

Iwerne Minster News

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2018

Village plan at a crossroads: public meeting to come

Update, December 2017: The offer to develop on Miles Field has been withdrawn.

An alternative offer was put forward and was discussed at the two open meetings held on Friday 3rd, November at 19:00, and Saturday 4th November at 10:00.

As a result of the above, the NDP process is at a crossroads.

1. We can complete the draft NDP, addressing all of the feedback received for the Statutory Questionnaires and feedback from the Statutory Bodies, thus proceeding as originally planned.

2. We can decide to add the alternative offer into the NDP, which will mean almost starting the Neighbourhood Plan from the beginning, delaying the submission of a plan, for approval, by 6-9 months.

3. A meeting will be held at Clayesmore school in the middle of February 2018 (place, date and time will be confirmed and announced) so that everyone who wants to, can attend, and we can make a decision on the way forward.

The website, www.imndp.org.uk, has the current plan and supporting documents.

– Councillor Arthur Evans, Leader,
Neighbourhood Development Planning team

New editor for Iwerne Minster news

Would you like to take on the role as editor of the Iwerne Minster News? It's a very satisfying role, and one that quickly gets you involved in the village activities.

I've been editing IMN for a year, and I've enjoyed every issue, but it's proving just a bit too much for me to manage while I'm still working full-time.

Please contact me if you like to take on the role, or if you have any questions you'd like to ask. – Dave Calderwood, tel 811934 or email dave.calderwood@btinternet.com



Above: You may have seen a four-ship formation aerobatics team practising not far from the village – they're The Yakovlevs, named after the Russian aircraft they fly. The team is led by Iwerne's own Jez Hopkinson who runs an aviation business at Henstridge Airfield. Photo: Geoff Peters

Villagers raise amazing sum to help homeless

I hope you have seen the posters announcing the result of the Village Christmas Bazaar held on Saturday, December 2nd. An amazing sum of £883.92p was raised - truly the best ever.

Attendance was brilliant and everyone was in a spend, spend, spend mode. The stalls were busy busy with the many delightful items being snapped up. The Hall was buzzing with happy noise and the luscious cakes and 'proper' coffee were being enjoyed by exhausted shoppers.

I have said it before and say it again now: this village is just the very best!

St Mary's posted the cheque to Alabare and has received a lovely thank you letter and a poster; this is displayed on the Church Noticeboard and copies of the poster will be on the main Village boards.

The increase in the number of homeless/street sleepers has had much prominence in national news and organisations like Alabare do much to help at this time of year; it is a small comfort to know we may have helped a little in this part of the Country.

Very very many thanks to all who contributed raffle prizes, gifts, cakes and produce; to the stall holders who gave so generously from their takings; to all the helpers for setting up, serving and clearing up and mainly to yourselves for coming along and spending all your money.

As a footnote - nothing was wasted - the few items left at the end of the morning were given to charity shops in the area and as they were all of excellent quality were gratefully received. – Sheelagh Duly

Roadworks to close A350 overnight for carriage maintenance and resurfacing

Dorset Highways are proposing to implement a temporary road closure on the A350, Sutton Waldron to Iwerne Minster between January 15th and February 10th 2018.

It is proposed that the A350 between Sutton Waldron and Frog Lane (turning to Hanford and Child Okeford) will be closed between the hours of 19:00 and 07:00, but will be reopened during the day and at weekends.

