

OPEN-EVENING UPDATE - ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS AND ACTIONS TAKEN

At the Parish Council Open Evening on 8 March there was a lively and informative question and answer session. Here are the answers to the questions raised:

PROTECTING AND MAINTAINING OUR ENVIRONMENT

- **Important Sites as Community Assets:** can we register important sites as a community asset?
Answer: In principle yes, but it is only possible with the permission of the owner and this only puts a moratorium of six months on any proposed sale from going ahead, during which time the Parish Council would have to raise the funds to purchase the asset.
- **Dinosaur Crazy Golf:** what happened to the plans for a Dinosaur Crazy Golf facility?
Answer: this will not happen, as the funding has since been invested into simulator golf equipment instead.
- **Tree planting at Mick George entrance:** why have trees been planted near to the Mick George entrance?
Answer: Sarah Conboy, from HDC, explained that this had been done as part of the agreement between National Highways and CCC ahead of the latter assuming responsibility for the upkeep of the A1307.
- **Beecher's House chicane fence:** is this fence being replaced?
*Answer: the PC is currently getting quotes for the most cost-effective way of repairing the fence. **Update 23/05/23: a new wooden chicane fence was installed.***
- **Kissing Gates:** who is responsible for the repairs on the kissing gates?
Answer: HAPC. The repair has been carried out to the fencing and kissing gate at the border (end of the Regatta Field nearest Hemingford Grey).
- **No cycling sign:** is it possible to have a no cycling sign erected on the footpath from High Street to the Stocker field?
Answer: HAPC can erect a polite notice asking people to dismount from their bicycles but this wouldn't be enforceable without the support of CCC (and they have advised there are hoops to jump through to do this!). It would be helpful for HAPC to receive more information on the extent of the cycling problem.
- **Litter:** what is HDC doing about the unacceptable amount of litter on the A1307 near to the entrance to the land belonging to Mick George Ltd?
Answer: We have reported this to HDC, and they have agreed to do a litter pick.

STREET LIGHTING

- **Streetlight Meadow Lane/Common Lane:** could a streetlight be installed at this location?

Answer: with an estimated minimum cost of £5,000 for a new streetlight, unfortunately it was agreed that following the Council's recent streetlight audit the Council currently doesn't have the budget for a new streetlight.

- **Solar powered streetlights:** would it be cost effective to install solar power as an energy source for street lighting?

Answer: solar power is cheaper to run but there is a significant capital cost. New solar powered lanterns are modern in design and not compatible with the existing heritage lights. HAPC will investigate what the potential costs would be.

- **Cat's Eyes:** is it feasible to install cat's eyes on Common Lane and Meadow Lane?

Answer: the road is probably too narrow and the cost unjustified, and this would anyway be a CC decision. Therefore, HAPC will not pursue this.

- **What is the annual cost of running the streetlights?**

Answer: the electricity bill will be close to £3,000 in 2024/25.

Streetlight 16 Chapmans: can this light have a screen to prevent the light shining in the house?

Answer: K&M Lighting representative advised that the style (circular streetlight) doesn't have anywhere for a screen to be fitted, and has suggested that he could paint the light shade facing the house and leave the front to shine as normal. HAPC to follow-up.

Update 23/05/23: Having followed this up again with K&M Lighting, the Council were then advised that no part of the light shade could be painted as it would block light onto the road/footpath.

ROAD SAFETY

- **20mph speed limit:** will the new speed limit have an impact on the upkeep of the roads?

Answer: this is unknown, and parishioners are advised to report any road surface issues to CCC via their online portal.

- **Potholes:** What can be done about the number of potholes on the roads?

Answer: District Councillor Conboy advised parishioners to report these to CCC via the online portal.

- **Re-surfacing: Can Meadow Lane be re-surfaced?**

Answer: There have been 5 potholes reported on Meadow Lane via CCC's online portal on 8th April 2023. These were closed on the 14th April stating that work has been undertaken. (CCC state that 'faults reported in this way will be assessed by a Local Highways Officer within 10 working days')

If the road is deemed to have faults that may pose a danger to the public it can be reported to CCC; however, to be reported as an emergency, it is 'only deep potholes on busy A roads and main distributor roads that cause a danger to the public....' therefore it is recommended that no further action can be taken by the Parish Council at this time, apart from encouraging parishioners to continue to report potholes via the online portal.