

Jackie's County Update May 2018

The weather has warmed up at last!

But it was chilly for our third Dawn to Dusk Day on The Watercress Way- a 26 mile circular route based on the old railway lines in this area.

Events included a Dawn Chorus Walk, and a Flora and History Walk later in the day. You can see more about the purpose and progress of the charity on www.thewatercressway.org.uk.



If you'd like to know more, you can sign up to become a Friend of the Line to receive around 4 emails a year on progress. We welcome donations online too!

This year's elections brought new councillors to the team, and re-elected others. I am pleased to say that Margot Power will hold a Councillor's surgery in Alresford on the first Friday of each month, and Malcolm Prince is the re-elected Councillor for The Worthys, including Worthy Down. (I hold surgeries in Kings Worthy and Alresford and can visit you if those aren't convenient)

The County Council owns many countryside areas and has been refurbishing some of the facilities. Apparently visitor numbers are all about the View, the Brew and the Loo! Lepe is a particular favourite of ours and the new facilities (due to be open for the school holidays) are a great improvement. You can see more on www.hants.gov.uk/thingstodo

I receive many requests from residents to reduce speeds outside their homes and on school routes. I am often asked for a 20mph limit for villages and I hope the results of the year-long pilot will be published soon, so we can move forward on this.

But *even if the limits are in place*, do drivers observe them?

Light-up signs warn us- but records show many drivers exceeding the limit.

The Micheldever 20mph pilot (to make it safer to walk in a village without footways) is observed by only some. Itchen Stoke's active Speedwatch programme has resulted in nearly 500 drivers receiving warnings in the last few months alone.

The Police cannot be expected to sit awaiting speeding cars, so is this a matter where we *all must* take responsibility? I would welcome your views on this issue.

The County Council has just changed its policy on provision of transport to school for primary school children. The current school transport policy stands for 2018. However, if your child is due to start school in September 2019, this will affect you. If your child needs to use the school bus, the County Council will not be obliged to provide transport until the term after your child is 5: which is difficult for rural residents and a particular problem for 'summer babies'. Please contact me if this concerns you and your family.

For those of you who use the Cart and Horses junction, you will be pleased to hear that the proposed 40mph speed limit has been advertised for implementation. Some progress at last! We await the new version of M3/Jn9 following the first consultation- due soon.

Cllr. Jackie Porter, 01962 791054, email jackie@jackieporter.co.uk,