

# **CUSOP PARISH COUNCIL**

## **NEWSLETTER**

### **September 2021**

#### **Any ideas for new community sports equipment?**

As part of the planning permission for the new housing at Bookers Edge the developer has provided a pot of money for new sports opportunities at Cusop Village Hall or the Playing Field. The Village Hall Committee would like everyone's ideas on how best to spend it. Ideally there should be activities that appeal to, and benefit, Cusopians across a range of ages and abilities. Some money has already been spent on a boules set and another idea still being considered is a strength training circuit. Your views please - to Jim Wesley at [jim@wesley.me.uk](mailto:jim@wesley.me.uk)

#### **Community Speed Awareness Group**

With Parish Council encouragement a Community Speed Awareness Group has been formed to push for road safety improvements within the parish. Its main concerns are the B roads through the parish. Hardwicke Road has long been a concern, but concern about Newport Street is growing too. Residents on the south side of Newport Street have long had to cope with crossing the road to get anywhere from their houses. And now so do all the new residents at Bookers Edge which was built without the Herefordshire planners requiring any new traffic measures.

The Group has been researching the problems and in March circulated a petition and feedback request to every Cusop resident. There was a very good response which has been valuable to the Group in deciding what to do. Since then the Group has been meeting with Herefordshire Council officers to find out the best ways of dealing with speeding and other safety problems identified by residents and then pushing to get them funded and installed. Our Herefordshire Councillor (for Golden Valley North Ward), Jennie Hewitt, has been backing it.

If there is anything you would like to raise, or if you think you can help, please contact Julia Whittall on 01497 820677.

#### **Roadside Verges**

Still about roads.... Usually Herefordshire Council's contractor Balfour Beatty cuts our roadside verges twice a year. At the beginning of this year Balfour Beatty asked parish councils if they wanted to continue with two cuts a year or if they would prefer one only, later in the year. One cut could be better for the environment, and of course it would save Herefordshire Council money. Cusop Parish Council opted for one - and you can see the results all around us in dense thickets of green growth along every lane. The Parish Council intends to review the issue before making a decision about next year. We have already noted that in some places the amount of growth is interfering with drivers' sightlines or preventing walkers from using the verges on narrow lanes. If you have any views or ideas on the issue, the Parish Council would like to hear from you: please contact the Parish Clerk at [clerk@cusop.net](mailto:clerk@cusop.net).

PS. Don't forget that Balfour Beatty is responsible for the verges, but property owners are responsible for cutting back boundary hedges and any trees or shrubs inside their properties that are growing over the road or pavement and getting in the way of drivers or walkers.

## **Parking Problems**

And yet more about roads.... Vehicles parking on pavements are still an issue, making it hard for people to pass, especially if they have push-chairs, and helping to break up pavement surfaces. Parking too close to junctions is another issue (it's recently been a real problem for people trying to get out of Bookers Edge).

So please follow Highway Code guidelines:

- Don't park with wheels on the pavement. Only park somewhere if you can park with all wheels on the road and still leave enough clear width of road for other vehicles to get past. The golden test for the police is: would a fire engine be able to get past?. If the answer is 'no' or 'not sure' don't park there!
- Don't park where you would block people getting vehicles in or out of their own properties.
- Don't park on or near bends where you could force passing vehicles into the path of unseen traffic coming the other way.
- Don't park within 10 metres of road junctions. It makes it difficult or even dangerous for vehicles to turn in or out.

## **Cusop Children's Playing Field and the Village Hall**

Just a reminder that the children's Playing Field off the lower Dingle is open again. Cusop Village Hall too is open again for bookings under pre-covid terms and conditions. However, in both cases common sense should be applied regarding social distancing and cleanliness.

## **New Police Messaging Service**

West Mercia Police have started a new messaging service called Neighbourhood Matters. You will receive information and advice tailored to your location and preferences and be able to pass on information and concerns directly to local police teams (but it's not intended for reporting crimes or incidents). You can sign up for it at [www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk](http://www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk).

## **About the Parish Council**

With the recent co-option of Julia Whittall the Council is now back at full strength. The other councillors are Ian Jardin (Chair for 2021/22), Mark Hainge (Vice Chair), David Evans, Phil Gilbert, and Jim Wesley.

The Council usually meets on the third Wednesday of each month. Details can be found on the parish noticeboards and on the parish's own [cusop.net](http://cusop.net) website (where you can also subscribe to receive regular news emails). After a year of meeting remotely via Zoom, we are back to real meetings at the Village Hall. All members of the public are welcome to attend and to speak about anything on the agenda or anything else that concerns them during the "public participation session" held at the start of every meeting.

The Council also has a new Clerk, Jane Stannard, who is based nearby at Black Lion Green in Hay. Jane took up the post at the end of 2019 and faced a busy start, with barely time to get to grips with the Council's normal business before covid changed everything and added new things to do. Jane is the first contact point for all Parish Council business: you can contact her on 01497 821076 or [clerk@cusop.net](mailto:clerk@cusop.net).