

Report back to Corsham Area Board – Update for Colerne Parish Council (Jane Mellett, June 2024)

1. **Outstanding Highways Issues:-**

The size and increase farm machinery traffic around and out of the parish has caused the PC to take a serious look at risks around this. To that end the parking in Vicarage Lane and the footpath access around the school need urgent attention. Cllr Clarke has had a visit from Sarah Dearden to address both issues.

The following need to go to the next LHFIG – Dropped kerbs at exit from Forrester green and possibility of extending the path on the South side
Solution to improve safety around the Old School on Vicarage Lane
Notice for Top of Tutton Hill – “Single Track Road with passing places”

2. The PC has recently reviewed and **updated the Climate Action Plan** and implemented some important changes to support increasing areas of biodiversity. Of particular note has been the impact of bringing mowing back in house and enlarging the role of our Parish ranger. We also purchased a thermal imaging camera last autumn. This was used by residents to learn more about how their home loses heat and explore DIY responses or building repairs needed.

This will be used again from October. There has been some very positive repair and upgrading of the Market Place making it a valued meeting place for the whole parish.

3. In response to the Big Green Week, our local nature charity – Wild Colerne held a Nature Day last weekend and prior to that a very well attended meeting re water matters – exploring causes and impact of pollution as well as the positive impact of otters and beavers. The Bath and Avon River Trust pointed out the the Avon is the second most polluted river outside London!

4. The Parish Council has had a detailed survey of all trees relating to community facilities so that risks can be addressed and good care taken of our important trees. We also have volunteer teams including the Cotswold Wardens, the Scouts and our Tree Wardens who are helping us with planting and care of food hedges, coppicing and new tree planting. Meanwhile, the Cotswold Wardens have been increasing accessibility to our local rights of way with appropriate gates, and we hope to continue this process further.

5. We recently facilitated a community meeting at Pinewood Estate in North Colerne. The young families there, and the older residents are all supportive of the PC taking control of the Local Green Space which is currently managed as a play are by WC. The community group which formed earlier in the year is already exploring designs for all ages and ability, and the need for some more sheltered areas for both sun and wind. We look forward to the WC intention to pass over responsibility together with some funds towards development of a new play area.

6. We have seen the positive impact of our Neighbourhood Plan in a current Planning Appeal, and look forward to the completion of Local Plan Review with the increase in Rural Exception sites for the delivery of rural housing needs. The PC is engaged in a detailed review of land ownership and boundaries around our recreational facilities. This is an important piece of work to secure and expand community facilities for the future.