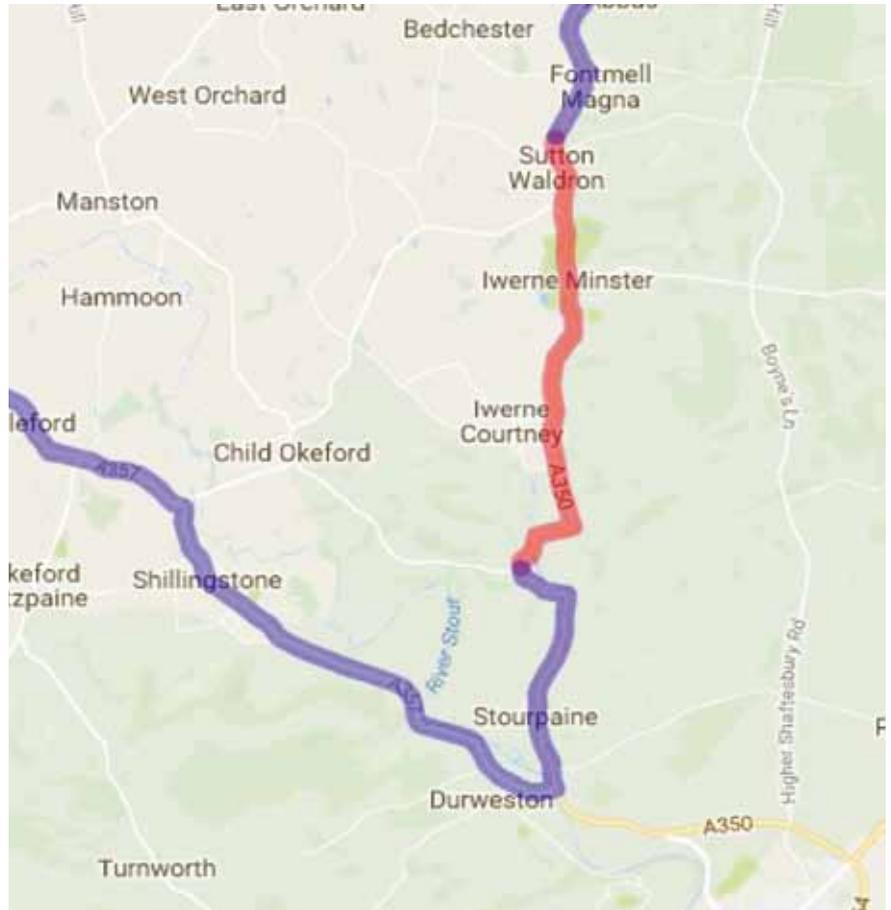
There will be a further road closure on the A350 Fontmell Magna to Sutton Waldron between February 12th and March 30th 2018 between the same hours.

Whilst the road is closed, a locally signed diversion will be put in place to inform road users and enable them to travel around the closed section. Access to properties and businesses will be maintained although villagers may be asked to wait whilst Dorset Highways move machinery or carry out a task.

If you are expecting an evening Health Visitor/Carer or a delivery or you have any concerns that the closure may affect your business at the times mentioned above, please contact me (using the contact details below).

The proposed work may be subject to weather delays or speed of progression. If I receive any further information from Dorset Highways regarding definite dates and arrangements for the work I shall display them on our village notice boards.

– Cllr Brian O’Luanagh Tel. 811239



The roadworks will close the A350 from the southern Child Okeford turning all the way up to Sutton Waldron, overnight 7pm to 7am on weekdays, from January 15th to February 10th. The roadworks team will then move north between Sutton Waldron and Fontmell Magna.

One-way system for HGVs to continue

On Wednesday December 6th North Dorset County Council cabinet agreed to continue with the existing advisory one-way HGV routing: northbound on A350 and southbound on C13/B3081.

Current signing will be enhanced with additional signs advising of the advisory one-way route, an anti-skid surface will be applied on the uphill section of Spreadeagle Hill for HGVs heading south out of Melbury Abbas, and there will be vehicle activated message signs (VMS) for HGVs travelling through the pinch point in Melbury Abbas.

