

Parish Council Report – February 2022

At the last meeting of the Parish Council, held in St Michael's Church on Wednesday January 12th, a number of issues were discussed. Amongst them were several relating to the challenges of controlling the speed of vehicles through Mickleham on the Old London Road and thus how to safeguard pedestrians and cyclists using the road.

In particular it was reported that the 30mph illuminated sign is now operating efficiently and is recording the number of vehicles which exceed the limit when passing the sign. It may be of interest and concern to learn that 3449 vehicles exceeded 30mph in the first three weeks of January.

In addition the Community Speedwatch team is up and running once more, thanks to the addition of two new volunteers, to whom we are very grateful.

Surrey County Council is funding schemes to introduce 20mph speed limits outside school entrances and one such possible scheme is on the Old London road outside the entrance to Box Hill School. There is also a move to encourage all Surrey villages to consider the possible introduction of 20mph speed limits.

So there is continued activity to try and manage the challenges of having become a short cut off the A24 for those wishing to avoid the Average Speed Cameras!

The vandalism created by off-road vehicles accessing the Mickleham end of the 'Gallops' was also raised and assurances have now been given that Surrey County Council has placed barriers to prevent access to this area from several different directions. Time will tell how effective this action has been.

On a brighter note, the involvement of the Parish Council in planning for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations was also discussed. Feena Graham volunteered to represent the Parish Council alongside the Chairman at the Steering Committee, which also includes representatives of St Michael's Church and Westhumble Residents Association.

Finally the Annual Round of the Precept was discussed and it was agreed that the rise should be kept to a minimum for the coming year, bearing in mind the rise in the cost of living in so many areas of residents' lives. The rise of 1.93% means that the budget for this coming year is £7590.00

David Ireland