

## Hermitage Parish Council Update

- The council is delighted to return to meetings held face to face in the Adelaide room and is pleased that members of the public are attending. Current Covid 19 guidelines are in place and everyone is welcome to attend. See the bottom of the page for information on the next meeting.
- As it was agreed to replace the bus shelter opposite the school, HPC is now running an electronic survey on the type it should purchase. The link is on the web site and information is on Facebook. Two choices are offered, a wooden structure or a polycarbonate one. Or if you don't mind then that is an option in the survey: <https://tinyurl.com/BusShelterSurvey>. The survey will close on Sunday 26th September.
- West Berkshire Countryside Society visited Hermitage in August to work in the butterfly meadow and butterfly larger at Furze Hill. Much bramble and fern bashing took place as these had grown fast with the rain followed by sun followed by rain weather we have been having.
- Residents of the Lipscomb Close area should not be alarmed if they see work being carried out on the variegated acer tree on the green as it is planned to remove the green shoots.
- Bird nesting season is well and truly over so this can no longer be used as an excuse for not cutting hedges. Homeowners with a hedge or low hanging trees next to a footpath or roadway are obliged to keep them trimmed sufficiently to allow pedestrians to walk across the whole pavement unimpeded. And all road signs must be clearly visible to drivers without any vegetation covering any part of them.
- Similarly cars and vans, including contractors' vehicles, should not be parked on the pavement, not even just two wheels. It impedes pedestrians, especially those with a child's buggy or children on scooters etc and the less abled. It does not allow for free-flowing traffic as the roads are not wide enough. And cycling is not permitted on footpaths. Cyclists should be on the road.
- WBC has left many road verges untrimmed to encourage biodiversity. In many cases this has led to wild flowers growing that otherwise would have been cut off in their prime. The local Wildlife Trust in conjunction with WBC is surveying the verges using local volunteers to identify and record species. To get involved email [volunteering@bbowt.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@bbowt.org.uk) or telephone Simon Claybourne on 07541 690663.
- As you will know from previous issues of Pathfinder, the Neighbourhood Development Plan steering group is taking advice from a consultant on the viability of the project with so few volunteers. The council has agreed to fund this.
- You may not be aware that, despite vigorous objection from HPC and five local residents, planning permission has been granted for four homes to be built behind the White Horse pub, using the north side of the building as access. A Neighbourhood Development Plan, created by the community, is important.
- The September parish council meeting is on Thursday September 16<sup>th</sup>. All meetings begin at 7.30pm with agendas, minutes and information about the council being posted on notice boards throughout the village and [www.hermitage.org.uk](http://www.hermitage.org.uk). All members of the public are welcome but the council would appreciate the parish clerk being notified in advance.

- Hermitage Parish Council can be contacted through the clerk, Nicky Pierce by emailing [hermitagepc@outlook.com](mailto:hermitagepc@outlook.com).