



Parish Council, New
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Welcome to the Winter edition of the Parish Newsletter

Much change on the Parish Council since our last edition: Tom Etherington and Tim Brunsdon have joined us and more recently Tim Yates. Jake Acock is now our District Councillor and Liz Leffman our County Councillor. Bartha Pitman has stepped down as our Chair having moved out of the village, Jill Mavin has taken over as Vice Chair from Rob Dyer and I have been elected as the new Chairman. Grateful thanks for the service of those who have stood down especially to Brian Young for his long service and tireless work on behalf of the parish council and the community, and to new Councillors who have offered their time and commitment. I hope you will find some interesting items in this issue and we are always pleased to have contributions, but most importantly could you put our annual Carols Round the Tree in your diary- it is the 50th anniversary of it this year so it would be great to see you there.

I know it is early but a peaceful Christmas to everyone.

Brian Rigby

Planning

It's been an eventful year for the planning department of the Parish Council. Members have left, and new ones joined, coupled with the number, size and scale of applications this year has meant a lot of work for the team.

Most notable has been the largest development in the village for a generation, on the land south of Milton Road, sandwiched between the school and Wychwood Business Centre. The addition of 44 new homes (including affordable housing) right in the heart of the village promises to be a welcome addition to a village with a chronic shortage of housing supply. So far, the Parish Council is pleased to report an excellent relationship with the developers and their agents and we look forward to continuing that relationship on behalf of the village throughout the construction process. The development is expected to start in early 2019 and complete some two years later. Our aim is to ensure a good number of affordable homes for local people and during construction ensure the site is safe and interferes as little as possible with local life. So far, we are succeeding.

We are also pleased to report an excellent start for the new district councillor Jake Acock. He has made several hugely influential interventions regarding one of the developments in the village and we look forward to his continued input.

We would urge all parishioners to join the 'My Alerts' service on the WODC web site. This has a host of information regarding council services, but specifically you can sign up to receive alerts about planning applications within 500m of your property. This service is free and easy to use and can be found at:

<https://www.westoxon.gov.uk/registering-on-our-website/>

Both the Parish and District councils will always make carefully considered decisions and remain vigilant for abuses of the system once these decisions have been made. As the year begins to draw to a close,

the planning department looks forward to continuing serving the village for the rest of this year and the next.

Station Road

As mentioned in the last newsletter, the PC had requested a speed limit reduction on Station Road, coming into the village from Chipping Norton. This request has been accepted by OCC and the speed limit will be reduced from 40mph to 30mph. The PC has funded this as no funds were available from OCC. We hope to see the new speed limit introduced soon.

Christmas Carols on the Green

The village Christmas Tree is scheduled to arrive in early December. Then, on Christmas Eve, you are invited to join round the tree for the annual carol singing on its 50th anniversary. This takes place in the usual place on the village green at 7.00.

The proceeds of this year's collection will go to the Wychwoods Saplings and Bods, a village drama group providing support, encouragement and opportunities for children and youths from aged 6 through to 18.

County/District Councillor News

Residents will have noticed that the Ascott and Leafield roads have recently been resurfaced. This is due to the allocation of an extra £10 million to the road repair budget this year, following our work with OCC. A further £80 million will be spent over the next five years to bring our roads up to scratch. Liz has also been working with the Milton and Shipton parish councils to improve road safety for children at Wychwood Primary School. New road signs and a dropped curb to mark a new crossing will be installed soon.

Jake Acock has recently been sorting out planning issues across Shipton. The most prominent one being Bowerham. Jake has intervened positively to support local concerns and uphold the integrity of the planning system.

Councillors Liz Leffman and Jake Acock

Shipton village fete

Is there a need for a village fete in Shipton?

Previously, Shipton's village fete was held bi-annually, alternating with the church fete. Due to various reasons it has not been held for a number of years, although the church fete continues.

The Parish Council has recently taken ownership of all the old village fete equipment. Serious consideration is currently being given to resurrecting the village fete and a working group will meet shortly to look at the feasibility and possible formats. Anyone interested in attending this meeting, or with ideas please contact Tim Brunsten at timbrunsten@shiptonunderwychwood.org

Speedwatch

The Wychwoods Community Speedwatch has been going for almost 2 years now. It initially started with 3 volunteers and equipment borrowed from the Police. There are now 18 volunteers, 12 from Shipton and 6 from Milton. This year 196 man/woman hours have been dedicated to trying to reduce speeding in the Wychwoods.

At the beginning of the year a very generous donation secured our own equipment and walkie talkies purchased by the Parish Council means we are now self-sufficient.

Main roads during rush hour have been the main impetus for our operations and the number of vehicles exceeding the ACPO guidelines has reduced as a result.

The maximum speeds recorded this year have been 45mph in a 30mph limit and 69mph in a 40mph limit.

Please drive safely through our villages

Community Bus Service

Just a reminder about the WOCT (West Oxfordshire Community Transport) Bus Service. This was introduced earlier this year and is run by a group of community volunteers. It provides an excellent service of 3 round trips a day to Chipping Norton and 5 to Witney calling at Ascott, Leafield and Crawley en route. Journey times are 35 minutes approx. to Witney and only 10 minutes to Chipping Norton. The current timetable is available at the WOCT website – www.woct.org.uk and is well worth considering as an alternative to the car. Note that bus passes can be used on WOCT services.