

## From The Parish Council.

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Gradual changes are being made as lockdown is eased. On footpaths the notices recommending a one way system have gone but for the present the notices reminding people to keep their distance remain. As two metres is recommended to be safer than one, the decision has been made not to make any changes for the present. Please remember all notices are intended to help, inform and give guidance where possible. Whether you agree with their content or not, please leave them intact. If you think a notice needs removing or changing please let our Clerk or one of the Councillors know.

The main concern has been how to reopen our two playgrounds. Last year's and this year's inspections plus some of our own observations have raised a number of safety issues. Some are reasonably minor and can be easily resolved or can wait while the more serious ones are remedied. Until these serious ones have been sorted out, the play grounds cannot be opened. Where it has been decided to replace equipment, this has been ordered. Rather than wait for everything to be ready, some play equipment deemed to be unsafe may be barriered off with red and white tape. This will allow the remaining equipment, which has been passed as safe, to be put back into use. Please do not attempt to use the playgrounds until they have been opened and please do not use equipment that has been sealed off with barrier tape. Someone has already tried to force open one of the gates to the play area at Couch Green. The result is a damaged latch. It takes time to get items repaired which causes further delays to opening the

playgrounds. Finding contractors to do this work at present is difficult. Some have still not restarted work, others are working with a reduced staff and all are trying to catch up with a backlog. Once the play areas have been opened, please read the notices and keep to the recommendations on hygiene and distancing.

Longer term issues mentioned in previous articles to the Valley News such as footpaths and traffic are still being given attention. On footpaths some progress is beginning to be made. Thank you to those with rights of way over their land, who have kept them clear. There have been some positive responses to improving the route of some paths and to having a board walk on one of the more soggy areas.

The excessive speed of some motor vehicles and how to slow them down is a difficult problem. One idea under investigation is to see if the existing auto speed reminding devices can be replaced by more modern one, like those which show your actual speed and give you a smiley face if you are keeping to the limit. While researching into this topic an interesting fact has come up. These auto reminders are more effective if they are not permanently in the same place. It is therefore likely that we will keep the same arrangement and share an auto speed checking device, old or new, with other parishes.

And at last, as lockdown is eased the request is out for applications to be made for grants from funds made available from last year's Boom Town Festival. Please see the separate article on page 5 for details. Sadly with Boom Town having to be cancelled this year there will not be similar funding available next year.

*Patrick Appleby*