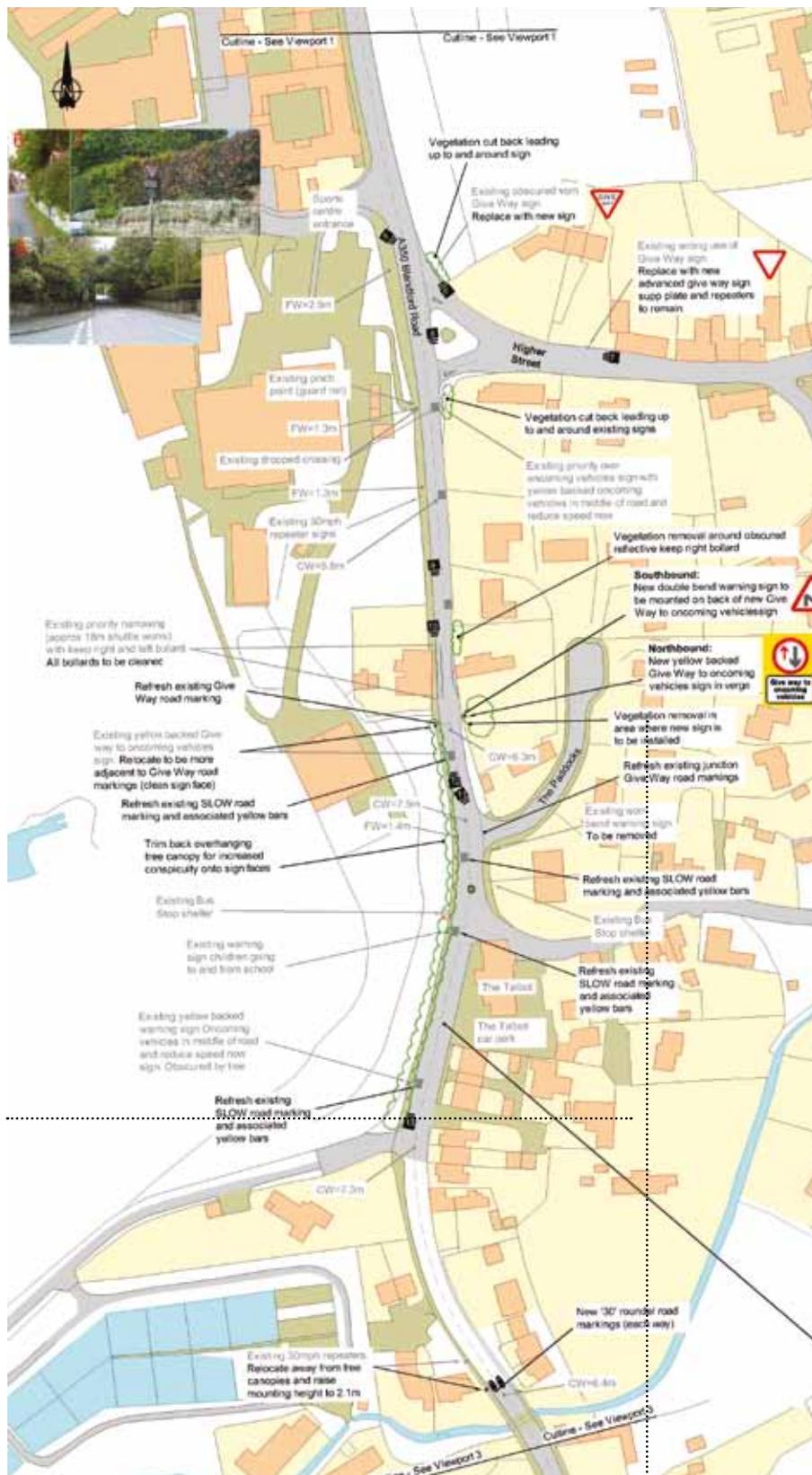
Working in conjunction with a new lay-by, the VMS at Melbury Abbas will advise HGV drivers to wait in the lay-by

when there is another HGV in the narrow section, with the sign advising the driver when it is clear to move through the passage. This system will work in addition to the current traffic signal control shuttle working in Dinah’s Hollow.

