



New street name signs for Hambledon

Dear Villagers,

After several months of research, the Parish Council has agreed to provide twenty new street name signs in and around the village. We are keen to improve the appearance of the village and, to this end, one of our many plans is to bring all the street name signs up to the standard that the centre of the village enjoys - traditional cast metal signs. These can help to bring a more timeless, rural feel to the village; something that can never be achieved by modern retro-reflective signs. The latter also deteriorate and become shabby looking much more quickly.

Another purpose behind the project is to bring names to streets that currently lack one, and to bring greater clarity to some areas where there is potential confusion through poorly positioned signs.

On modern housing estates the developers must invent new street names, often taking inspiration from flowers, trees, poets etc. The results are pretty, but essentially meaningless. By contrast, in an ancient settlement such as ours, pretty well every street name indicates some local feature or history. Even modern ones follow this pattern - Old Barn Crescent referring to the building that formerly stood there and Lashley Meadow celebrating the Hambledon man who accompanied Scott to the Antarctic.

At one time all our roads were just beaten paths in the grass or rutted cart tracks. Then we started to improve them by laying down broken stone. Locally that would have been mainly flint which can still be seen sometimes where the later tarmac breaks away. Green Lane must have remained a grassy track long after the more important local roads were surfaced in order to have gained the name. Even into the 1960s Green Lane was just a single-track road. Another interesting example is Dogkennel Lane. Thomas Land, who lived at Park, kept a pack of hounds there and hunted frequently (and without permission) in the Forest of Bere. Thomas died in 1791, and the Hambledon Hunt was established in 1800 under Colonel Butler of Bury Lodge. They probably kennelled their hounds there too.

Some of the twenty signs will replace existing modern signs. Some will be new. All will be the same traditional design, affixed to walls where possible or on oak posts and backing boards where necessary. They are broadly grouped in particular locations. At Park there will be signs for Dogkennel Lane, Brook Lane and East Street. At the Green Man junction there will be several new and replacement signs for West Street and Green Lane. At Lotts Corner there will be signs for Cams Hill and West Street. Old Barn Crescent, Stewarts Green and Lashley Meadow will all benefit from new signs. Elsewhere there will be signs for Green Lane at Three Corners and within the village there will be new or replacement signs for Back Lane, Speltham Hill and Vicarage Lane.

The work will take place in stages, generally concentrating on one location at a time. The total cost is £10,750 which is supported by grants from HCC and WCC totalling £4,461.

Kind regards,

Hambledon PC
May 2019