

## **Article submitted to The Bridge magazine in September 2020**

### **Parish council meetings**

The parish council is continuing to follow advice from our guiding bodies not to hold physical meetings at present. The council will therefore continue to meet using video conferencing ([www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us)). If you wish to attend then please email or call the clerk who will share the meeting link or phone dial in details with you.

### **Neighbourhood Plan**

We are getting close to completing the work for the Neighbourhood Plan; the next step is the final consultation on the draft neighbourhood plan, which runs from 18<sup>th</sup> September to 30<sup>th</sup> October. You will have received a paper survey through the door (freepost return) or can complete the survey electronically through our website (Survey Monkey). If you haven't already completed the survey, please do so, as your feedback is vital in determining the content of the plan. Please contact the clerk with your address if you need another paper copy. Following the consultation, the results will be analysed and the updated plan will be submitted to the Bedford BC for official examination. The final step would then normally be a village referendum to formally accept the plan – unfortunately this is not allowed to happen until at least May 2021 due to government Covid restrictions.

### **Saxon House swings**

The swings at the Saxon House play area have been locked. They are nearing the end of their life and will need to be replaced. Deciding on a replacement set of swings is on the agenda for September's meeting.

### **Highways**

There are a number of actions resting with Bedford BC Highways. The resolution of these issues has understandably slowed during the pandemic. The main actions are:

- Resolving the flooding of the zebra crossing – perhaps with additional drains being installed – survey work is still being carried out by Bedford BC Highways.
- The poor state of the pavement by the Fish bar – a works order has been raised by Highways. This is expected soon.
- Parking restrictions on a section of the High St that causes traffic to build up during school times, restrictions for one narrow section of The Green where the road is being blocked and the removal of a High St bus bay following the public consultation
- Extending the 20mph speed limit towards Lavendon
- Resolving the main bridge traffic lights issue and resurfacing the bridge. This is expected by the end of September – a new traffic light system design is required.

### **Drains**

During the heavy rain in late August some of the roads in Harrold suffered with pooling water. The parish council is supporting parishioners by raising the issue with Bedford BC Highways to ensure all the drains and gulleys are cleared. The worst areas were along the High St, Orchard Lane, Mowhills and Meadway.

### **Parish council owned streetlights**

The parish council owns 14 streetlights in Harrold (Bedford BC own the rest): these are on Mowhills, on the path by the Lower Green, Hall Close and Carlton Road (by the country park). There are no longer replacement parts for the majority of these lights due to their age; the only option to keep

these lights are therefore to be upgraded to LED. We are still in the process of receiving quotes for the work; furloughing within the companies has affected this. This is an issue affecting many parish councils – and an extremely expensive one. Once all three quotes have been received the parish council will be discussing what approach to take.

### **HPFA Sports Pavilion**

Harrold Parish Council is supporting the works to the Harrold sports pavilion with £70k of funding. Works include a new roof, replacement ceilings, electrical works, provision of a wheelchair-accessible toilet, internal decoration and other smaller items. Works are expected to have started in mid-September; we understand there were delays in receiving grants from other bodies due to Covid.

### **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 and at the Coop. 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.

### **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.

Address for correspondence (only):

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[www.harroldparishcouncil.com](http://www.harroldparishcouncil.com)

[www.facebook.com/harroldpc](https://www.facebook.com/harroldpc)

The next council meeting dates are: 14<sup>th</sup> October 2020, 11<sup>th</sup> November 2020, 9<sup>th</sup> December 2020. These are expected to be held using Zoom for the near future, but please check the agenda of each meeting for details.