



Speldhurst Parish Council

Working for the whole community

NEWSLETTER

20 MPH in our Villages - have your say

Traffic speed is one of the major issues for residents, as evidenced in the new Parish Plan. The Council has made it a priority to establish 20mph zones outside Langton Green and Speldhurst Primary Schools. We now have a design plan from KCC Highways which the Council considers both acceptable and affordable:

- Langton Green will have an advisory limit with a speed indicator device at each end covering the area of the Speldhurst Road approaching the school

- Speldhurst will have a 20mph zone in the village
- We are also hoping to reduce the 60mph stretch of 0.4 miles on the Langton to Speldhurst road to 40mph.

Costs are estimated at about £20,000. Before we commit to spending such a large sum of money it is important that we hear from you. Please contact the Clerk and let us know if you are in favour or against the project and what you think.

Other Highway Issues

GATEWAYS

The Council is also funding a programme of "Gateways" which will highlight that motorists are entering a "village area" (see picture for an example). These are being initially installed in Old Groombridge, Ashurst and in two places between Speldhurst and Langton.



ISS - The interactive speed sign (ISS) in Groombridge has been taken down by KCC as it no longer works and parts are obsolete. This was put up the same time as the one in Ashurst which is also faltering.

SID - The mobile device (SID) which is in operation and is moved around every fortnight by our Groundsman is working well

and reports we have received say people prefer this type as it advises motorists of their speed and, because it is moved around, it is less predictable. The Council will make a decision on how to replace the ISSs when all expenditure is known.

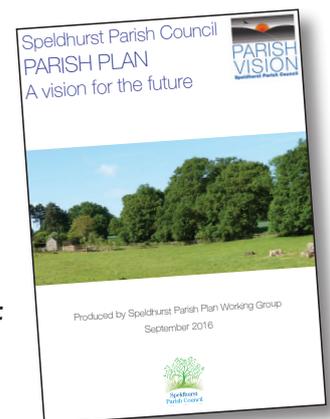
HEDGE - The hedge on the A264 towards Ashurst has been cut back following determined requests by Cllrs Soyke and Podbury.

PARKING - The last issue is important in all villages – parking. It is becoming an increasing problem everywhere and we are now seeing cars parked on both sides of roads, blocking pavements, forcing pedestrians to walk in the road. It is an offence under the Highways Act 1980 and it is also anti-social. There is also the possibility that emergency vehicles will not be able to reach their destination. Please park responsibly!

Parish Plan

The Plan was delivered to all households in September and October – if you have not received a copy please contact the Clerk who will send one. Meanwhile the Council will be busy implementing the plan, where possible, within the suggested time frame.

Residents will notice the call for volunteers in a number of sections – if you are willing to help please contact the Clerk.



Precept

In the December edition of Langton Life we announced that the precept for 2017-18 was to increase from £137,500 to £143,000. TWBC inform us that this equates to a 3.2% increase and the money will be used primarily to fund the costs relating to highways projects.

Diary date

The Autumn Open Meeting will take The Annual Parish Meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Monday 24th April at Langton Green Village Hall.