May 2026

LYTCHETT MATRAVERS PARISH COUNCIL

School Crossing Patrol

As we noted last month, Dorset Council agreed to allow the Parish Council to fund a second school crossing point by the lower school gate, near the top of Deans Drove. Monday April 13th was the first day of the summer term, the sun was out and our lollipop lady was newly installed at the designated spot.

Many parents and children came from that end of the village and used the new crossing point, but we also had several families who went past the zebra crossing to come down and say hello and to use the new point. It was a real demonstration of a community crossing and the appeal of a lollipop lady who knows the parents and children and says 'Good Morning' to all as well as keeping them safe. The representative from Dorset Council was quite surprised at the volume of pedestrian traffic and did appreciate the need for the second crossing point. Seeing so many families crossing together underlined the importance of the second crossing point and reinforced the case that residents and the Parish Council had raised with Dorset Council.

As we all know, this need will only increase as more houses are built lower down Wareham Road. Together with the school, we have requested Dorset Council to provide educational classes to teach the children road safety and how to use zebra crossings.

Spring Litter Pick

The bi-annual litter pick was held on Sunday April 12th and was very well attended. Most of the village roads and streets were covered and a total of 21 bags were collected. That may sound a lot, but it is well below the level we used to collect when we started about 12 years ago.

This reflects a real change in local habits. Many residents now routinely pick up litter while out walking around the village and that everyday effort makes an enormous difference. It's a great example of quiet, collective action that helps keep Lytchett Matravers clean, welcoming and cared for.

We do continue to see problem areas around Rocket Park, the new pond, and near the Astro/MUGA. Please help us by encouraging everyone who uses these facilities to take rubbish home or use nearby bins. Looking after shared spaces is something we all benefit from.

Youth Hall & Community Car Park

The Parish Council have addressed the long standing issue of a flooded car park at the Youth Hall/Community Hall. The 'lakes' in the car park have made it difficult for many users during the winter months. The underlying ground has been saturated so a conventional drainage scheme would not work. Instead we have experimented with a 3.5m 'soakaway' borehole penetrating through the impervious clay layer which underlies much of our village. This was to test whether we could feasibly expect water to drain away into the water table below. The test was positive and we have now installed a connecting drainage system to the borehole

together with a regrading of the car park surface to collect the surface water. It may not get its full test until next winter, but it is now ready.

Rocket Park Refurbishment

Rocket Park is very popular and attracts many families and children. Inevitably some items are more heavily used than others. In the last couple of years the Parish Council has refurbished and repaired the most popular items, but is now planning to replace some less popular ones with new items to give the park fresh appeal. The Parish Council carried out a consultation during the 2025 Summer Fair on the Recreation Ground to gather input from children on the proposed items they liked, and didn't like, and that feedback is driving the various plans.

The popular sling rotator will be relocated outside the fenced play area, behind the hill end of the Zipline, together with new flooring. By moving equipment for older children from the fenced area, it frees up space within. The plan is to install more climbing equipment for both the toddler age and for teenagers. Rubber flooring will be laid around these new items to improve the usability in the wetter months.

The Parish Council is also looking upgrade the ball court this to a marked half court and a fenced goal end to facilitate both basketball and football. The other end of this tarmac will be line painted with a toddler play roadway for scooting.

All ideas and feedback are welcome.

Parish Council Vacancy

There are currently 2 vacancies for Parish Councillor, so do please contact the Parish Clerk to find out more about this role. It only takes a few hours per week and is a direct way to participate and help in your community and is so rewarding. Why not come along to one of our meetings to hear how it works, or call our Clerk or any Councillor if you have questions.

Parish Council Meetings

Our next Finance & General Purposes meeting is on May 13th at 7pm, and the next Full Council meeting is on May 27th at 7pm, both in the Blanchard Room at the Village Hall. Agendas are published online and reports are available from the Parish Clerk. All our meetings begin with a public participation session. That is open to any resident who wishes to raise an issue, express and opinion or ask a question. So please come along, it's your village.

Alf Bush
Chair, Lytchett Matravers Parish Council

For more information, visit **Lytchett Matravers Parish Council** or visit the Parish Council Facebook page, email **clerk@lytchettmatraversparishcouncil.gov.uk** or call **07596 885667**.