Engineers will continue to involve all the blue light services and residents, and will also continue to monitor the situation and ensure that these new measures have the desired effect.

A survey last summer showed that proposals to introduce a 50mph speed limit between the villages along the A350 had the approval from 72 per cent of respondents, 83 per cent were in favour of a 40mph speed restriction being introduced on Spreadeagle Hill south of Melbury Abbas, and 83 per cent value vehicle activated signs to assist communicating any traffic restrictions.

What's planned for A350 through Iwerne Minster



Speedwatch

Since January 2017 our village Community Speed Watch has been active on the A350 outside Clayesmore School in an area that has been risk assessed by the Police to conform to safety of both road users and the CSW team.

Figures accrued over that period are as follows: During the year 30,932 vehicles have passed our watch station in the 100 watches carried out. The average percentage speeding over 35mph (our rule based upon 10% +2mph of the speed limit of 30mph) was 4.4% with an average speed of 39.3 mph. The highest recorded speed was 56mph in the 30mph limit.

These figures compare with 2016 figures where 5% of the 33,024 vehicles passing our watch exceeded the 35mph parameter. Average speed was recorded at 39.5mph

You can see from the above that the average speed is slightly reduced but the percentage of vehicles speeding has also gone down. As you probably saw in an earlier edition of our village magazine we did have in attendance James Vaughan the Deputy Chief Constable of Dorset who spent an hour with us. We have support from the top!

Below is an extract from the November CSW Bulletin compiled by Brian Austin of Dorset Police:

You may have heard of Operation Dragoon which is targeting by No Excuse Officers, motorists who repeatedly offend on our roads.

Operation Dragoon deals with bad/inconsiderate drivers from across Dorset and the intelligence to do so includes that of CSW teams. The standard Dragoon Letters hand delivered by officers includes drivers detected four times or more by CSW. If a person reported by CSW becomes a "Dragoon Target", an officer will continue to monitor him, and if he does not improve his behaviour, will arrest him accordingly. Officers have arrested 66 such offenders in the last year.

If any of the above interests you; we are still recruiting for new members for our team currently at 12. Please contact me by email: Geoff.Peters13@hotmail.co.uk or by telephone: 811546.

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Village Club news

The village club year drew to a close in November with the Annual General Meeting followed by a Dutch Supper. This was very well attended.

The Chairman's report to members gave a resumé of the years events and of very successful fund raising. This has enabled the front of the club building to be completely replaced and thanks were given to the builders, *Hillside Construction*, for their very efficient job. All agreed how very smart it looks.

Details were given of further proposals for the building – the addition of a porch and ramp and later on an extension to the kitchen and storage area.

The Treasurer reported a very satisfactory state in our finances but fund raising will continue towards future repairs etc. The Committee were thanked for their continued work and support.

A good programme is arranged for next year beginning



The village pantomime will be staged on January 19th and 20th. Tickets from the Village Store.

with the Pantomime *Rumpelstiltskin* on Friday, 19th and Saturday 20th January. Tickets are available from the shop. There will be a bar, raffle and ice cream girls! – Penny Marsh

