

Parish Pump

A Newsletter from Mursley Parish Council

Issue No 38 May 2025



As your Parish Council we thought that we would bring you up to date with various activities that are keeping us busy at present. It is always your right as Parishioners to attend our monthly meetings and listen to what we discuss and importantly to bring to our attention matters that are important to you. We have recently had the annual meeting of the Parish Council but as before no one attended. It seems a shame that people do not attend because we do really value your input. We do not use social media to discuss your problems as this can be too easy to get involved in unsubstantiated arguments, but we do respond to written comments and personal presentations at Parish Council meetings. We also do at times put some posts on Facebook and of course we have the Parish Council website and the Notice Board in Main Street for general information.

We are coming up to the Best Kept Village Competition which we see as a useful aid to keeping the village looking smart. I am also informed that a well-kept village can also help in keeping the value of your houses up

– for those of you that are interested in such things! It runs for a six-week period from the beginning of June and there is more information later in this newsletter.

As usual the matter of speeding in the village is of great concern to most of you. As a council we responded to some concerns that were expressed to us, by appointing a subcommittee to look into what we can practically do about this. There is a report from them later in this newsletter. Generally speaking, Bucks Council decide for themselves whether, where and when to apply traffic calming measures in the village. This applies to all Councils, which is why you will see examples of lower speed limits in other parts of the country.

Unfortunately our local MP informs us that the new Government have no plans to alter that system so we have to apply pressure on Bucks Council to do what we require.

Again in general they will only make changes if road accidents force them to make changes. This explains why

speed changes have been made on Whaddon Road but nowhere else in the village. There is another way and that is to pay for changes ourselves. We are now looking at that and will let you know the implications to villagers as we become aware of the costs.

Whilst talking about roads you may have noticed that the six or seven potholes in Main Street have been repaired. This job took only fifteen minutes to complete, with no road closure, yet it took many complaints and some considerable time to get some action. So please let us know and we will complain on your behalf but also use the “Fix My Street” site because it all helps to bring pressure to bear on Bucks Council.

For those that are interested you may have noticed that the village allotments have been tidied up. Unfortunately as people have not wanted to continue with their allotments they have become “untidy” The Parish Council took the decision to rotovate all the old allotments, cover some with material to keep down weeds and where there were adjoining vacant plots to reseed and plant fruit trees. Hopefully this orchard when it grows will give a much tidier look and will enhance the area. There are still a few plots available which can be uncovered, just let us know.

Finally since the Parish elections we have a new Council with new members who will bring new energy and abilities to their roles. However there are still opportunities for a further two Councillors so if you would like to help to improve your village for the benefit of all then please let us know.

With very best wishes

Mursley Parish Council

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Every four years Parish Councillors must stand for re-election and 1st of May was the election day for 142 Parish and Town Councils in Buckinghamshire. Anyone who is resident in the Parish or within three miles could have put their names forward for election in that ballot.

What happened in Mursley was that most of the existing Parish Councillors again put their names forward and lodged their nomination papers with Buckinghamshire Council. No other nominations were received by Buckinghamshire Council, and consequently the following were elected without a poll being held;

Alan Knowles, Andrew Jones, Bob Hitner, Rob Fletcher, and Duncan Jones.

Reshma Craine decided she did not wish to seek re-election and is therefore no longer a member of the Parish Council. Over the last four years Reshma’s portfolio has included street lighting and electricity costs,

traffic calming, liaison with the School and she has been the driving force behind the new Children's Play area. Her contribution will be missed.

Across Buckinghamshire a lack of candidates putting their names forward for election meant that only about 25% of Parish and Town Council seats were contested on 1st May. Therefore, although the situation in Mursley was not unusual we would have welcomed more nominations and a competitive election.

The Parish Council now has five members out of a permitted seven. We would welcome more members, who would need to be co-opted. So, if you are interested in serving your community as a Parish Councillor please speak to one of the current councillors or approach our Clerk directly.

MURSLEY VILLAGERS YOU'RE BLOOMING MARVELLOUS!

Mursley Parish Council needs your help to win the Best Kept Village in Buckinghamshire! We're pleased to confirm that we've entered the 2025 Buckinghamshire Best Kept Village Competition - and we know just how competitive you all are!

The competition, which has been running for nearly 70 years, was initially designed to encourage entrants to work together as a community, involving all age groups and to make Buckinghamshire's villages and towns more attractive places to live in and visit. And we're sure you'd all agree that Mursley is



an amazing village and that we're so lucky to live here.

Last year, the judges gave us some extremely encouraging feed-back, so this year we're looking to pull out all the stops and hopefully win some silverware!

The judging, will take place in June/early July, and the judges will evaluate various aspects of our village including our green spaces, children's playground, sports ground, the cemetery, and war memorial, including nature conservation areas plus front gardens and floral displays (hanging baskets).

To win this competition and make us all very proud we need all your help and support.

Please would you make a big effort to:

- Keep your front gardens and drives neat and weed/litter-free
- Trim hedges, mow your lawns and maintain your flower beds
- Keep your hanging basket fed and watered

To help make Mursley proud, the Parish Council will be putting up and maintaining some hanging baskets in Main Street.

We will also be organising a couple of litter picks, so if you're free for a couple of hours on either Sunday 25th May at 10.00 am -12.00 noon or Saturday 7th June at 10.00 a.m.-12.00 noon, meet us at the Village Hall and let's get the village looking fabulous!

Let's show the judges why Mursley deserves the title of Buckinghamshire's Best Kept Village 2025!

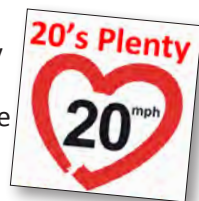
For more information: contact us on: clerk@mursleypc.org

MURSLEY TRAFFIC CALMING UPDATE MAY 2025

In September 2024 Mursley Parish Council set up a Working Group to focus on the challenges caused by increasing numbers of vehicles traveling through our village, often at speeds significantly over the speed limit.

Whilst a comprehensive traffic calming plan is desirable, it has proved difficult to progress without support from Bucks Council. So it was decided to focus initially on obtaining a 20mph limit, together with a safe pedestrian crossing outside the school in Main Street, which will make crossing the road safer for us all.

We have joined the National "20's Plenty for Us" campaign to try and bring pressure on Bucks Council to change their policy on speed limits. We need Bucks Council support to reduce speed limits and make our streets safer for residents. However, it is an uphill struggle and we are bracing ourselves for a long campaign.



Meanwhile, we have various signs and bin stickers available for display to politely request motorists to slow down, reminding them that 20 mph is plenty fast enough to travel through our village. We are also organising Community Speed Watch sessions over the next few months and will be posting banners around the children's playground and the village school, reminding motorists that speed kills. These are self-help measures that we can get on with while we wait for Bucks Council to respond to us.

Mursley Parish Council will also be requesting Thames Valley Police safety van to attend outside the school from time to time as part of a rotation of locations in the village. Unsurprisingly this seems to have a positive effect on motorists' behaviour as they drive through our village.

Barbara Capstick, Chair of Mursley PC Traffic Calming Working Group

www.mursleypc.org

Email: clerk@mursleypc.org