

WHATS HAPPENING IN (AND AROUND) GREAT HORWOOD? (Updated 23 Apr 2016)

Includes both New and Revised articles

Daytime Roadworks on the A421

Weston Road Planning Inquiry

Pilch Lane Hedge Cutting

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Potholes

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Updated – DAYTIME ROADWORKS ON THE A421

Transport for Bucks (TfB) has confirmed that a day time road closure request had been made for 1st April until July, (Nash roundabout to Buckingham). This is a block booking to allow for programme slippage and weather conditions. Minor repairs that can only be done in good weather are still required (including laying surface chippings). TfB have promised to advise the PC when the work will start and ensure access for local traffic. The Roadworks will take place between 0930 and 1600 with a possible diversion of traffic through Great Horwood on to the A413.

Updated - Weston Road Planning Inquiry

The Weston Road Planning Inquiry is now officially closed. The Inspector is scheduled to report to the Secretary of State in May. We may have to wait a further month for a final decision but as this is such an important decision in terms of local planning, it could take longer.

Pilch Lane Hedge Cutting

This discussion is now closed as the advice the Parish Council has been given is that the landowner had done nothing illegal. Hedge cutting was carried out outside the bird breeding season and the plant roots have not been grubbed out. We accept assurances from the farmer that the object of the work is to regenerate the hedges and hope that in three to five years they will become useful cover for wildlife once again.

Updated - Speed Watch



A Speed Watch Campaign has started in Great Horwood. A team of 4 has been trained and we had our first week at the beginning of April. Further training will be carried out on Sunday 24th April. If you would like to take part please contact the clerk on 715829 or clerk@greathorwoodpc.org.uk. The team will meet at 2pm outside the Swan.

The camera was placed on the Winslow Road. The majority of cars spotted it easily and slowed down, however, we did note cars speeding at up to 43 miles per hour. This information has been passed on to Thames Valley Police (TVP) who will be contacting offenders. The camera will be placed around the village and Singleborough at unannounced times. TVP are also investigating borrowing a Sentinel system for us with the added advantage that this has a video system.

Speed Watch requires local volunteers in teams of two (but preferably three) to give an hour or two of their time each week to monitor traffic movements into the village. Please help us to make our village safer. TVP are also continuing their preliminary work for official speed enforcement operations in Great Horwood. Initial training was carried out on Friday 19th February 2016 so we are now cleared to go! We are grateful to the three volunteers who have so far come forward.

From www.communityspeedwatch.co.uk

Community Speed Watch (CSW) is a locally driven initiative where active members of the community join together with the support of the Police to monitor speeds of vehicles using speed detection devices. Vehicles exceeding the speed limit are referred to the Police with the aim of educating drivers to reduce their speeds.

Speeding continues to be a concern for many communities in both rural and urban environments. Therefore, Community Speed Watch is not restricted to villages and rural towns. Neighbourhood Policing Panels have an important role to play in developing safer urban communities and the adoption of speed watch schemes could assist them to more easily achieve their goals.

Volunteers receive appropriate training, and are supported by neighbourhood policing team (NPT) staff. The scheme aims to cater for the problem of real or perceived speed related offending, and through partnership with the community it is to be used in circumstances that are necessary, justifiable and proportionate in order to:

- Reduce death and injury on the roads
- Improve the quality of life for local communities
- Reduce the speed of vehicles to the speed limit
- Increase public awareness of inappropriate speed

Speed Watch activity is not about interfering with neighbours' behaviour; it is a proactive solution to improve the safety and quality of life for everyone in the community.

Parish Precept

Residents will have seen that the Great Horwood portion of their council tax, known as the Parish Precept, has risen. In total, the Parish has requested an extra £6000. The reasons for this are that GHPC is:

- making forward plans to provide a School Crossing Patrol for which it has to meet most of the cost,
- is providing the Great Horwood and Singleborough Recreational Trust with extra money to fund a slide for Horwode Pece and help with maintenance costs (e.g. replacing the woodchip),
- creating a reserve fund to pay for any unplanned maintenance required in the village. Moreover, the Parish Council has also had to budget for a cost in excess of £8,000 for representation at the Weston Road Planning Enquiry.

Updated - Plan MK

Milton Keynes are holding Consultation Events for Plan MK - "Strategic Development Directions", covering short and long term planning for MK. Local meetings have now taken place.

Devolved Services

From 1 April 2016 Great Horwood PC will take over responsibility from Bucks County Council for certain devolved services for our parish including road side grass cutting and limited hedge trimming in Great Horwood and Singleborough, and monitoring of signage and pavements. The work will be carried out by Ian Walker of Thomas Redding Contracts, who currently cuts the grass on Horwode Pece and has been doing a great job. More detail will be lodged on the Great Horwood Parish Council website when available.

Potholes

The Pot holes on Church Lane by The Green have now been filled in.

Anyone can report local potholes via the Transport for Bucks (TfB) website <http://www.transportforbucks.net/Report-It-Pothole.aspx> or they can contact the Parish Clerk on clerk@greathorwoodpc.org.uk or 01296 715829. Potholes on land owned by the Parish Council i.e. The Green itself should be reported to the Parish Clerk.



Updated - Pilch Lane Failed Road Surface



Plans to repair the failed road surface at the top of Spring Lane have been made. Last time we heard TfB were have engaged contractors and the timetable is now in their hands. The plan was for the work to start at the end of March or sometime in April. The road will have to be closed as work is quite extensive. Although heavy lorries are the primary cause of the problem, it is exacerbated by

flooding, so:

- new wider diameter drainage pipes will be sunk to improve the flow of water.
- drainage ditches will be cleared and the landowner required to keep them clear in the future.

“The works will involve full depth carriageway reconstruction between the access to Pilch Lane and just past the bend, a total of approximately 100m. We will also be installing Trief (HGV) kerbs on the inside of the bend” - Matthew Whincup Local Area Technician (TfB)

Street Lighting

Great Horwood's street lighting is a private supply, paid for on a long, low cost loan from the Parish Precept i.e. your Council Taxes. We also pay monthly for the power used and quarterly for a maintenance contract. If you notice that your street light is not working, contact the Parish Clerk on 01296 715829 or clerk@greathorwood.org.uk. It is very helpful if you can give the number on the post so that we can pass this information to Eon. It is a simple number from 1 to 27 and helps them locate the post on their map.

Updated - The Great Horwood Annual Parish Meeting

The GH Annual Parish Meeting was held on Monday 11th April 2016 at 7.30pm after a shortened monthly PC meeting at 6.30pm. The PC would like to thank all those who gave their time to attend and tell us about their many activities over the last year. Volunteering in Great Horwood is alive and well and very much appreciated!

Parish Council Website, Meetings and Suggestions

For a more comprehensive report of the latest or indeed previous Parish Council meetings, please read the Minutes published on the website. (<http://www.bucksvoice.net/greathorwoodpc/>). This website also has updates of items on its latest news page and lots of information about the parish.

If you have any items that you would like to bring to the Council's attention, please contact the Clerk or any of the Councillors, or otherwise, we are always pleased to welcome residents to our monthly meeting where we include a public participation period where you can raise an item directly. The next meeting of the Council will take place in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Monday 9 May.