This Year

15th February, 17th May, 16th Aug and 15th November. All are held in the village hall and start at 7pm.