The view from St Mary's

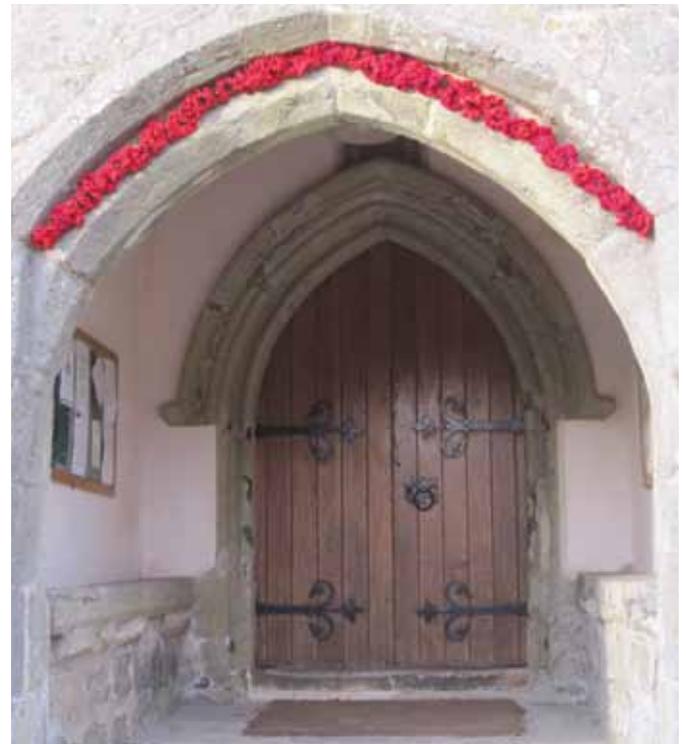
Autumn is a time for reflection. In October people from throughout the Benefice gathered on All Souls Day to remember beloved friends and relatives who have died. Candles were lit in their memory, and prayers said. It was peaceful, but in no way sombre, and a comfort to those who came.

Then in November came the annual service of Remembrance. After a well attended service at St Mary's we gathered round the War Memorial for the reading of the names of the fallen in two World Wars. A trumpeter from Clayesmore played the Last Post. Thanks to the efforts of the Community Speedwatch team, traffic was slowed, stopped or diverted, which enhanced the solemnity of the occasion.

The church porch was garlanded with poppies knitted or crocheted by members of the church (see photo)

But of course it is not just events that take place within the church that are important. Sheelagh Duly has reported elsewhere in the Newsletter about the MacMillan coffee morning and the Christmas Bazaar, which raised around £2,000 for charities. Huge thanks are due to Sheelagh for, once again, organising these events, and to all those who came and gave so generously.

Autumn is also a time to look forward – to Christmas. The annual Crib and Carol Service was preceded by the Hub Christmas party when old and young enjoyed tea and home made cakes – and each other's company. The service itself featured a candlelit procession of young people around the church before our ancient crib was blessed, their delightful rendition of *Away in A Manger* and also a splendid performance on the handbells .



Above: poppy porch. Photo: Pauline Peters

Around 30 people met to sing carols in various locations around the village, encouraged by mulled wine and sausage rolls at The Chalk (kindly supplied by your editor!) and more mulled wine at the Village Club afterwards.

And Christmas came at last! Around 90 people celebrated the birth of our Saviour at two services; the first on Christmas Eve at which Bishop Karen preached and then on Christmas morning itself. Both were occasions of great joy.

And now we look forward to Easter.

– David Parkhouse

Gardeners' Scratchings

JANUARY

Carry out any repair jobs. Make sure all tools are put away cleaned, oiled and sharpened if necessary. Have a general clear up around the garden.

Prepare new beds and borders. Brush snow off greenhouse roof also large evergreens and conifers. Prune wisteria, out of control climbers, e.g. ivies, Virginia creeper and climbing hydrangea.

Order seeds from mail order catalogues. Cut leaves off Lenten hellebores. Keep protecting plants and containers from frost.

Prune standard apple and pear trees. Rejuvenate old overgrown soft fruit bushes. Wash pots and seed trays. Protect pond from icing over. Prepare the soil for new beds and borders when it is diggable.

— Mervyn Marsh

FEBRUARY

Finish off winter digging. Order plug plants. Prune certain kinds of clematis. Plant lily-of-the-valley crowns. Don't rush into planting. Harden off any polyanthus before putting them out once the weather has turned milder.

Plant shallots and Jerusalem artichokes. Prune autumn fruiting raspberries now and plant new canes between now and mid-March.

Protect strawberries with horticultural fleece.

