Parish Council News

Consultations and Improvements: We all have different requirements from our village. A group of councillors and residents is currently working on revising the Neighbourhood Plan which sets out the facilities and characteristics of the village as we would like to see it in the future.

We all tend to groan at "yet another consultation", but without these, we are left second-guessing what improvements the village would like to see. There will be a consultation in due course, on the draft revised Neighbourhood Plan which we hope you will review. The Dorset Local Plan consultation runs until 13th October and we encourage all to respond.

The Parish Council is always keen to make improvements that we believe will benefit the village. We welcome emails to the clerk, requests made during the public participation sessions at the beginning of all of our meetings. And more recently we also pick up on comments made through social media such as the request for provision of a bench in the dog exercise area which, we believe, was an "easy win" for the council.

Some improvements are more complex, such as the creation of the new Zebra Crossing by the school which finally came to fruition this summer after 8 years of work.

Aspirations: We are still working towards the creation of a defined (not zebra) High Street crossing point by the library, and also remodeling of the eyesore island in front of Tesco, to make the area generally more attractive and work better.

We are looking at new signage for our Parish Council buildings to create an identifiable "brand".

We are also considering locations for a new Mobile Phone Mast in the village to improve coverage. But where?

This summer saw the replacement of the village noticeboard area by the library, and the pond on Eldons Drove has been remodelled and is now establishing itself – and the water level is rising following the dry summer. It is hoped that this will, to a degree, help the rec field drainage by providing a clear place for the water to go.

We also completed a refurbishment of the ever-popular basket swing in Rocket Park.

Following feedback at the village fair we will continue to work over the coming months on plans to replace some of the Rocket Park items to add more play "challenges".

Grants: There are many other organisations which each have a part in enriching the lives of different groups of people: We would like to remind organisations that the

Parish Council has some funds available to award grants to local organisations. There are conditions and a formal (simple) application process: details can be found on the Parish Council website.

Councillor Vacancy: The Parish Council is made of 11 volunteer councillors. We currently have 2 vacancies and are keen to fill these: if you are passionate about the village and its future, please contact the clerk or any of the councillors for more details about joining this for this rewarding opportunity.

Website and Email: We now have a new Parish Council Website lytchettmatraversparishcouncil.gov.uk

And a new clerk email address: clerk@lytchettmatraversparishcouncil.gov.uk

(emails to the old address will be forwarded for a few months).

Parish Council Meetings: Our next Finance & General Purposes meeting is on the 8th October at 7.00 p.m. and the next Full Council meeting is on the 22nd October at 7.00 p.m., with both held at the Village Hall Blanchard Room. Agendas for all meetings are published on-line and the associated reports can be requested from the Parish Clerk. All meetings are open to the public and start with a Public Participation session where you can ask questions or raise concerns that you would like to discuss with the Parish Council.

Andrew Huggins, Vice Chair, Lytchett Matravers Parish Council