

Colerne Parish Council - Update re activities since last Area Board Meeting

JM December 2024.

Footpaths

Thanks to the Area Board for the Grant allocated to our parish and matched by the PC for accessibility gates for our large network of rights of way within the parish and connecting us with neighbouring parishes. Please see attached a report with pictures, from our Parish Warden who has been working hard with other Cotswold Voluntary working parties.

Energy matters

With the arrival of cold weather we are now lending out our parish Thermal Imaging Camera to households. We understand that other parishes have had problems obtaining such a camera due to overdemand. If any of our local parishes would like to make use of our camera, we have a £10 fee for 48 hrs use, and the PC has authorised the sharing of this asset to neighbouring parishes I would be happy for you to share my details within your parishes. jane.mellett@colernepc.uk

We have back up information to guide users - 2 videos and hard copy guidance notes.

Biodiversity work

We now have small working groups clearing and planting corners of the parish to increase biodiversity and habitat areas. We have also brought inhouse the mowing of land owned by the PC and this has improved the quality of recreation areas and wild corners.

Play/recreation facilities, Pinewood

The PC has agreed to the transfer of a Local Green Space in the centre of Pinewood housing area, North Colerne. This estate is all civilian and the play area has fallen into disrepair over the past 5 years.

We are facilitating a PC working Group of local residents and parish councillors to develop a plan for clearance and replacement of recreational facilities for all ages and abilities. This will inevitably be a step by step process. However, as it involves creating important facilities for children and young people, we are giving warning that we may well be coming to the Board for support in the near future.

Rural Roads

Most roads within our parish are narrow single track lanes, often sunken and heavily used by walkers, cyclists and horses. We have a growing issue around the speed and volume of traffic using these lanes which is making it increasingly dangerous for families to use the lanes recreationally in safety. This is partly due to delivery vans, but also to the major Wedding Venue at Euridge where international and city people come for magical events completely unaware of the existing road limits.

Our parish would like Wilts Highways to give serious consideration to road signage about use of such lanes by walkers, children, elderly cyclists and horses, in the same manner as already occurs in South Glos.

I would welcome thoughts from other small parishes re this, and whether we might make a joint effort at the LHFIG.

The size of farm traffic and the commuting of farm traffic to and from land outside the parish also brings concerns. Clearly they need to do this, but within the village, this is requiring us to address the safety of pedestrian traffic, and ways to ensure this. This is due to be addressed in the next financial year by the LHFIG.