SOUTH WARNBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE – July 2023

Since the last update in January, the Parish Council has had a very busy 6 months completing a number of projects as well as setting out our vision for the long term and immediate priorities for 2023/24. All of these areas, in addition to the feedback from the Village Survey, were discussed at the Annual Parish Assembly held in May. We would like to take this opportunity to thank those that attended the Assembly and showed interest in the plans we have for our Village. For those that could not make the meeting we have posted all meeting materials on the Parish Council website www.southwarnboroughpc.org.uk

Key highlights, progress to date:

Speeding – As reported in January, speeding is a significant concern within South Warnborough, particularly on the main Alton Road and Lees Hill. We would ask all of our residents and residents of the surrounding villages to be sensitive to these concerns and not break the speed limits through the village.

You will without doubt have spotted that new Village Gates have been installed on both sides of the carriageways at the 3 entrances; from Odiham, Alton and Upton Grey. Highway signs and carriageway markings have also been renewed where relevant. Hopefully these will help grab all drivers' attention to the need to comply with the legal speed limits imposed.

Additionally, we have installed 4 further Speed Indicator Device (SID) poles in various locations throughout the village, specifically Alton Road and Lees Hill, to allow us to rotate the positioning of our SID around the village allowing the collation of data to form an overall picture of the speeding issues.

Community Speedwatch – I am pleased to report that as of writing this update the Voluntary Speedwatch team have undertaken 10 Speedwatch events. Early results show that this is having a significant impact on slowing the traffic through the village. Our intention is to run these sessions during 'peak traffic times' indicated by the data we obtain from our SID. The Police have followed up notifying those drivers who have offended where relevant.

At present, we only have a small number of volunteers signed up for the Community Speedwatch while a significant number of residents have said this is a major concern. Therefore we ask to those concerned about speeding, to **please volunteer,** so that the task can be shared across a larger group.

To join the programme, please contact our Parish Clerk; Clerk@southwarnboroughpc.org.uk.

New Bus Shelter – Our position on this has not changed from our last report. Essentially, we need external funding to allow us to proceed. We were again challenged at the Annual Parish Assembly as to whether this is really needed and, is it worth the expense. The Parish Council's current position is that this is needed and if we can obtain sufficient external funding then we will proceed with circa. 50% of the cost being supported by the Parish Council. If you have a view either for or against this plan then we would like to hear from you. Equally if you are a business reading this and would consider a donation then we would be very keen to talk to you.

M3 Warehouse Development – At writing this update we have no further news on this potential development.

Ridleys Piece - Discussions have taken place with the Neighbourhood Officer, Project Works Director and the Chief Executive Officer of Vivid Homes highlighting the ongoing issues associated with parking adversely affecting the community. Vivid Homes have notified us that external

improvements are pencilled in for 2023-2024, subject to feasibility analysis and budget review. Most recent communication from them confirms that plans have been drawn for a significant number of additional parking spaces and we are awaiting sight of their proposed planning application.

Freedom of the Parish and Annual Community Awards – From time to time, members of the community demonstrate outstanding commitment and contribution to the wellbeing of the parish and it is the Parish Councils belief that their efforts should be acknowledged. We have therefore introduced two awards, a 'Freedom of the Parish' and a 'Annual Community award', to enable residents to propose deserving individuals in our Village who have made a significant contribution to the community. These awards will be given subject to successful nominations at the April 2024 Annual Parish Assembly.

Parish Priorities and Budget for 2023/24 – Please refer to the Parish Council website www.southwarnboroughpc.org.uk where you will find materials that outline the results of the Village Survey, and the Parish Councils Vision for the future of South Warnborough which sets the context for the priorities we are focusing on during 2023/24.

How you can engage with the PC - Please feel free to come to our bi-monthly meetings. They are held in The Ridley Village Hall. We allocate 15 minutes for public participation, at the beginning of the agenda after which we need to run a closed session to conduct Parish Council business. It helps enormously if you submit questions in advance of the meetings to our Clerk, Susan Richardson, at Clerk@southwarnboroughpc.org.uk, to allow time to investigate and provide the best response possible.

If you wish to receive updates direct from your Parish Council please register your details on the Contact Form within the PC website www.southwarnboroughpc.org.uk It is not our intention to bombard you with repetitive communication, but you can receive the Agenda, draft minutes and updates directly should you choose this option.

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