

Parish Pump

A Newsletter from Mursley Parish Council (MPC)

ISSUE NO. 29 MARCH 2020

From the Chairman's Desk

Welcome to the latest issue of the Pump.

Unprecedented, hardly does justice to the situation we are all in at the moment and the latest national situation has changed much of what I was about to say in just the last week. What is really encouraging is the splendid response to help others, shown by the Sarah Tye initiative described later.

This Edition

From the Chairman's Desk

Precept Increase

Traffic in the Village

Neighbourhood Plan

Coronavirus

Councillor Vacancies

Allotments

Parish Council Contacts

Council Diary Dates

We were entering a very busy period of activities concerning the village, however many of these will be cancelled.

While the Neighbourhood Plan is progressing well albeit with still lots to be done, much of that will be delayed due to the difficulties of holding meetings.

The Best Kept Village competition which we had entered again has been cancelled, while the local elections including those for the Parish Council have been postponed until 2021.

In view of the advice from Government regarding assemblies of people, we have postponed the Annual Village meeting until further notice. Also we will consider how to conduct our Parish Council meetings remotely.

This is the start of the growing season and so we expect plenty of activity on the allotments particularly as an open air event is one of the few activities allowed.

Many will be aware of the proposal for the Precept to be significantly increased to fund the Village Hall, the PPC and the Sports Association, however, the Parish Council has several concerns with that proposal.

The Parish Council is also still pursuing projects to enhance the entrances to the village and for traffic calming measures but these involve ongoing negotiations with the appropriate local council. I will provide an update in the next Pump.

In the meantime, I hope that you all stay safe and keep healthy.

Ian Hook
Chairman

PRECEPT INCREASE

The Parish Council has been made aware by three village organisations, the Church (PPC), the Village Hall and the Sports Association (MSA), of their request for an increase to the Parish Precept in order to help fund their organisations. They had petitioned the village accordingly. The Precept is included in everybody's Council Tax charge and their proposal would mean an increase of approximately £50 per household per annum.

The Parish Council has concerns with the proposal for the following reasons.

Over many years, the PC has strived to keep the annual increase to a minimum and in ten years it has risen by only 24%. The proposal would increase the Precept from the current £9,100 to approximately £22,500, an increase of 147%.

It is highly unlikely that that will ever be reduced.

By immersing this funding item within the Precept, it takes away each individual ratepayer's choice as to whether or not to donate to any of the organisations. If villagers wished to donate to any of these organisations, they could do so privately without forcing everybody to do so.

It would fall to the Parish Council to administer this new fund which could prove problematic and contentious.

The Parish Council will seek more information from the three organisations before preparing a document containing the arguments on both sides for consideration by parishioners and a possible vote on the issue.

TRAFFIC IN THE VILLAGE

The latest data from the MVAS (Mobile Vehicle Activated Signs) covering the period November 2019 to February 2020 is as below:

Location One. Sign on verge by Cemetery recording vehicles entering the Village. The weekday average number of vehicles was over 2,900 per day with over 30% exceeding the 30mph speed limit. At weekends the number of vehicles averaged just under 2,000 and 35% were over the 30mph limit. For those exceeding the limit weekday or weekend the average speed was 33 mph.

Location two. Sign at junction of Station Road and Tweedale recording vehicles entering the Village. The weekday average number of vehicles was over 700 with over 32% exceeding the 30mph speed limit. At weekends the number of vehicles averaged 450 and 33% were over the 30mph limit. For those exceeding the limit weekday or weekend the average speed was 36 mph.

When the MVAS was originally installed about 7 years ago the average daily volume of vehicles on Main Street passing the cemetery was 2,400, with weekend volumes averaging 1,500. The traffic on Station Road has increased only slightly.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

“Acting today for a better tomorrow”

Data from the recent Exhibition and Surgeries has now been collated and the results/ voting on the proposed development sites have been published on the Neighbourhood Plan website www.npmursley.wordpress.com

Those results have been forwarded to AECOM for inclusion in their Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) which is a formal part of the NP process.

A full copy of the report on the sites assessment process will be made available as soon as the Steering Group have received the results from the SEA.

The Steering Group will then look forward to producing the first draft of Mursley's Neighbourhood plan for consultation with the Parish.

CORONAVIRUS.

The PC would like to make everybody aware that a group within the village is available to assist anybody in need during this testing time. Detail is posted on the PC notice board, on the PC Facebook page and will appear in April's Open Gates.

The main contact is:

Sarah Tye at 720958/720229 or
email sarahtye@live.co.uk

COUNCILLOR VACANCIES

As mentioned earlier, the local elections including for the Parish Council have been postponed until 2021. However, it is likely that some of our councillors will retire before those elections and if anybody would be interested in being co-opted to the Council, they should advise the clerk accordingly and we will contact them when the vacancy occurs.

ALLOTMENTS

Good luck to all of the allotment holders as the new season begins. There is the likelihood of one or more plots becoming available at the end of March so if anybody is interested, then contact the clerk for details at the email address below.

mursleypc@btinternet.com

MURSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman The Pump & Local Area Forum	Ian Hook, Rivendell, Church Lane 720690 ianhook786@btinternet.com
Vice Chair Interface with Village website /Street Lighting/MVAS Operation	Chris Laws, 19 Station Road, 720502 C.J.Laws@btinternet.com
Parish Clerk Parish Finances	Jackie Driss Laurent, 71 Main Street 720979 mursleypc@btinternet.com
Roads and Transport (including traffic calming)	Ashley Davies-Payne, Box Cottage, Main Street 07974153824 ashleydaviespayne@yahoo.co.uk
Village Maintenance and Foothpaths	Colin Cramphorn, The Thatch, 26 Main Street 720291 colin@inventionsuk.com
Allotments	Caroline Walker, 23 Station Road 07801941895 walker_caroline2@sky.com
Best Kept Village & Village Hall Committee	Anwar Rachid, The Bungalow, Station Road 07534445936 anwarrachid@mail.com
Planning Co-ordination North Bucks Parishes Planning Consortium	Simon West, 71 Main Street, 720979 SimonWestMursleyPC@outlook.com

Meetings	Dates
Parish Council	6th April
Parish Council Annual Meeting	4th May Postponed
Parish Council	1st June
Parish Council	29th June
Parish Council	27th July

Parish Council meetings start @ 8:00pm

*All meetings are open to the public and visitors are
always welcome*

NOTICE

Parish Council Meetings

Under the current circumstances and
in line with Government direction,
whether to hold Parish Councils
meetings will be reviewed ahead of
each one.