

How can we cut the speed limit in Froxfield?

It's a long and winding road of red tape

Reducing the speed of traffic on the A4 has been a top priority for action by the Froxfield Parish Council over the last 10 years. Chair Vanya Body met with **Wiltshire Senior Traffic Engineer Mark Stansby** at the beginning of December to talk about how we can get the speed limit past The Pelican reduced to 40mph.

The limit is currently 50mph for the final few hundred metres of the village, despite the fact there is a busy pub and a number of houses inside the village gates. The PC has argued for some time that the intention of the installing the white gates was to mark the village envelope and there was an expectation of a standard speed limit of no more than 40mph between these two sets of gates!

Vanya was supported at the meeting by our **Wiltshire County Councillor Stuart Wheeler** who also recognised the problem and endorsed the 'common sense' approach to bring the 40mph speed limit through the entire village between the gates.

Mark Stansby reported back after the meeting that he had taken our request up to his manager, Principal County Engineer Gareth Rogers and that they now both support our request in principle — however, this essentially means that they support our request to kick off a long and involved process...

We will need a formal 'speed limit review' from the county boundary to the commencement of the 50 mph limit on the western side of the village, that will cost £2,500 — paid to WCC's roads consultants Atkins. We will also need the approval of the Pewsey Vale Local Highways and Footpaths Improvement Group (LHFIG) to begin this process. While there is a 'reasonable chance' that changes (reduction of the speed limit from 50 to 40mph) will



be recommended at the end of this, there are no guarantees with this process, says Mark Stansby, so this exercise might not result in 'any changes on the ground'.



The reason we have to involve Wiltshire's long-term consultants, Atkins, is because they will be tasked with assessing our request against the criteria set down in the Government's **National Speed limit Policy**, to which WCC has signed up. Ultimately, a final decision will be taken by Wiltshire's lead officers, based on the evidence gathered during the Atkins assessment.

In the past the Parish Council has been asked to pay 25% of road project costs, but this may end up costing us more. What is clear is that nothing is going to happen soon. The review process will take up to 6 months and be followed by a 'consultation' to agree 'a way forward' and then drafting of necessary legal orders and agreement of Wiltshire Council followed by construction work — all in, this could take up to 18 months!

However, at the recent Parish Council meeting, it was agreed that we should start down the road and hope that we are not bound up by the red tape involved and at the end of the process we will achieve the common sense approach of having a standard 40mph speed limit throughout the entire village.

New 'Dial-a-Bus' Service for Froxfield

Wiltshire Connect to launch in the spring

Paul Sanders from Wiltshire Council's Passenger Transport Unit unveils exciting news about public transport links to the village with an 'on demand' bus service.

Wiltshire Council is one of 18 local authorities to receive funding through the Department for Transport's (DfT) Rural Mobility Fund. The fund is specifically used to pilot **Digital-Demand Responsive Transport** (D-DRT) services, which are flexible bus services that you can book through an app or by phone.

Pewsey Vale and the Marlborough area was selected as the pilot area in Wiltshire, and a resident engagement survey took place in the summer. Following on from this, in spring 2023, the council will be launching the new **Wiltshire Connect** service, which is designed to improve rural transport in the area. Wiltshire Connect will provide the following:

- A new on-demand bus service (which operates in a similar way to Uber) will be available for Froxfield and the surrounding area, providing improved transport links to Marlborough, Hungerford and surrounding villages.
- You will be able to book a journey with an **app** and this will also include the ability to pay your fare before you board, track your vehicle and give feedback on your journey. Booking by phone will also be available.

- Anyone can use the new service. Concessionary bus passes will be accepted and special introductory fare promotions will be available.
- The service will operate from **6am-8pm Monday-Friday and 7am-7pm on Saturdays**, and will also be available to use during school times.
- The new service will be more flexible so that vehicles can pick up and drop off in more convenient locations, not just normal bus stops. **Home pick ups** will also be available in certain circumstances.
- The service will use brand new Mercedes vehicles with air conditioning and other features.
- A **Wiltshire Connect timetabled service** will continue to operate on Mondays to Fridays to compliment the on-demand service, which will include one through journey a day to Devizes as well as buses to Marlborough and Hungerford. The timetabled service will not be as extensive as the current 20/22 timetable.

