

Parish Council Shorts July 2016

Madelaine King-Oakley & Peter Goodenough

Community Based Flood Group

Joanna Uglow from the Hills to Levels Group gave a fascinating presentation at the June meeting on the approach used to tackle flooding in Somerset. The process starts with a desktop exercise using the contour lines on a map to work out the probable direction that excess water would take as it runs off the land. However verifying the modelled data with what actually happens on the ground needs input from local people who can supply information on the actual water flow. Joanna, supported by Stewart Granger from the Somerset Drainage Board and Vanessa Dare from the Environment Agency are encouraging villagers to form a Community Flood Group. The main purposes of the CFG would be to gather information and evidence about flooding. Please remember we are being told that increased frequency of intense weather events can be expected in the near future and we have already experienced this. To see if we can do more to slow down water flows we need local experience and help to map water flow paths. You could be helping to ameliorate flooding in your own home, or those of your friends, neighbours and family. If you have information or would like to join the Curry Rivel Community Flood Group please call Madelaine King-Oakley on 01458 253976 or email parishchair@curryrivel.org.uk or email Peter Goodenough at PWGoodenough@aol.com. Joanna would like to meet villagers who have problems or have been involved with the flooding.

For more information on the Hills to Levels Group see www.hillstolevels.co.uk

Reply to last month's letter "Call for a 20mph speed limit"

Yes, there was an accident in the High Street, but the lorry was stationary to allow a car to overtake the parked cars, but amazingly the car did not return to the correct side of the road but instead drove straight into the lorry! Would a 20mph speed limit have helped to stop that incident? We do need to accept that over the years Curry Rivel's main road has developed into an A road with narrow or no pavements and narrow sections. Unless you remove some of the houses along the main road, which surely no-one wants, we need to work within the current road width. As mentioned by Peter Goodenough in an article last month, a few councillors met with Gary Warren, who works for the Somerset County Council Highways department with responsibility for all highway issues in our village, to discuss our traffic problems; he said in his experience: if you remove all of the parked cars, vehicles will be driven faster. The bend and the stationary cars force drivers to slow down. Speedwatch has also had a significant effect by reducing speeds. The average number caught speeding was 10% and is now reduced to about 2%. Did you know that at least 80% of all cars recorded over the limit live within 5 miles of our village? The Somerset Highways department are unable to reduce the speed limit to 20mph if the average speed is over 28mph because from experience it would be unenforceable. In the narrow parts the average speed is 31mph rising to 34mph at each end. For a pedestrian crossing to be installed there is a requirement of a minimum pavement width, which we do not have in the middle of the village. To put one at Westfield, again, there is a lack of pavement width and we were told that the speed of the traffic approaching that point would be too fast and therefore dangerous. However, rumble strips have been ordered to be placed at each end of the village to slow drivers down as they approach. We could still consider having signs that flash when drivers are over the speed limit at the village entrances. There will also be discussions at future meetings about making the entrances and signs for the village more attractive and welcoming.

Next Meeting

If you would like to read the minutes of the meetings or look at the agenda and planning agenda for the next meeting please look at the Curry Rivel Community website. The Parish Council meets on the 1st Thursday of each month, starting at 7:30pm in the village hall. We look forward to seeing you on July 7th.