

## Report to the Area Board from Broad Town Parish Council May 2018

At the last parish council elections on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2017, an almost entirely new set of Councillors were returned for Broad Town. Only one Councillor was previously on the Council and our permanent Parish Clerk was also a new appointment in December 2017.

As a new Council, we have been working hard to understand the needs of the people of Broad Town and to set the Council up on a solid foundation of proper practice and good governance.

We believe in the importance of excellent communication on our activities and in encouraging as much public participation in our meetings as possible.

Our first annual parish meeting was on 30<sup>th</sup> May, 2017 and we were pleased to welcome 35 members of the public and hear from Broad Town's various Community Groups. This gave us an excellent overview of the views and needs of the village. The meeting also gave us as new councillors an opportunity to introduce ourselves and state what we hoped to achieve whilst in office for the community of Broad Town.

Since then we have been working collaboratively with interested members of the village to scope out our priorities and we are clear that our main areas of focus should be -

- Addressing speeding traffic
- Footpaths maintenance and access
- Our Playground and Recreation Field at Redhills
- Fully utilising the Good Energy Community Fund

### Addressing speeding traffic

For the residents of Broad Town, speeding traffic in the village is the most significant issue raised with the Council and a deep concern.

What is the scale of the problem?

### Metrocount results from 2017:

- The metrocount recorded **360 hours** of traffic information. Unbelievably only **13 hours** recorded 85% of the traffic travelling at or below the sign posted speed limit
- 15% of the traffic is travelling at
  - > 38mph in the 30mph part of the village
- On average **1,550** vehicles pass through BT daily
- On average 85 vehicles pass per hour but this rises to 180 per hour in the week at peak times ( 8 o'clock in the morning and 5 o'clock evening)
- The metrocount readings clearly demonstrate the 8 o'clock and 5 o'clock week day peak times. Saturday peak time differs (12:00-1400) and interestingly Sunday has a peak between 07:00-09:00
- Although less traffic at night the results show excessive night time speed of > 50 mph
- 85% of the traffic at **0500hrs and 2300hrs will** be exceeding **50mph**
- Metrocount readings in 2017 compared to 2012 show an increase of **32%** more traffic coming through the village daily.

After consultation with Wiltshire Council and a thorough review of all the options, the parish council have decided to acquire Speed Indicator Devices for the village. We would like to thank Dave

Roberts for his on the ground advice on this project which has been invaluable. Research and costings are being finalised and the parish council have allocated 50% funding in the 2018/19 budget to facilitate the project. We will be bringing a full proposal to the next CAT G meeting in June to ask for your support with the remaining funding needed and we look forward to your support.

#### Footpaths maintenance and access

A footpath working group was set up in autumn 2017 and has made good progress in mapping the scale of the issue and the opportunity to open up access across the village.

They have walked 50% of the footpaths in the village and have reported that fortunately the condition is not as bad as they had been led to believe, although basic maintenance is definitely required. They have identified the projects that the Parish Council can undertake with the help of volunteers in the village.

A meeting has been arranged with the Rights of Way Officer at Wiltshire Council to help establish where the lines of demarcation are and to establish funding support for the materials needed to action the repairs.

Once the group have established a project plan there will be a training day to go through the Health & Safety aspects which need to be in place before volunteers can get involved.

The planned maintenance programme will be directed by the Parish Council who will set dates and get the maintenance programme rolling.

There are some more serious repair/maintenance issues which will need to be handed over to Wiltshire Council in due course.

#### The Playground and Recreation Field at Redhills

In September, the Council was pleased to establish a working group to identify new play equipment needs for the Playground. This resulted in new equipment being purchased and installed, along with new signage to ensure responsible dog walking by the Play Area.

At the same time we noted that the football goals and nets which are widely used by people of all ages in the village were also in a very poor state and beyond repair. We have been able to cover the cost of new nets but we will need grant funding to be able to replace the goals posts. Ideally we would want to have this community asset back available for people to enjoy this summer and are looking for support from the Area Board of £976 to make this happen. We are also applying to the FA for a grant for the other 50% funding. The installation work will be carried out pro bono.

#### Fully utilising the Good Energy Community Fund

The parish council has established the process whereby fuller utilisation of the Good Energy Solar Farm Community Fund can be made by local community groups. The application process has been widely promoted and the council now considers applications at its meeting in March and in September.

We are delighted to confirm that awards have been made to:

- Community Coffee mornings £432.00 to cover one years hire of the village hall.
- Broad Town WI - £850 towards a defibrillator. The Parish Council would like to thank the Area Board for covering the other 50% of the cost.
- White Horse Preservation Society - £1263.00
- Royal Wedding Celebration Group, Sparkle for Markle event (Village tidy, family picnic and evening disco) £678.00
- Village Hall - £5000 agreed in principle for refurbishment of kitchen and toilets

On behalf of the village, the Council would like to thank all the community groups that have applied for grants and who are delivering these wonderful and important facilities to the community of Broad Town.

#### Planning applications

As a Small Village we are increasingly concerned by what feels like a relentless push by housing developers to put forward plans for developments of up to 30 houses in our village. When canvassed, there has repeatedly been a clear majority amongst electors in favour of “no development” in the village.

Our main concern is to ensure that small rural communities, such as ours, remain properly protected by the Wiltshire Core Strategy which we endorse.

In March, the parish council met with Bidwells, the land agents for Brasenose College. Brasenose have decided to sell their remaining land holdings in and around the village and their land agents were keen to understand whether there is a local requirement for housing. The council confirmed that there is no identified need for housing development which would fall outside of the Wiltshire Core Strategy for small villages such as our own, namely infill only of generally only one dwelling.

In April we were approached by Oxford Law requesting a meeting. They will be submitting a planning application for Church Farm Fields in the near future. This meeting is scheduled for May.

We would ask for the support of the Area Board for our position, which is to support planning applications which are in line with the Wiltshire Core Strategy only.