

Clerks Report November 2023

Following a meeting with some of our Councillors and Councillors Mark Kiddle – Morris (NCC) and Nigel Wilkin (Breckland) with George Freeman MP a few months ago George was tasked with request to have the speed limit on the A47 at the Tuns Road junction permanently reduced. Whilst the junction improvements are being completed the limit has been reduced to 40mph but was due to revert back to the original limit after the works were completed.

The great news is that George has been successful and the limit will remain at 40mph on a permanent basis. This, along with the improvements should make this junction safer than it was previously.

I have been liaising with Mark Kiddle- Morris in regards to the village gates and an application with the Parish Partnership programme. He has arranged for our Highways engineer to undertake a site inspection in order to advise us on the best positions and style of gates we can choose from. Thereafter I can complete the full application. We cannot look to install village gates at the Tuns Road entrance at the present time so it will be on North Pickenham Road and Hale Road only at the moment. Until the works are finished there we have been advised to wait to ascertain the suitability of an exact location.

Breckland Council have confirmed they have commenced their consultation on our Neighbourhood Plan. This consultation is open until the 4th December.

Following the recent and relentless rainfall Breckland have reminded everyone of the Flooding Hotline number. This is on our website and noticeboards already and I will include in the next edition of the Link. They have urged people to use this number for any flooding issues even after incidents occur. They want to remind the public that in order to have financial support directed to flooding issues there needs to be a call for it and the only way to increase financial support is for people to use the number and report their flooding issues. Whilst the Parish Council does not have any jurisdiction here please can residents inform their local Councillor of any incidents they report to the hotline so we can keep a log.

The North Pickenham Road is closed to all traffic whilst work at the development continues. There have been numerous reports of people blatantly ignoring the signs and squeezing through. This will impact on the Trod there. I have been liaising with Mark Kiddle- Morris regarding this and he is arranging for more robust blocks to be put in place. Whilst it is frustrating for motorists it is illegal to drive through a road closure and can result in a fine of £1000. More importantly is the damage to a very expensive Trod.

Finally, as you know our caretaker Bunt has decided to resign following his knee replacement surgery. David Catlin has kindly offered to empty the bins on a weekly basis in the short term and until a replacement is employed. The position is advertised already on the noticeboards and the website and will go into this month's Link magazine. Applicants will be asked to attend an interview with myself and the Personnel Committee after the closing date of 11th December.