



From the Parish Council

The Parish Council does not meet in August but plenty still goes on. Both playgrounds are now open. Please take care and follow the advice given on the notices. The car park at Couch Green had to be closed for a time as once again there was a warning that there were several groups of travellers the close by. Inconvenient though it might be, it is better to take precautions than to have the cost, damage and disruption caused by travellers gaining access to our playing fields as happened last year. The car park has now been reopened. Last March we sadly had to cancel the

Litter Pick. This was in line with the advice from the Keep Britain Tidy campaign. They are now promoting The Great British September Clean. It has therefore been decided to give our support to this in two ways. First, during September, could all those who regularly walk round the Valley please take a rubbish bag with them and pick up litter on the way. Some already do this but the more who do will make the task easier and give greater coverage for those who participate in the second option and join in the Group Litter Pick at 10 am on 26 September. In both cases please keep to the Covid-19 advice, wear a mask, gloves and maintain 2 metre distancing. For those joining on

26 Sept. we will be meeting at the usual five starting points, bags, high viz vests and litter pick sticks will be provided. Sadly, unlike previous years, we will not be able to meet for tea, coffee or cakes afterwards. Please see the poster on page 16 highlighting these details.

September is the month when the new school year starts. There have been a number of complaints from residents in Little Hayes Lane regarding cars causing traffic congestion when children are taken and collected from Itchen Abbas Primary

School. Having observed the situation this summer, these complaints are justified. Parking is available at Itchen Abbas Village Hall and it is only a short walk round the corner to the school. Although at present it is perfectly legal to park on this road, provided no obstruction is caused, please note that if congestion continues to cause problems, it is likely that there will be a call for the introduction of parking restrictions. Looking ahead, our Environmental subcommittee has held its first meeting and has been looking at a variety of

ideas from tree planting, to green energy schemes, to items not currently recycled by our City Council and more. They are looking at timing, impact, cost, resident engagement and sustainability. A good start. Work on improving our footpaths continues and three of us met on site, with a representative from the

Ramblers Association and a Senior Countryside Access Ranger from Hampshire County Council, to look at installing a board walk or similar to allow all weather access to one of the damper footpaths. It has again been rumoured that BT may be making another attempt to remove some of our telephone boxes. So far the Parish Council has not received any formal notice but will everyone who wishes these iconic features of our villages to remain, please keep a look out and if new notices appear in the boxes, please let us know.

Patrick Appleby.

www.itchenvalleyparishcouncil.org.uk