

The Bugle



Resounding for a better Burton

Issue 7: Apr/May/June, 2015

Village speeders are heading for the sights

MORE than 300 vehicles a day drive through Burton illegally breaking the speed limit by more than eight mph – that works out at about one every five minutes.

It was the finding in one of the early stages of Burton's bid for villagers to use speed guns to encourage traffic to slow down as it passes through the village – a 30mph zone.

Back in August, 2014, the speed of traffic on The Street was monitored for a week to see if Burton would qualify for a Community Speed Watch Scheme. The monitoring recorded that in seven days there were 15,100 vehicles, of which 2,265 (that's 15% - almost one in every seven vehicles) were travelling at just under 40mph.

While that proved the belief of 90% of Burton residents in the 2011 Nettleton Parish Plan that traffic goes through the village too fast, the bid to set up a Community Speed Watch Scheme doesn't move so quickly.

The process began four months earlier when newly-formed Burton Community Association asked Wiltshire Council's Chippenham Area Board for a scheme – but that didn't move on till Nettleton Parish Council backed the request in June.

Next, the area board arranged for the installation of a speed-logging cable across The Street, by the bottom of Marsh Lane, for the seven days in August. The results led to the area board approving the request for the Burton scheme, now overseen by Wiltshire Police.

"We then put in for the training of village volunteers in how to use the speed guns," explained Burton Community Association's chair Al Caie. "Three volunteers were trained in December and four more in January. Then at Wiltshire Police HQ in Devizes, in addition to a training lecture and getting our high-visibility vests, we each had a go at clocking cars.

"Wiltshire Police have now approved three Speed Watch sites at the east end of the



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WARNING: One of the new Speed Watch signs

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village, and we get our first turn with the equipment in May. A Community Speed Watch Scheme can continue indefinitely. Volunteers will use a speed gun which we share with Biddestone village. We will record the details of any vehicle going over 35mph (or 46mph in a 40mph limit).

“ There is then a process of escalation, as the registered vehicle owner receives a letter after the first and second offences, but a formal police visit after a third offence or if the speed exceeds 45mph (or 60mph in a 40mph limit) on any occasion.”

Roadside signs saying Burton is a Community Speed Watch area have already been erected on both ways into the village on the main route – the B4039.

Mr Caie added: “We hope to extend the scheme to also cover the 40mph section on Hillside, but to do this we need to apply for another session of speed logging like the spell last August.”

School's 'in' for next summer

BURTON won the day when it was decided new pupils from Burton, Nettleton and West Kington will be able to go to their nearest primary school (pictured) after the summer of 2016.



The decision came on March 4 from a local education authority, South Gloucestershire Council's Children and Young People Committee. It considered a council proposal to think about changing the criteria for deciding who can go to Trinity Church of England School, just one mile away in the neighbouring village of Acton Turville.

A change would have meant children starting school from the villages of Acton Turville, Tormarton and Badminton would have had preference over new pupils from Burton, Nettleton and West Kington. Burton Community Association successfully rallied a 112-signature petition against the change and alerted Nettleton Parish Council.

A spring clean for our village

BURTON held its third Village Tidy-up Day towards getting the village looking more attractive.

Around 20 villagers gathered at St Mary's churchyard on Saturday morning April 18 for a



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SWEPT AWAY: Church Hill is now clear of winter debris

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briefing from Burton In Bloom team leader Trystan Hitchens before going to different parts of the village to work for much of the day. Weeds were rooted out or strimmed back, fallen leaves and small branches were raked into piles, bagged up and taken away, footpaths swept clean and even some roadside gutters cleared.

Areas targeted included Toll Down Way, The Street, Church Hill, Burton Farm Close and the alleyway between Nettleton Road and The Street.

The hard work in the spring sunshine deserved some reward, and it came in the shape of a colourful array of wonderful cakes at a morning tea and coffee break kindly provided by Judith Bird, and, after the graft ,at a teatime Old House at Home gathering.

Mr Hitchens said: “Once again, the village is looking that bit smarter thanks to the efforts of volunteers working on behalf of Burton Community Association. It was also heartening to see a better turn out of villagers – although the weather this time was much better than for our Tidy-up Day in November.

“But still, it would be very good to see even more villagers lending a hand - next time maybe. This, after all, is our village and where we live is what we make of it. These days, it’s going to be up to Burton to make the most of itself.”

A selection of a few of the photographs taken on the day tells the rest of the story...



NEAT:
Left, the corner of Nettleton Road from The Triangle; and, below left, before and after, below right on The Street



Round-up of the meetings shaping next 12 months

AROUND 20 villagers attended Burton Community Association's first AGM at St. Mary's Church on March 17. The consensus was that BCA's first year was on course for achieving its main aim – turning the village into a community by getting villagers to work together to make Burton a better place to live.

In her annual report, out-going chair Amanda Read said highlights included two Burton Tidy-up Days to help smarten the village (*there has since been a third*), steps towards securing land for the development of the village's first play area for children, and moves to start a community Speed Watch to cut the speed of traffic through the village.

She added that socially villagers were getting to know each other better, whether at meetings of the BCA open to all villagers, special events such as the community Halloween party or regular gatherings such as the Book Club.

Mrs Read said: "I think we've all had a good feeling about interacting with the people we live among to see the community develop – and community spirit start to develop." The meeting applauded Amanda's comments and her role in leading BCA in its first year.

BCA secretary Al Caie – who since the AGM has been elected the new chair – added that BCA not only had an important role in bringing villagers together, but in working to influence other organisations such as Nettleton Parish Council.

Mr Caie also paid tribute to a BCA founder, Sallie Belcher, who died last year. He said: "Although you are not here, you are not forgotten and very much missed."

Committee members elected at the AGM included Al Caie, Paul Bird, Pip Gilbert, Trystan and Victoria Hitchens, Paul Lortal, Pete Coyle and Missy Sell.

It was agreed that key targets for the coming 12 months should be fund-raising to help projects such as the children's playground become a reality, and in trying to draw in more villagers to help with BCA projects.

The meeting also agreed - as part of BCA's written constitution - that on March 31 the newly-elected committee should meet to elect its key officers. Al Caie was elected as the new chair and Pip Gilbert was re-elected treasurer. The March 31 meeting also set up a sub-committee to help organise social events in the village - Missy Sell was elected its chair and Pete Coyle deputy, with BCA treasurer Mrs Gilbert supporting them regarding finance. At a further general village meeting of the BCA on April 28, Chris Bennett was elected BCA's new secretary.

Farewell to Texans Ward and Dawn

A GOODBYE gathering was held at the Old House At Home on April 14 for Texans Ward and Dawn Willis who lived in the village for the past three years. They will be particularly remembered for helping to organise Burton's first community Halloween party. Ward, Dawn and daughters Hallie and Jes have returned to Texas.

Friend Missy Sell said: "We know they will miss their English Life, but they are most excited to be closer to family again. We wanted them to leave Burton knowing they had been most appreciated members of the community."