Hill Chorlton Community News

Connecting the communities in Hill Chorlton, Woodside, Sandy Lane, Chorlton Moss, Kennels Lane, Mill Lane and Lakeside **January 2021**

HILL CHORLTON ROAD SAFETY PLAN

The Hill Chorlton Residents group has continued to work on the road safety plan. It has responded to a report on speeding issues on the A51 in Hill Chorlton that was prepared by a member of the interim parish council. You can read the Residents' response on the www.hillchorlton.co.uk website, where there is also a link to the parish council's report on the parish council website.

The Residents group supports three of the options proposed in the report and has offered to raise the funds (£500–£600) for the SID to be moved to a site across the road from its present location. The options supported by the Residents group are:

- Move the westbound SID from its current position to a site on the opposite side of the road and a little to the west. County highways has agreed that this site is possible. The group believes that siting the SID here would help to discourage overtaking, as drivers would see it much sooner.
- Install a second SID for eastbound traffic on the verge between Sandy Lane and Arnside. This would cost about £2,500 and the parish council would apply for grant funds to pay for it. (The existing SID was also paid for with grant funds.)
- Extend the double white lines at Chapel Bend westwards into the village. The Residents group has suggested that a maximum 70 metres extension, as far as "The Croft" would be helpful.

You can visit this web page: **hillchorlton.co.uk/signs_sids/** to see what the entrances to the village could look like with new signage.

PARISH COUNCIL CO-OPTION

We are very pleased that Richard "Monty" Montague of Hill Chorlton, a founding members of the Hill Chorlton Residents group, a long-term campaigner for a safer A51, and a hard-working member of the volunteer team, has been co-opted onto the interim parish council. If you have issues or concerns that you would like him to take to the parish council you can contact him by email: **richard@premierpotatoes.com**.

PARISH APPEARANCE

In his role as a parish councillor Monty has responsibility for parish appearance matters. The Hill Chorlton Residents group will be supporting him in the northern part of the parish. If you have concerns or suggestions relating to parish appearance or maintenance you are invited to contact Monty by email. Alternatively, you can drop a note in his letterbox at "Abingdale" in Hill Chorlton village.

HEDGE CUTTING

The hedge between Rose Cottage and Eden Rock was cut in early December, resulting in a significant improvement in the appearance of the western end of the village. Now that the hedge has been cut we will edge out the footway during in the coming weeks, as weather permits. From now on we will keep the hedge cut during the growing season so as to prevent it encroaching into the footway.

A WORD OF THANKS

A very big "thank you" to everyone who has contributed to the current projects in Hill Chorlton village. Thank you to all the volunteers, who between them have put in well over 100 hours of work to date. Thank you to those who have made a variety of contributions in kind, including materials, the use of equipment, and very welcome refreshments. You all know who you are. The work has received many positive comments from local walkers, and many "likes" on Baldwins Gate Facebook.

THE LETTERBOX

We are still waiting for the letterbox to be replaced. Royal Mail's "Escalated Customer Resolution Team" informed us in late September that a work order had been made for its replacement. We followed this up just before Christmas and are waiting for a reply.

PROGRESS WITH TRAFFIC TAMING PROJECTS

Edging out the footway at Chapel Bend is now complete. The inner verge has been planted with daffodil bulbs and we have also started work on creating the woodland and grassland wildflower area. To date, we have planted foxgloves, red campion, buttercups and dandelions. Watch the space, as there will be more to come. The outer verge has been planted with mixed crocuses.

In the centre of the village the verge at the top of Moss Lane has been edged out, the flower tubs have been planted up with winter pansies, daffodils and tulips, and more daffodils have been added to those already growing in the grass.

Pansies braving the snow and ice!

Finally, the verge and hedgerow between Arnside and Sandy Lane have been edged out to restore the footway to its full width, and mixed crocuses have been planted in the verge at the end nearest to the village.

We hope that all the tidying up and plantings will reinforce a message to drivers entering the village that the place is inhabited and well cared for and they should drive accordingly.

FLOODING IN SANDY LANE

Flooding at the northern end of Sandy Lane in heavy rain has been a big problem now for a number of years. When the road floods, the water is deep and unsafe to walk through, and Sandy Lane residents are unable to walk into Baldwins Gate. Water drains off the steep field on the opposite side of Woodside and flows across the road into Sandy Lane. The field is used most years to grow maize. This damages the structure of the soil and reduces its capacity to retain water. Matters are not helped by the fact that the road drain in the hedgerow next to "The Nook" is filled up with mud and needs digging out. That is a job for county highways – if anyone can persuade them to do it.

SAFER WALKING

We would like the parish council to maintain regularly mown paths along the verges from Chapel House to Kennels Lane. The local lane and footpath network in Chorlton parish is much used by residents both of the parish and Baldwins Gate, but it is severely fragmented by the A51. Many people would welcome the network being joined up by the creation of a safe walking environment alongside the A51.

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

Hill Chorlton Community News is brought to you by the Hill Chorlton Residents group. It is delivered to residents in the Hill Chorlton and Baldwins Gate areas of the parish to help create a feeling of community in the northern part of the parish. If there is something you would like to see included in the newsletter please get in touch via the Contact Us link on the website **www.hillchorlton.co.uk**.

HILL CHORLTON SPEED WATCH

Community Speed Watch activities are suspended throughout the county while Staffordshire is in Tiers 3 or 4. With the COVID-19 situation looking uncertain for the foreseeable future, there is no knowing when Speed Watch activities will be permitted to resume. New volunteers for the Speed Watch will be warmly welcomed – please contact the coordinator Richard Oppenheimer or the deputy coordinator Sue Montague.