Ventilate the greenhouse at every opportunity. Chit potatoes if not done. Harvest Brussels sprouts, sprouting broccoli, the last of the leeks and winter lettuce from the greenhouse.

Watch out for early greenfly on greenhouse and indoor plants, outdoors it's best left to the blue tits



Above: winter wreath. Photo: Mervyn Marsh

Wet woodlands

On Wednesday, January 17th 2018, Dorset Wildlife Trust (DWT) Conservation Officer, Emma Tomlin, will give an illustrated talk on the importance of 'Wet Woodlands' in our local environment. The talk will start at 7.30pm in Fontmell Magna Village Hall (SP7 0PF). Entry is just £2 and includes tea/coffee & biscuits.

Everyone is welcome to attend our events and there is no charge for children under 16. Also available at this event will be a selection of DWT sales goods, free leaflets on the work of DWT and details of membership of this very important local environmental charity, which currently has more than 27,000 members.



Walk on Win Green despite the hurricane

On October 21st, Hurricane Brian was wreaking havoc in Ireland and threatening to do the same to us in the West Country, so it was very difficult to decide whether to go ahead with our walk or not. In the end I went up to the King John in Tollard Royal as planned and was joined there by four other intrepid walkers.

We set off up the track from the pond towards Win Green and once at the top and out in the open we started to get

blown about by Brian a fair bit, so instead of heading left up to Win Green and coming back down through the Ashcombe Estate, we opted to turn right and follow the Ox Drove along a parallel path through the trees.

Eventually we found a footpath on the right that took us across fields and back down through the woods into Tollard Royal. On the way we passed a site where Pitt-Rivers had done some archaeological excavations in the last century and discovered coins and human bones.

There was a standing stone with the details inscribed on it, but so covered in lichen that we couldn't decipher much of it. (Apparently a good way to clean such a stone is to paint it with talcum powder!)

It was hard going against Brian across the fields as he tried to blow us over, but the sun shone and once back at the pub, we could relax, very glad to have made the effort after all, and could enjoy our lunch together.

By the next day, Brian had run out of puff. — Helen English

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Clerk's Corner

Parish Council Notes

From the minutes of Iwerne Minster Parish Council meeting held on November 6th 2017.

The following statement was read out from Mr Fermor about the Neighbourhood Development Plan:

The problem with all questionnaires is that the person who has devised the questionnaire is the same person who selects what comments should be fed back to the public. Thus in the list of comments provided there were quite a number of trite and easily dismissable comments to which attention was drawn but a number of the important issues which I know many people commented on were not selected.

For example, the issue in the case of The Old Bakery of why it is acceptable to allow development on a designated green space reducing the current designated area to about 65% of the original was not mentioned.

Nor were the comments criticising the building of the Brookmans Farm Bungalow site on a currently designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty nor the proposal to move the settlement boundary so that this site can be developed within the settlement area. These comments on more controversial elements of the Neighbourhood Plan were not listed for public scrutiny.

I believe the percentage of responses supporting the Neighbourhood Plan was 60%. This figure of 60% in favour of the Neighbourhood Plan is not a ringing endorsement of either the Neighbourhood Plan or the Neighbourhood Plan process and I regret that there has been little recognition of the division, anger and anxiety that this Neighbourhood Plan process has caused and very little empathy shown.

Many of us feel that we have not been listened to during this long process and that the drive to get a plan in place has been relentlessly pursued regardless of the damage to the community spirit. The 40% against the plan represents a significant proportion of the village and

there can be no doubt that the process has been deeply divisive.

I have no doubt how much work has gone into the Neighbourhood Plan and I don't wish to denigrate or criticise the efforts of our officers but it is the outcomes that are important and I do believe we have been left with a very divided and broken community.

After consideration, the Chairman recommended that the Council hold an extraordinary meeting with the Neighbourhood Plan Working Party and the general public in the New Year to enable concerns and questions to be raised.

