Hill Chorlton Community News

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

November 2020

HILL CHORLTON ROAD SAFETY PLAN

Following the tremendous response to the Hill Chorlton Road Safety Plan in September, a group of committed residents has been formed to take things forward.

An online meeting of residents from Hill Chorlton and Sandy Lane took place during October. The main focus was on the need to work on the approach to Hill Chorlton and the general appearance of village and give drivers the message that the area is inhabited and they should drive accordingly.

"Mental speed bumps" is an idea promoted by the inventor of the Walking School Bus as a way to "tame traffic". The village of Hill Chorlton very definitely needs some mental speed bumps. We also need to look at ways of taming the traffic on other roads where residents have expressed concern about vehicle speeds.

TRAFFIC TAMING AT CHAPEL BEND

Hill Chorlton's traffic-taming project commenced in the first week of November with some socially distanced work parties. The aim of the initial stage is to slow down westbound vehicles as they come round the Chapel Bend and enter the village.

On several afternoons while the weather was fine volunteers have worked in the area in front of the electricity substation to trim low branches on the Norway maples, clear up dead wood and litter, remove dead wood from the hedge and cut back the overgrown hedge. The hedge will be allowed to grow back to a "sensible" height at which it can be regularly maintained.

The inner and outer verges have been mown and the inner verge will be prepared for planting spring bulbs. The plan is to create a grassland and woodland wildflower area on the inner verge. The Norway maple trees, planted by the Parish Council in 1974, create a perfect setting and habitat for this project.

Scrub bushes that were obscuring road signs have been cut back.

The footway is being sided out and restored to its original width.

Tidying up has commenced on the opposite side of the road, with cutting back brambles on the bank and strimming the very rough, tussocky grass.

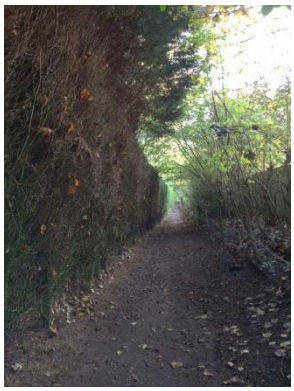
Other work has included mowing the narrow verge from Rose Cottage up to the bend, and mowing the visibility splays at Sandy Lane and the verge between Arnside and Sandy Lane.

Special thanks to Matthew, Cameron and dad Etienne from Lakeside, who did a great job siding out the footway. And to Sue and Nicola for keeping us all going with cups of tea and coffee, biscuits and some very good cake.

The project will continue as weather permits.

CHORLTON MOSS FOOTPATH

This very well used footpath has been maintained by volunteers since 2012. Leaf clearing has been carried out as usual this autumn. There are a number of places where the path floods readily and becomes muddy and needs building up. If you have any unwanted grit, gravel or crushed stone that you can donate, please get in touch using the Contact Us link on the www.hillchorlton.co.uk website or message Richard Oppenheimer on Baldwins Gate Facebook.



HILL CHORLTON SPEED WATCH

The Hill Chorlton Speed Watch held its first session on 9th October. Although this was considered as a "practice" session, the team nonetheless clocked three vehicles travelling above the speed threshold, so these were reported. Wet weather and the unavoidable absences of team members have prevented any further sessions so far, but we hope soon to get out on a regular basis. 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.

THE LETTERBOX

Royal Mail informs us that a work order has been made for replacement of the letter-box in Hill Chorlton that disappeared / was removed without warning in early September. We eagerly await its appearance. The letter-box is used not just by village residents but by people passing through Hill Chorlton.

SPEEDING HORROR

At 10:34 hrs on Sunday 8th November a privately owned monitoring device recorded an eastbound vehicle travelling through Hill Chorlton at ***>>93 mph>>***.

Does anyone really believe that a SID located on the pole at Maerfield Gate, ¼ mile away on a straight road, would have slowed it down?