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Councillor Peter Finney
Dorset County Council
Colliton House
DORCHESTER
Dorset

15 November 2014

Dear Cllr Finney

Councillor Visit to Lytchett Matravers Parish Council - 6th August 2014

The Council wishes to thank you once again for the time you spent with us in August. We discussed and demonstrated positive and negative aspects of the village and highlighted some projects that the Council would seek your help to resolve. We will address them separately over the coming months and years but I will seek here to summarise them.

We started with the perennial problem of potholes and road surfaces generally. You ventured that Old pound Close probably wouldn't meet the minimum level of deterioration to qualify for redress. The High Street on the other hand was subject to utilities vandalism and you recommended we seek redress from whoever was last to dig it up.

You remarked that you had heard of the outstanding reputation of our rural library and we reiterated how much we wish to keep it.

There was agreement between us that the area around Tesco's was not fit for purpose. Large delivery lorries attempt to deliver in an area shared with pedestrians. You didn't think there was merit in our suggested herring-bone parking scheme but ventured that reducing the size of the 'island' could be considered by the County's Highway Dept.

We spent considerable time exploring the 'route to school' along Huntick Road to Lytchett Minster School. The parish council and the county council have been at loggerheads for some years with the parish wishing for a safe cycle path along this wide road whereas the county have consistently supported a route through the woods. As part of the Neighbourhood Planning initiative we had a 60% return on a comprehensive questionnaire and the overwhelming majority of residents, who are of course intimately familiar with the territory, rejected the 'woods' route on personal safety grounds.

Councillor Drane continues to champion the Parish's preferred solution on this issue.

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We then visited the Primary School on Wareham Road in the village. Residents have for many years been frustrated by the road traffic congestion caused by the parking outside the school. This has recently been exacerbated by the Schools' volte face on parents car off-loading within the perimeter.

Schemes of various sizes and costs were discussed including double yellow lines around the junctions of Dillons Gardens, Deans Drove and Cecil Place.

The County leases a piece of land to the South contiguous with the school and it was suggested and demonstrated that a parking scheme could provide 50 spaces. At the other end of the school a bus shelter seriously impedes the pavement and this could be removed or replaced. DCC reps. were to look into this.

The school already supports a 'walking bus' which is becoming increasingly popular. This could access the school grounds at the rear via Eldons Drove and take pressure off Wareham Road entirely. The Highways representatives present thought this had been proposed a few years previously and they would discover why it had not proceeded.

Whilst viewing this back entrance to the school the assembled group considered the field purchased by DCC at the same time as the building of the school some 30 years ago. The field has only been used irregularly for stock grazing and there was general agreement that the villages' active sports clubs could make better use of it if control was passed to the parish council.

The visit was concluded by brief visits to both ends of a new 'permitted path' that the parish council has acquired through persistence and the largesse of an incoming landowner. Jubilee Walk make a major contribution to the Councils ambition to complete a "Round the Village walk". This contributes to the Countys large plan for Heathland Mitigation. The final link is Glebe Road to Foxhills Road, we didn't discuss this as it's an ambition we wish to address when you return!

We valued your visit and would be happy to welcome at any time in the future. In the meantime we will break this list down and, rather like eating the elephant, tackle it with you and your officers in bite sized chunks.

Yours Sincerely

Martyn Colvey

Chairman, Lytchett Matravers Parish Council



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Date: 9 January 2015
Your ref:
My ref: PF/AMW

Dear Mr Colvey

LYTCHETT MATRAVERS

Thank you for your letter dated 15 November 2014 and I have spoken with officers at County Hall to respond to the three points raised in your letter.

Dorset Highways plan to carry out some patching work shortly in both the High Street and in Old Pound Close to make good the worst of the problems and will look in to what can be done in those areas to improve them for the longer term. This will involve rating them against other defective roads in the County and unfortunately due to the severity of problems elsewhere, they will probably only become a medium to low priority and it could be some time before larger scale work is carried out. I will ask Susan Hetherington the Local Community Highway Officer to keep you up-dated on how this element of the work is progressing. We will of course continue to monitor the condition of the roads closely through routine inspection and repair any safety defects that appear.

The suggestion for a 40mph speed limit is unlikely to meet the Dorset County Council Speed Limit criteria due to the lack of frontage development and other facilities along this route. However, if the Parish Council were to make a request we would investigate in more detail and respond appropriately.

Following site meetings held between the Parish Council and officers from the Traffic Engineering Team to look at issues outside the school, it has been agreed that parking restrictions will be taken forward for the junction of Wareham Road and Eldons Drive. This will shortly be advertised as this matter will require a Traffic Regulation Order. With regard to the bus shelter, this matter will be looked into as the Parish Council are correct in saying that the removal of the existing shelter would widen the footway to make this location safer for pupils and parents.

Yours sincerely

Peter Finney MBE
Cabinet Member for Environment and The Economy