Parish Field insurance

Concerns were expressed that people renting the Parish Field are not aware that they have to obtain their own public liability to cover the insurance of the event they are holding and expressed their concerns over the use of fireworks on the field. Cllr P Le Prevost confirmed that on some occasions, the events are covered by the Parish Council's insurance. Cllr P Le Prevost agreed to produce a notice for anyone that rents the field regarding public liability. The Clerk will obtain exactly what the Parish Council's insurance covers.

Empty Homes Loans

With 1,600 empty homes in North Dorset, West Dorset and Weymouth & Portland and with around 4,000 households on the housing register across the tri-council partnership, bringing an empty home back into use for families is a priority for North Dorset District Council. Therefore, loans for up to £15,000 can be offered through Wessex Home Improvement Loans Ltd with the blessing of North Dorset District Council.

Digital Champion Programme

Although over 97% of Dorset area now has superfast broadband, 149,000 Dorset adults (16+) do not have the five basic digital skills that would equal a

satisfactory level of digital capability. Of this number 69,000 are either not online or have not been online within the last three months.

This is increasingly important and concerning as more and more activities are supported or undertaken on line. In particular health and education services are increasingly reliant on service users accessing services on line.

To help people access online services and to encourage confidence and use of digital services, Dorset County Council is developing its Digital Champion network.

Chairman's report

The Chairman reported that he has received an email from Russ Jones, head of maintenance at Claysmore School. The email confirmed that the School supports the 20mph limit for the village and agreed to donate £3,000 towards the cost involved. The matter of a crossing or traffic calming on the A350 was raised.

Homewatch/Speedwatch

The Speed Watch team has a new member, who is able to help with Tower Hill. Concerns were expressed over the cars parking along Tower Hill and in other parts of the village. It was requested that this matter is looked at, at another meeting.

From the minutes of Iwerne Minster Parish Council meeting held on December 4th 2017.

Mr Maguire read out a statement regarding a proposed development on that land off Cleff House:

It has come to our attention that members of Iwerne Minster Parish Council may have been misinformed regarding our views on the proposed development by Councillor and Mr Croney on their land at Cleff House, Iwerne Minster. I would therefore like to make the following points to clarify our position:

1) We are, and always have been, totally opposed to all aspects of the



Above: This green and pleasant village. Iwerne Minster seen from Hambledon Hill, winter 2017.

proposed development.

2) We were first made aware of the proposed development on Thu 16th Oct. This was 10 days after the final date for returning the Pre-Submission Questionnaire.

3) We have had no contact with Councillor or Mr Croney regarding the proposed development before or after Councillor Croney hand delivered to us the details of the proposed development in a sealed envelope on Thu 26th Oct. On delivery of the document, Councillor Croney left immediately without discussing the contents.

4) Under no circumstances will we sell any of our land to aid the proposed development.

To avoid any further misunderstandings, we would request the opportunity to read out this statement at the next Parish Council Meeting and for it to be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. If Councillor or Mr Croney disagree with any points above, then we would be more than happy to clarify any of these points and answer any questions they may have on this matter.

Mr Croney read out a statement:

We do not intend to comment on any statement that Jonathan and Susan have made. To do so would be inappropriate.

Michael and Deborah Croney love Iwerne Minster. That is the village we have lived in for almost 16 years. Just before we departed on vacation, Deborah visited Jonathan and Susan, to provide them with an advance copy of our Iwerne Minster Neighbourhood Development

Plan consultation submission. We were under no obligation to do this, but it seemed an appropriate courtesy.

Upon our return, just two weeks later, it seemed that we had arrived back in an entirely different village. Perhaps in an unfolding play that may have a bleak outcome for Deborah and I.

Four separate events:

1. Apparently the Village Club Committee met to consider our submission, without requesting we make representations.

2. Our Neighbours posted a letter about us on the village notice board.

3. We have been told by residents this was an agenda item at a Village Club meeting.

4. It is possible allegations have been made in an email to the Parish Council regarding our conduct, integrity and character.

