August 2026

LYTCHETT MATRAVERS PARISH COUNCIL

Summer Festival

The Lytchett Matravers Summer Festival was held on June 20th and, with some help from the weather, attracted a crowd of 750/800 people over the whole day. The event followed a similar theme from past years with mainly children's entertainment and the dog show in the afternoon followed by a band onstage for the evening. Our stage compere got all the kids up and singing and dancing showing off their talent.

The afternoon started at 2 p.m. and carried on through until 10 p.m. on what turned out to be a beautiful sunny afternoon and evening. The Festival made a positive contribution to the village beyond the event itself. It provided fundraising opportunities for local charities and community projects, supported local traders and brought residents together. Collectively, over £1,300 was raised in aid of various local charities throughout the day.

This Festival was now our fifth summer event that started with the late Quenn's 70th Jubilee in 2022. We then celebrated the King's coronation and D Day 80 in 2024. The last two years have not had an external theme, but have just been for the village; to bring people together and to celebrate the core of our community. We were not able to have the usual straw bale half circle for seats in front of the stage this year; severe shortages of straw meant they were not available.

While the Parish Council, and therefore you our residents, effectively sponsor the event, we do all need to know how the community view the success and importance of holding a summer festival. As best we can, we try to maximise the village contribution and participation. Please let the Parish council know what you think, what you like and, of course, what you don't. This is critical in how we try to shape any future events.

20mph Limit/Zone

The Summer Festival was an opportunity for the Parish Council to survey resident's views on the proposed 20mph zone. Since 2024 when the Parish Council first approached Dorset Council, these limits and zones have become much more prevalent across Dorset,.

Initially, a couple of years ago, we asked for a 20mph limit on Wareham Road and High Street. Traffic survey data approved Wareham Road, but not the High Street. Evidently, the average traffic speed was too high! The response did say that other traffic calming would help improve these statistics. The Parish Council wanted a more comprehensive solution, so we focused on installing the school crossing and then the High Street crossing.

The zebra crossing in Wareham Road was part 1 and was completed last year. The High Street crossing is in the planning application process and will be part 2. The planning application is in progress and we hope to finalise that this autumn.

Separately, there has been a consultation regarding roads between Lytchett Matravers, Lytchett Minster and the A350. This is to reduce sections from 60mph to 40mph and would include Huntick Road.

It has recently become clear that we could apply again now, since the previous guidelines have been relaxed. Dorset Council have now suggested a 20mph zone that is the whole central village (the proposed map can be viewed on the website). Their reasoning is that it will minimise the number of changes from a higher speed limit down to 20mph. Practically, many small residential roads within the village centre are already constrained because of parked cars, so this extension is not a real change.

Dorset Council have now carried out 3 further average speed surveys within the village and we await those results. They also require that any proposal has to demonstrate solid village support. It is important that there is a high level of community support as the installation of any 20mph scheme will involve a statutorily required period of formal public consultation and Dorset Council will not undertake that without knowing the core support is there.

At the Festival, the proposals were very positively received with 66 approvals against 2 dissents. The same proposal is on the Parish Council website and we need as many people in the village to respond. We intend to leave this open throughout August and then collate results. If you haven't done already, go to the website and let us know what you think.

Parish Council Vacancy

At the time of writing, we still have 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

For August, we combine our two normal monthly meetings to just the one. This will on August 19th at 7pm, 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**.