

Dear Readers

Winter has started to bite and this month Nature Watch has some ideas to keep the birds fed during the cold weather (p 15). Our resident hedgehog has been spotted eating peanuts at night along with leftover cat food. I am very concerned about the letter on this page regarding an accident on Packhorse Lane. Ed Vaizey has already replied to say he will be contacting Alistair Darling again (see p 5) and Oxfordshire County Council. I hope this incident will add a sense of urgency to our road problems. If you have witnessed anything that could add to the arguments for resolving our traffic dilemmas, please write to Ed or MADNews.

Until next time....



PS Happy Christmas

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PLEASE RECYCLE AFTER READING
December 2005

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Affordable Housing Update

An exhibition of the elevation and layout drawings of the units planned for phase III Longfields will be held on Thursday 19th January 2006 between 3.00 p.m. and 8.00 p.m. in the sports pavilion in the Anson field off Morland Road. In attendance will be a representative from the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council who undertook the initial needs survey in the parish. Also present will be staff from Sovereign Housing Association who will be able to provide information on its letting and shared ownership schemes and the management of any new development. As well, staff from the Vale of White Horse District Council's housing section will be there to answer questions about joining the housing register, the eventual allocation process of the properties, and any local connection requirements. There will be feedback forms available and full opportunity to leave your comments about the development proposals. Any comments will be carefully considered and taken into account before proceeding to the next stage. Please put a note of this date in your next year's diary now.

A415 Pedestrian Crossing - cycle track to Howard Cornish Road

Some 6 years ago concerns were expressed by a Parish Councillor to the Parish Council about the safety of villagers crossing to the cycle track in view of the speeding traffic at the entry point to the village. At that time there had been several vehicular accidents at the entrance to Howard Cornish Road and also pedestrian injuries. The Parish Council put forward the idea of a crossing to the County Council and a full assessment of whether it was possible or not was carried out. The scheme was eventually put in the programme. It has taken a long time to come to the top of the pile, but the Parish Council's efforts have paid off and it has now been finally completed and is fully operational. The crossing was formally opened by Cllr. Catherine Fulljames, the Chairman of the County Council on Friday 4th November. assisted by children from the school. The County Council's speed monitoring officer will continue to monitor the speeds of traffic as it enters the village.

The Council would wish parishioners a happy Christmas and prosperous new year.

Date of Next Meeting: Wed 14th Nov in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place at 7.30 p.m.
Clerk: Mrs L. Martin, 90 Howard Cornish Road, Marcham Tel: 01865 391833.

Anyone wishing to bring anything to the attention of the Council can do so by writing to the Clerk who will place the item on the agenda for the next meeting. Alternatively

the Council has a public participation section early in the meeting, so anyone is welcome to come along and have their say.

Dear Editor

I wrote to you some time ago concerning the new crossing and traffic lights to be installed in Marcham and pointed out the dangers of this. The crossing and lights have been in operation for one week. Has any body noticed the tyre skid marks on the road because cars and lorries are travelling too fast and don't see the crossing until too late, also people crossing the road do so near the nurseries. I fear someone will be injured soon. There was not much thought put into this crossing and was a waste of money.

JR BUSBY, WILLOW FARM

Dear Mr Vaizey

I am writing to you as a very concerned and upset parent who lives at 10 Packhorse Lane, Marcham. I know you are fully aware of the bends on this road and the danger to us residents with the speed and amount of traffic that passes through this road.

Today at lunchtime I had just walked out of my gate after checking the road was clear when a car came up from behind and knocked into my 11 month old daughters car seat which I was carrying. Luckily on this occasion she is fine. This section of road is getting worse and worse as the months go on and the speed of which vehicles go through is NOT acceptable by any means. They pay no attention what so ever that this is a village location and that there is a sign (although not at all clear enough in my opinion) before entering the village that adults and children may be walking on the road.

I did get the registration number of this vehicle who did not have the common courtesy of stopping even knowing what they had done and reported this to the police.

My concern now is for the five children who are under four years of age, the elderly and a newly pregnant mum who all live on this stretch of road. Something very serious will happen one day if we are unable to get something organised quickly. I cannot understand why things take so long to sort out with such an obviously dangerous situation. Is it really going to have to take a nasty or fatal accident for something to be done?

We have tried in the past to apply for a driveway but this has been turned down due to the speed limit of the village so we have no alternative but to use roadside parking which involves walking on this dangerous corner. We have been told IF the bypass goes through we would be able to re-apply and all going well it should go through, but this is not soon enough.

I look forward to your comments on this subject.

JACKIE KING & ROBERT WALDRAM