The current 20/22/X22 service will be replaced with the 110 Wiltshire Connect timetabled service and the new on-demand bus service in spring 2023.

Timetables and more information will be available nearer the time.



Pot holes are now a No 1 priority

Wiltshire County Council Parish Stewards will be out in force in the coming weeks and pot holes are their number one priority. Pot holes have become such a huge issue for all road users following weeks of heavy rainfall. The Parish Stewards will be scouting for new holes to fill. Some will be given a 'temporary fix' to make the road safe, but these will be logged and WCC teams will return to ensure the hole has a long-term patch.

**Anyone spotting a pothole should report it via the
[MyWilts App](#) or [ONLINE using this link](#)**

The App is easy to use and can be loaded onto Apple and Android phones:

Search 'MyWilts'.

Council seeks grants for new swings

The Parish Council agreed to budget for the replacement of the swings on the village green and will look at a number of different playground equipment suppliers.

The previous swings were funded by a National Lottery grant and we will be once again applying for Lottery Foundation support for the replacement. We would also gratefully accept any donations from local businesses or members of the community!

The Parish Councillors agreed that we should be looking for a unit with more longevity and this would mean going for a metal frame. These are more expensive; however, if we can expect an extended life, then it will be cheaper in the long run. We now seek a short list of three options and realise the new swings may cost between £5000 and £7,000, based on early quotes.

The Parish Council agreed to go ahead with the purchase, but if we cannot obtain a lottery grant, we are still committed to replacing the swings and will commit our financial reserves to pay for this as well as seeking community money via the council precept.

The plan to buy a speed indicator device for Froxfield is still active. We haven't been able to budget for this in 2023 because money has been prioritised for the swing. However, if we are successful in obtaining a grant, then the speed-calming SID is next priority on the PC list!

Help us to keep in touch with you...

This newsletter is being emailed out to residents of Froxfield who have signed up to our email news service. We hold a list of those wanting to be kept abreast of the PC's activities and being informed about opportunities to get involved with village projects. If you are not already on this email broadcast list and would like to be, send your details to PC Chair Vanya Body at v.body@froxford.org

• WE WILL NOT SHARE YOUR NAME WITH ANY OTHER ORGANISATION AND INFORMATION SENT TO YOU WILL RELATE ONLY TO MATTERS AFFECTING FROXFIELD VILLAGE.

Could you be our Parish Clerk?

We need someone to take over this role – it's 5 hours a week but could lead to a new career.

Full details below.

Job Vacancy

CLERK TO FROXFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Froxfield Parish Council is seeking a Parish Clerk who will also be the Responsible Financial Officer, starting 1 April 2023. The role of Clerk is part time, at 5 hours per week. The pay rate is £11.63 an hour, fixed in accordance with the National Association of Local Council's approved salary range at Level 7. This will be reviewed annually with scope to advance to Level 12 dependent on training and qualifications undertaken. The job is home-based.

Froxfield has 299 residents registered on the Electoral Roll with an annual 'Precept' (annual budget) of £11,000 for 2022/23. As Clerk, you would administer the financial affairs of the council.

A full job description is available on application, but the successful applicant must have good computer, administrative and communication skills; be competent in bookkeeping (we use the Scribe accounting package), and should be confident with minute taking and dealing with correspondence.

A working knowledge of Parish Council procedures and/or public administration is desirable, but not essential, as training is available. However, a successful Parish Clerk must have personal qualities of integrity, discretion, objectivity and impartiality.

You will attend all the Council's public meetings, held on or around the second Monday of alternate months — normally in the Froxfield Memorial Hall — with the occasional extraordinary meetings as required.

For more information about Froxfield Parish Council, including minutes of past meetings, our website is www.froxfield.org

For further information prior to applying, including a full job description, contact the Chair of Froxfield Parish Council Vanya Body on v.body@froxfield.org.

Closing date for applications is Monday January 30th.

- Our current Clerk, Esther Cope, has moved to a full-time clerking role with a much larger Parish Council at Bray, West Berkshire. She turned what was a desire to 'try something new' into a completely new career.

Froxfield today... tomorrow, who knows!