

## Better Streets and Traffic & Pedestrian Safety Review Report Annual Parish Meeting

Councillor John Thornton is away so I shall cover Better Streets and Traffic. There is synergy between the two.

Starting with **Better Streets**, John has created a few slides (\*) to remind us of the progress made in the Village since 2018. It includes:

- Notice boards
- The Green Man signs
- Street name signs
- A Church and school sign
- A new bus shelter (the cost of which was covered entirely by our insurers after the last one was destroyed)
- Improvements at the Cams/Old Forge Tea Room junction
- New Village entrance signs which have been cast and are now being painted. (We received a grant towards these from Hampshire CC.)
- Planters and bollards in East St

So, much has been done but there is more to do, hence a sizeable allocation from the annual budget.

Moving on to **Traffic and Pedestrian Safety**: you will recall a survey that was carried out last year and also my report to the APM. In summary:

- A total of **146 responses** were received
- The top3 concerns were:
  - **Size** of vehicles entering the village
  - **Speed** of vehicles moving through the village and along Green Lane
  - Driving in **the area of the shop**, High St, West/East St, Speltham Hill
- In addition, there was a significant number of comments about people not being able to walk safely between Stewart's Green and Three Corners.

Since the last APM the PC formed a working group of willing volunteers to look at how best to tackle the concerns raised. The WG has discussed what our 'preferred speeds' might be in different parts of the village and also at what physical calming measures might work as well as what passive calming measures would help.

In the meantime, and as some of you may be aware, there is a move within Hampshire from an UK wide organisation called '20s Plenty' that wants to persuade Hampshire CC to follow many other counties to adopt a 20MPH speed limit in residential areas. Hambledon PC signed up to this initiative and we have engaged with our County and District Councillors to garner their support. Hampshire CC is due to deliberate on this in the Autumn which may see it adopted in Hambledon in due course.

However, two points:

- There is no certainty at all that HCC will adopt this proposal so we have to continue to work on the changes we want and be ready to argue those through, using our evidence base from the survey.
- And we will have to negotiate with both Hampshire CC and SDNPA about any changes to traffic management or road layout for which they are responsible. Money and affordability will inevitably have an impact hence, once again, why there is a sizeable allocation for Better Streets in the budget.

Physical measures like speed limits, pinch points, rumble strips etc. are one way to persuade motorists to drive safely through the Village. So-called passive measures also help. These include planters strategically placed at points along the highway that helps to remind motorists they are in a residential area. Softening the approaches to the Village and roads through the Village with greenery again makes the motorist feel they are no longer on an open road but approaching or driving through a residential area. The Hambledon Greening team has very kindly agreed to advise on where we might deploy such measures – what's good for Greening and rewilding within the Village could also be good for traffic calming.

And to close, the aim of all this, Better Streets and Traffic, is to make Hambledon a safer and even nicer place in which to live, whether for pedestrians, cyclists, children, adults and even, dare I say, motorists.

I hope that by the next APM we will have made some significant progress.