

# Hilldale Parish Council Newsletter – Summer 2023



## Chairmans Column

Last week I attended the funeral of Terry McMahon, a Hilldale resident of 50 plus years.

Terry and his late wife Maureen had been very supportive of how the Parish Council had developed Hilldale playing field over the years and after the service, talk inevitably turned to our recent communication regarding the Village Plan and the potential for any further residential development in the village.

It became clear to me that in some quarters, there had been a misunderstanding or misinterpretation of the message we were trying to convey.

The results from the survey are shown in this newsletter, but for clarification I feel that I should reiterate the position of the Parish Council in these matters.

The Parish Council has a duty to present residents with all potential scenarios, good or not so good and respond to the wishes of those who reside in Hilldale.

The Parish Council does not support any development of the green belt, or conservation areas. The example of CIL money, was one scenario if development occurred over the next 10 to 15 years. Under no circumstances would the Parish Council support residential development, purely to access this type of funding.

The purpose of the survey was to ask residents how they would like to see their village develop over the next two decades, which will allow the Parish Council to facilitate this vision, to the best of their ability. It will also offer a blue print for future Parish Councils to follow.

All members of the Parish Council give their time voluntarily, they do not receive any remuneration nor do they claim any expenses.

**Grant Success** - We are delighted to be announce our Parish Clerk, Trish has been successful in 3 recent grant applications to support our Parish. One in relation to a speed indicator device, with two further grants agreed in principle for improvements to the village hall. Further details in our next newsletter.

**Speed Indicator Device** - The funding application submitted to West Lancashire Borough Council (which has been match funded by the Parish Council) is for the purchase of a speed indicator device (SpID). Speeding traffic and road safety is a regular concern raised by residents in the village. The SpID will remind drivers of the speed limit by standing out from normal signs which could help to break the habit of drivers who consistently use excessive speed. The improvement of road safety for the village will educate and inform drivers about their speed thereby reducing the number of road traffic collisions. Data collected from the SpID will be available to the highways authority to be used to better target any relevant enforcement activities.

We are currently liaising with Lancashire County Council as to best location(s) for the SpID in order to target hot spot areas. As we are purchasing a solar powered portable device, we intend to move it about to give a consistent message throughout the village.

**Junior Play Area** - You will have noticed that unfortunately we have reluctantly removed the junior multi activity play area. This was due to a safety inspection which identified issues with the timber structure that were beyond reasonable repair. We are actively exploring grant funding sources to replace in order to provide the children in the village an accessible and suitable play area in a safe inclusive and active environment. However, with an estimated cost of up to £40,000 (£10,000 of this for the play surface) this is a huge ask. If anyone has any good ideas or can assist in anyway with sponsorship, we'd love to hear from you.

We were very pleased to welcome pupils and teachers on site from Parbold Douglas Church of England Academy school and Our Lady's and All Saints Catholic school who provided us with their ideas for future play equipment including drawings which we intend to display in the village hall. Richard Durnings Endowed Primary school are also actively involved in collating ideas.

We'd love to hear from residents, children and families too. Please let us know what equipment you would like to use on the playing field. Please e mail the Clerk at [clerk@hilldaleparishcouncil.com](mailto:clerk@hilldaleparishcouncil.com) or pop a note through the letterbox at the village hall.

**Field in Trust** - As you may be aware the playing field has 'Field in Trust' status which we were fortunate to obtain 11 years ago.



As such whilst the ownership and maintenance lie with the Parish Council, we are duty bound to comply with the strict conditions of this dedicated space. That is; it must be used in the manner for the purpose for which it was intended – a public playing field and recreation ground.

With this in mind we wish to remind everyone that planting on the field is not permitted unless this is part of a project agreed by the Parish Council.

**Village Plan** - At the beginning of the year, we began work to revise the existing Village Plan, which has been in existence for the past 20 years. The village plan is a way for communities to have their say in the places which they live and work. It gives the power to produce a plan with real legal weight that directs development in your village.

We issued a survey to all residents which discussed the issue of the potential for further residential development, priorities, concerns and ideas for future change which will improve the quality of life in the Parish of Hilldale. We received 48 responses in total and have detailed a summary of the results below.

	Yes	No	Don't Know
I do not think that there is any need for further residential development in Hilldale.	28	9	11
I think any residential development should be limited to affordable housing.	10	15	11
I am in support of limited residential development	16	11	11
I have no opinion on residential development in Hilldale	0	11	22

**Coronation Event** - The Parish Council were delighted to provide Hilldale Community Association with a sponsorship grant of £500 towards the Coronation event in May to commemorate the coronation of King Charles III. It was wonderful to have so many residents enjoy an afternoon of music, food, stalls and a well-attended dog show. Well done to all involved especially all the volunteers.

**New Signs** – you may have noticed the new “Andertons Mill” signs also the “Dogs must be on a lead” signs at the top & bottom of Sanderson Lane, that applies to any road where the speed limit exceeds 40 MPH

**Halls Bookings** - If you would like to book the hall, please contact the Clerk (details below) who will be happy to provide you with availability and further details. The hall is an excellent venue for all types of functions and offers an excellent kitchen facility ideal for preparing buffets and hot drinks.

**Are you looking for a reputable trader?** The Safe Trader Scheme is primarily aimed at helping elderly or vulnerable residents find reliable and honest traders to carry out work around the home, and in turn helps to prevent residents falling victim to rogue traders. Contact Kate Billington, Safe Trader Officer at Lancashire County Council for more information [Kate.Billington@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:Kate.Billington@lancashire.gov.uk)



### **Hilldale Parish Council Correspondence**

All Council correspondence should be sent to Trish Grimshaw, Parish Clerk/RFO via the letter box at the Village Hall or e mailed to [clerk@hilldaleparishcouncil.com](mailto:clerk@hilldaleparishcouncil.com)

### **Council Meetings**

Council meetings are usually held on Thursday evenings; please see noticeboards or website for details. Members of the public are very welcome to attend the meetings. Next meeting of the Parish Council is on 7<sup>th</sup> September, 7.00pm in the Village Hall.