

Portable speed sign

You may have noticed the appearance of our new speed sign in Harrold since it first went into action at the end of May on the High Street. As well as displaying the speeds of passing vehicles, it also records the speed of every vehicle and the time that it passed. Whilst we cannot identify the vehicles, the data collected is passed to Bedfordshire Police and may be useful in identifying problem times and areas. For example, if the data shows a vehicle using excessive speed regularly at a particular time every day, there is a good chance that an officer may visit at that time with a speed gun.

The data so far shows that the vast majority of people are driving at sensible speeds, with only a few driving at dangerous speeds (note that emergency vehicles cannot be excluded from this data). In the 20mph zone, 85% of people were driving at 23mph or less. In the 30mph zones, 85% of people were driving at 31mph or less. On another positive note, it does seem that the sign changes people's behaviour and makes them think about the speed they are driving. If the sign triggers as red (speeding), almost everyone slows down until it goes 'green'.

We have been moving the sign around the village every few weeks, and would welcome suggestions as to where you would like to see it next (bearing in mind that we have to attach it to a lamppost). Please contact the Parish Council if you have a suggestion. We hope that people will view the sign as making a positive contribution to safety on the roads in our village.

Orange recycling bags

You can put these bags out with your recycling if your orange wheelie bin becomes full. These are available at Harrold Butchers on the High Street – thank you to the butchers for assisting with this. Please only take the amount you need; we assist the Borough council in running this service and we only get restocked on an ad hoc basis.

Larger items for maintenance

At time of writing I am waiting for a quote to repair the lychgate at St Peter's Church after receiving interest in my request for local carpenters. The single swing gate and hinges have been removed for now.

Developing the Neighbourhood Plan

A Steering Committee was established by the Parish Council to drive the Neighbourhood Plan process. Initial launch events were held, followed by further consultation in the form of a questionnaire with the aim to promote local awareness about the plan and to find out what the community thinks about the local area: what is good, what should be changed, what could be improved etc. This community engagement sought to ensure that the Neighbourhood Plan was developed in tune with local needs and aspirations and the Steering Committee has spent the last few months evaluating the village survey results. They have also assessed the sites that landowners put forward for potential development (with professional advice) and held meetings with site owners. The feedback has helped shape the next stage consultation that will take place to outline the issues identified and possible options; including the potential locations for future growth. Also being developed is the Village Design Statement to influence future design standards. This is the crucial time for the village to think about where and what future development should take place and the community is urged to consider the options available during this next stage consultation that is planned for this Autumn. You will receive the consultation through your door. The feedback from the process so far, and the next stage consultation, will help shape the Harrold Neighbourhood Plan. It will help set out the guiding policies together with maps and plans relating to sites that are proposed for allocation. The policies will need to be in general conformity with the policies contained in the emerging Bedford Borough Local Plan 2030.

Steps to completion

Following the planned issues/options consultation in the Autumn, the Harrold Neighbourhood Plan will be drafted and, following submission to Bedford Borough Council for a screening opinion, further public

consultation will take place for a 6 week period. Following this statutory consultation, the Harrold Neighbourhood Plan will need to be amended. From there it will be submitted to Bedford Borough Council, as the Local Planning Authority, where it will be subject to further review before it is submitted for independent examination. If the plan is found to be fully compliant it will be put forward for acceptance by a majority of eligible voters at a specially organised referendum in Harrold. This is a lengthy process, there is no doubt, but it is considered to be worthwhile by the Parish Council to influence planning in Harrold, amongst other aims.

Harrold Parish Council Facebook page

If you would like updates on Parish Council activity then please join the Harrold Parish Council Facebook page. Link is below.

Change of address

Due to low footfall, we will be ending the lease on the Parish Council office on the High Street. Meetings will be held in the Harrold Centre from October. Please note the new address for correspondence below and the new phone number. Please contact me if you wish to arrange an appointment and I will make myself available.

Contact:

Harrold Parish Council, Brookfield House, 79 Harewelle Way, Harrold, MK43 7DW. 07388 125821.
clerk@harrold.org.uk

www.harroldparishcouncil.com

www.facebook.com/harroldpc

The next meeting dates are October 10th and November 14th at the *Harrold Centre*. There is no December meeting. All are welcome to attend, and there is a public open forum at 7.30pm at every meeting. Please email the clerk if you wish to address the council as we may wish to add the item to the main agenda. Please note that the clerk role is part time, so you may not receive an immediate response to correspondence; although I do try to be flexible and spread my time through the week.