Things seem to be moving quickly especially when compared with the work undertaken, by many wonderful residents, to implement a 20mph speed limit in the village. Not sure why. Surely it is better to make a good decision rather than a quick decision.

Of course, the irony is that the Village Club Committee has possibly been reaching conclusions on, and making recommendations about, our submission when it has not yet been officially published.

However, I am sure this was all due to an unfortunate series of misunderstandings, not helped by the fact that we were away on vacation. That

said, I now would like to ask the Parish Council Chairman if you could help facilitate a meeting with the Village Club Committee, since so far they have been reluctant to meet with us.

Development matters

The Vicarage Stables - erect two storey extension. The Parish Council supported the revised application.

Local Government Reorganisation

On November 7th, the Secretary of State announced that he was minded to support the proposed reorganisation of local government across Dorset. Before he takes his final decision there will be a period during which further representations may be made. The final decision will not be made until next spring.

Meanwhile, the eight month delay means that there is a massive amount of work which must be progressed if we are to have any chance of being ready to establish two new councils for April 2019. Nine existing Councils will need to be dissolved and two entirely new organisations established.

20mph speed limit

Cllr Croney reported that the 20mph project is to be heard at the regulatory committee on the January 4th 2018. To date, there have been four objections to the 20mph speed limit in the village.

– *Nicky Philips*, Clerk, Iwerne Minster Parish Council www.iwerneminster.info

Iwerne Minster News

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Please see note on page 1 regarding the editor's job

Contributions are welcome from anyone in Iwerne Minster or with an interest in the village.

Please send by email, or hard copy through the letter box. Digital photos should be high resolution (i.e. direct from the camera, not down-sized for websites).

Please send the image file rather than embed it into a text document. Copyright should be agreed with the photographer.

The views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the editor.

Village Diary

Paul Le Prevost compiles the Iwerne Minster Village Diary, available by email and pinned to noticeboards. Please let Paul know of new events. Email: paul.leprevost@btinternet.com

Printer

Parish Magazine Printing



Village events 2018

Please join us



Above: 2018's Horticultural Show is on August 18th. Start planning now!

Will you support our village events in 2018? Will you help organise, or enjoy the events? What will you be able to support?

This is advance warning, so you can put these dates and events in your diaries.

There will be two major events in 2018, as well as the annual IMPHA Horticultural Show on August 18th 2018. These are The Village Fete and the four-yearly Village Open Gardens, on the weekend of June 30th and July 1st.

Both events will be fund raisers for Abingdon Hall, The Village Club, and St. Mary's Church.

The Village Fete

This will be held on the Village Field on May 7th 2018, beginning at 15.00. A wide range of events is planned, which we hope will include live jazz, races for children and parents, a BBQ, bar, and later in the evening a barn dance. There will be individual stalls, games and competitions and much else.

The outline of the afternoon and evening is in place, but much detail still has to be finalised. It will require much work both before hand and on the day, and if you feel able to help in any way, please give us a call.

The Village Open Gardens

The last Village Open Garden was in 2014 when, through the hard work and generosity of the owners, we managed to open 21 gardens. Can we open more this time? Will you open your garden on the weekend of June 30th and July 1st, 2018?

The plan is to open the village field for parking, and The Club for sale of tickets and the plan of the route round the village. This could be a figure of eight, so that a break for tea at the club is possible half way round.

Visitors will be able to meander round our village enjoying a wide range of highly individual and beautiful gardens. If you'd like to take part and open your garden, please let us know.

These events will be a great opportunity to showcase our beautiful village to visitors, and show how united we can be. The three village teams who manage the Abingdon Hall, The Club and The Church will be very grateful for your support and generosity.

Please join us.

– Penny and Mervyn Marsh,
Paul le Prevost, Dianne Benfield
and Jean Kennard,
Richard Hood and Brooke Bowater