Hill Chorlton Community News

Connecting the communities in Hill Chorlton, Woodside, Sandy Lane, Chorlton Moss, Kennels Lane, Mill Lane and Lakeside **September 2020**

HILL CHORLTON ROAD SAFETY PLAN

The Hill Chorlton Road Safety Plan was distributed to households in Hill Chorlton, Woodside, Sandy Lane, Chorlton Moss, Kennels Lane, Mill Lane and Maer on 24th August and was also put on Baldwins Gate Facebook. A massive 71 responses were received by the response date of 14th September. Thank you to everyone who sent in a response.

The number of responses from the different areas is listed on the right. The responses have now been collated and analysed and a report with recommended ways forward has been prepared. The full report and a summary report are both available to read on the Hill Chorlton Road Safety Campaign 2020 website at www.hillchorlton.co.uk. The full report has been submitted to County Councillor Paul Northcott, with copies to Borough Councillor Graham Hutton and to David Harrison, Chairman of the Locality Action Partnership for Maer and Whitmore and Loggerheads wards.

Hill Chorlton	34
Woodside	8
Sandy Lane	9
Chorlton Moss	2
Kennels Lane	7
Maer	2
Baldwins Gate	9
Total	**71**

SUPPORT FOR THE PLAN

Support for the twelve points of the Road Safety Plan ranged from 97% to 86%, with the highest level of support going to extending the 40mph zone to Kennels Lane and Maer War Memorial, installing a VAS sign on the approach to the bend at Chapel House, and prohibiting westbound overtaking in Hill Chorlton.

Residents in the connecting lanes all raised safety and traffic issues on these lanes. It is clear that the Road Safety Plan will need to be broadened to cover the wider community and that the campaign needs to be open ended.

To this end, a larger group will be formed to examine the issues and propose solutions or steps to mitigate problems.

We also need to look at a variety of community actions that can be taken to mitigate certain problems in the interim before some solutions requiring longer to implement can be put in place.

HILL CHORLTON SPEED WATCH

The first group of volunteers for the Hill Chorlton Speed Watch received training on 14 September and are now ready to go out on duty. Residents have raised funds to purchase the equipment, which has now been paid for. The group expects to take delivery of the equipment before the end of September.

The new team hopes to build up its skills by working from time to time with the experienced Speed Watch group in Baldwins Gate.

If you would like to join the Speed Watch team please contact the coordinator, Richard Oppenheimer, or the deputy, Sue Montague. Training sessions are held locally when there are enough volunteers, and are also available in Stafford.

FOOTWAY FROM ROSE COTTAGE TO EDEN ROCK

On more occasions than they can count, many Hill Chorlton residents have had the experience of being forced by the overgrown hedge to walk in the road. Some have even had narrow escapes when taken unawares by overtaking vehicles. It's particularly hair-raising for parents and grandparents with little ones in pushchairs.

In winter 2019, after the hedge had been cut following a considerable period of neglect, the Jolley family spent a whole week excavating the footway from under years of debris and detritus and siding out the verge. After the full width of the footway had been restored we all felt somewhat less vulnerable to passing vehicles.

Unfortunately, the hedge and the bracken encroach every year and we gradually get forced back out into the carriageway again. This month a couple of residents spent an afternoon clearing the bracken and trimming back the hedge to reveal the footway once again and make a safe-ish place for us to walk.

Everyone always says "You shouldn't have to do that." No, we shouldn't have to do it, but somehow, it seems that we do . . .

ADD A LITTLE BEAUTY

Yes, Hill Chorlton is beautiful in its own right, and the view as you come round the bend at the top of the village is breathtaking. Here and there are places that have become neglected over the years. As one resident commented on the Road Safety Plan, "Anything that would reduce the speed of the traffic flying round the bend would be very welcome, and any work that enhances the beauty of this area."

We have ordered 220 daffodil bulbs for the inner verge by the chevrons in front of the electricity station and expect them to arrive by the end of the month.

We also need to thank Richard Montague for mowing the grass by the noticeboard and caring for the tubs and keeping them planted. And as some people may have noticed, the noticeboard has recently received a much-needed lick of paint.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE LETTERBOX?

You may well ask what happened to the letterbox. Even the postman didn't know.

There has been a letterbox in Hill Chorlton since at least 1901 (it's marked on the Ordnance Survey map), first in the side wall of "Westlands" and later on the telegraph pole from where it disappeared on 8th September.

We have been making enquiries. The latest response from Royal Mail is that it will take twelve weeks for them to give us an answer on when it will be replaced.

BEING INCLUSIVE

This first newsletter has been all about Hill Chorlton, but we hope that as residents come together to work on road safety and traffic issues in the wider area it will become more inclusive. You can use the "Contact us" form on the www.hillchorlton.co.uk website to get in touch, or pop a note in the letterbox at "Abingdale" or "Westlands" Hill Chorlton.