Newsletter Summer 2021

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Introduction by the Chairman, Cllr Richard Walters.

I would like to thank all those involved with the Ellington Gala on Saturday the 4th September and look forward to this event (hopefully) marking the return of village events and activities.

On behalf of the whole Parish Council, I wish also to say a huge "Thank you" to Darren Tysoe, who after many years as the Parish Council Clerk will be stepping down from the role to focus on new academic studies – see page 2 for details on the vacancy.

The Parish Council Meetings are now being held in person once again in the Village Hall. If you have an interest in the areas being discussed, or wish to raise a new topic or issue, please do attend a meeting, or raise this via the Clerk.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Formal Consultation for the Neighbourhood Plan has now closed. Huntingdonshire District Council will pass the Neighbourhood Plan to an Independent Examiner. They anticipate a written examination of up to 8 weeks is appropriate but this is dependent on what representations/issues are raised and any necessary changes can be made by mid-November.

The revised Plan will then be considered by the District Council's Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Performance and Growth) on the 1st Dec, with a referendum towards the end January. The Plan is "made" by the end of Feb.

See the website for further details: https://www.ellingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/np/

Full Broadband Fibre – an update

Ellington – Over the past year, Chris Stening, supported by Cllr Darren Tysoe have been working with BT to upgrade broadband to all 261 properties in Ellington from the current copper-based broadband to Gigabit capable (1Gb) Broadband. This will provide speeds up to 20x faster than current speeds – Thanks to Chris for getting this scheme off the ground.

To go ahead, residents will need to "commit" £178,386 from Government vouchers for the build to go ahead. Residential vouchers are worth £1500 and Business vouchers (including Sole Traders or any form of Business) are worth £3500. This means about 100-120 or about 40-45% would need to commit to upgrade to Full Fibre. Packages are available from all the large service providers (Sky, BT, Vodafone, Zen, TalkTalk) and are now pretty competitive at c£30-£40 per month.

Our scheme was submitted as a priority scheme in late August. It is currently working its way through the process at the relevant government department, and we expect to see it approved in September. The next stage will be for residents and businesses to sign-up on an on-line form that they are interested in having the faster broadband. There will be a flyer and social media information giving full details once we get the green light.

Ellington Thorpe – as this area of the Parish is served from the same exchange as Grafham it is being submitted as part of a joint project. The initial cost estimate received has been challenged with Openreach and we hope to be able to share an update following the Grafham PC meeting on the 7 September 2021.

Ellington Parish Council

Parish Council Meetings

Held at the Village Hall. Public and Press are welcome to attend.

September 6

7.30 pm. Parish Council Meeting

November 1

7.30 pm. Parish Council Meeting

January 10

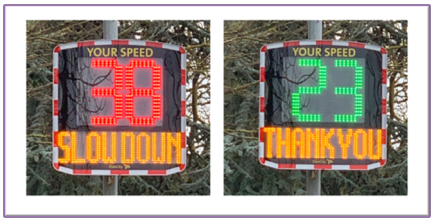
7.30 pm. Parish Council Meeting

Goal Posts

Thanks to residents and the efforts of the Playing Field Committee, funds were raised to purchase new goal posts, which are now on the Playing Field for the benefit of all residents.



Mobile Vehicle Activated Sign



By now pretty much everyone will have noticed, or been flashed at by, the MVAS. So first of all, an explanation of what the MVAS is: it is a Mobile Vehicle Activated Sign!

The Parish Council purchased the sign as a means of making road users aware of their speed as they pass through the 30 miles per hour zones within the village. Part of the regulations regarding the operation of the sign, stipulates that it can only be in one location for a maximum of 28 days, hence the reason it moves between Thrapston Road and Grafham Road. Both locations had to be approved by County Highways.

The sign not only instantly reminds drivers to keep below the 30 mph speed limit, it also records every vehicle's speed and time as it triggers the sign.

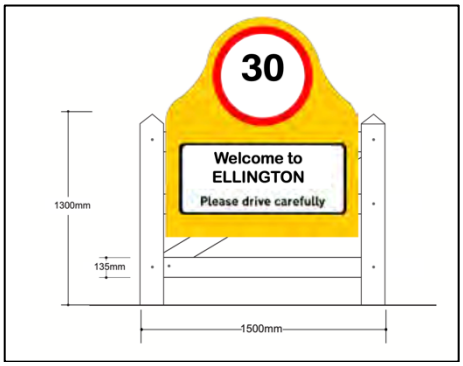
Across both locations the average speed has been below 25 mph. With 99.11% being below 40 mph. However, it has recorded a maximum speed of 70 mph, so were you entering the village at 14:30 on April 3rd? There are also still quite a number of vehicles doing in excess of the 30 mph speed limit.

The sign collects a huge amount of data, including date and times of day, vehicle numbers, and maximum and minimum speeds. This data can be shared with Cambridgeshire police, and if they identify a specific location has a speeding problem, they will carry out speed patrols.

Thank you for your considerate driving through the village. Be safe.

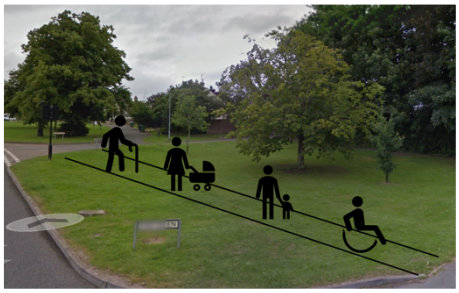
Village Gates

The grant application to the Woolley Hill Wind Farm Fund for two new village gateway signs was successful. The gateway/entrance way signs will be located on the slip road from the A14, and on Grafham Road. The are expected to be installed during September.



Footpath across the Green

A new footpath is scheduled to be constructed from the end of August 2021. It will link up footpaths from Parsons Drive and The Green, providing a continuous, safe path from the junction of High Street and Grafham Road through to Spinney Field. This was funded from the A14 Legacy Fund.



Website and Facebook

All of the Minutes of previous meetings and associated reports can be found on the PC's website, which is at www.ellingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk.

You will also find contact details of Parish Councillors, information about the Neighbourhood Plan, and other local information, including the latest local links to support residents during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Parish Council has created its own Facebook Page, where it will post the latest information. If you search for @EllingtonParishCouncil you can then like the page and follow our updates. We also share some of these posts via the Ellington Village Facebook group, so well worth becoming a member of the group, if not already – @ellington village & gala info.

Vacancy – Parish Clerk

The current clerk is standing down to pursue a Doctorate in the new year after serving for 10 years at the Clerk to the Parish Council.

The Parish Council is seeking a suitable candidate who can implement the decisions of the Parish Council, monitor and balance the accounts, and assist with advising Councillors when appropriate.

See the PC website for full details, including a person specification and job description.

Closing Date: September 30th 2021