

# Chillaton Newsletter

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No. 9: 20th March 2013

## **Parish Council Meeting 6<sup>th</sup> March**

The following items concerning Chillaton were considered at this meeting.

Local Plans: The Parish Council decided that they needed further information on the scope for producing a Neighbourhood Plan that only dealt with issues relevant to the parish and on the cost of doing so. West Devon Borough Council will be asked to provide this information.

Housing Needs Survey: It was agreed that, if a housing survey was carried out in conjunction with the preparation of a local plan, it should cover a broader range of housing need than the standard version produced by West Devon Borough Council.

Traffic in Chillaton: The Parish Council agreed to authorise Chillaton Parish Councillors to approach relevant local companies for sponsorship of the cost of any measures to deal with traffic issues in Chillaton that were approved by local residents.

Application for change of use of the ground floor of Preston House [former village shop] to residential use: The views of local residents on this application were heard by several parish councillors at the public meeting at Marystow Church on 5<sup>th</sup> March and these were summarised at the Parish Council meeting.

Various views were expressed by parish councillors on the scale of support required to make a village shop commercially viable, the likely level of demand and the availability of volunteers. The efforts of the Hub Group to raise finance and of the owners of Preston House to sell the premises at auction were noted, as was the impact of the loss of Post Office salaries on many village shops.

The Councillors then voted on the application and whilst there was some degree of confusion over the voting process, nevertheless it was clear that the majority of those voting supported the application for change of use. It was therefore agreed that West Devon Borough Council be informed that the Parish Council supports the application for the change of use of the ground floor of Preston House Chillaton from retail to residential, although it was clear that the opinion of local residents was divided on this issue.

*Parish Councillor Howard Asbridge declared a personal interest in this item and left the room during its discussion and voting. Parish Councillor Ray Brewer declared a prejudicial interest in this item, took part in the discussion, but did not vote.*

Repairs to Chillaton Bench The Parish Council agreed to reimburse Julie Barkwill for the cost of refurbishing the bench seat near the exit from the Square on the road to Lifton and thanked Julie for doing so.

Howard Asbridge, Ray Brewer, Amanda Westcott

## **Mobile Speed Camera Patrols**

As you will know, following a public meeting last October, the Chillaton Traffic Group was set up and is currently working through various ideas, before holding another open forum at which their suggestions can either be supported or rejected.

However, as was stated at the first traffic meeting, Devon Highways had already measured the average speed of traffic through Chillaton and found that it was high enough in two

places [near Forda on the Lewdown road and at Marlow Crescent on the Lifton road] for the Police to decide that the use of mobile speed cameras could be justified. This was because of the risks caused by speeding vehicles and is independent of the work being done by the Traffic Group.

Before the Police take action, signs will be erected warning that speed cameras are likely to be encountered. These will be placed on the existing 30 mph signposts or as separate signs within the village. This work will be done soon and speed camera patrols will then begin, as they already do in villages like Milton Abbot and Lifton.

*Experience from similar speed monitoring activities in other villages, shows that many of those identified and prosecuted for speeding are actually from the local area concerned. Let's hope that won't be the case in Chillaton, so please try to watch your speed!*

Howard Asbridge

### **Marystowe Church**

The AGM of the Parochial Church Council will be held on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March at 7.45pm in the church hall. All local residents are welcome to attend.