

REPORT FROM ANSTY PARISH COUNCIL SINCE MAY 2016

BT Openreach work

Both Dr Margaret Thompson and Charlie Morgan at the Manor have kept in touch with and tried to pursue BT Openreach, often finding that the task had been passed on to new individuals. There had been one or two contacts and visits since the last report, but no progress on stabilising the bank and working out what to do, other than ensuring the cutting off of the pipe from the box on Manor land, which is about halfway down the road from the village to the junction with the A30. This was supposed to stop further problems with the water ingress. They did start work recently, but had to stop since the conduit to which wires were to be transferred was full of debris and silt. A new conduit has to be dug, which will mean work on the High street at some point. They have agreed to redo the landslip with gabions to stabilise matters properly. Margaret Thompson has emailed the Openreach staff involved to ask for their plan. See forwarded letter

The milestone

There has been no progress with this since Peter Dalton's helpful intervention using his equipment, after getting permission from the council. Peter dug out the milestone and replaced it on a rocky foundation so it is very visible and unlikely to be further damaged by grass cutting, parking or any other sort of problem. That was excellent work for which we are all very grateful. Since then, Rob Wilkinson and Tim have kept an eye on the problem and cut back the grass around it to keep it visible.

Discussion has taken place at Parish Council meetings as to whether or not we should do anything further as a Council about the milestone, but Chair Thompson is clear that it is not our responsibility. It is not appropriate for us to be spending our time and energy and indeed finances on this. It is easy to say "*why not contact the milestone society*" or some other grant giving body. Such activity is time consuming and unless somebody wants to take this up and do all the work on it on behalf of Ansty, it would be inappropriate and probably much more work than one imagined. It would not necessarily lead to any grant for repair, even if possible. As Cllr Davis pointed out at the November meeting, it is better to do nothing since further intervention work could lead to accusations of damage to the monument in its existing form.

Update on the village website www.anstywiltspc.org.uk

The website has been kept up, so far, by James Thompson. It is important to retain the codes information for a webmaster; it is planned to train the Clerk to do the work.

A new application has been made by the Parish Council Chairman to WALC for further money from the transparency fund, and after completing quite a complicated online unprintable system, we have applied for hosting for the next year, which is £100. We cannot now apply this year for anything else such as webmaster fees, having identified the amount of work that is required to keep the website up. Our website designer estimated this as in the region of £50 a month, perhaps for eight months a year. We have one more year when we can apply for the hosting fee.

In this context, when we discussed the precept for next year, it was agreed amongst the councillors that we should increase the precept by £100 in the next year. Although this sounds like quite a large percentage increase, it is a relatively small sum amongst the 100 people on the electoral roll in the village, and in the future it will mean we can at least cover the essential hosting fee.

Traffic problems in Ansty

We still await further metro count data, in that we wanted daily details of how many vehicles at what times of day and speed were travelling. What we do know is that the amount of traffic through Ansty on the High Street seems to be double that of any of the other villages, which could be considered a possible route to Tisbury.

We invited our MP, Andrew Murison, for a private meeting about traffic going through the village and met other councillors, Residents Association leaders, and Parish clerks, at a CATG meeting at the Hinton Hall. Our issue had been presented as requested and Ansty residents will have already seen that document. There was a small amount of money, approximately £2,200, left from the CATG in funds, which can be used for exploration of issues and finding out whether or not they are feasible. At one point in the discussion it looked as if we were getting support, particularly from the very helpful Chairman Tony Deane, to have this money for our investigation. Otherwise the village would be faced with paying for this, or quite a large part of it, ourselves. Unfortunately, other people joined in during this point to argue that we should not have the money, and this highlights the difficulty of such decisions being taken in these circumstances. We do not know who will attend the meetings, which villages will be represented and by whom. We have been given only a weeks' notice of the last 2 meetings which makes it very difficult to attend. It is rather a difficult system for deciding on which villages get funds, and the most important things may not necessarily achieve them at all.

We awaited the thoughts of Julie Wharton, a Traffic Engineer from Wilton who is looking at our issues, to see whether we have any success there. We did in particular ask for a 20mph limit – 20mph reduces deaths and serious accidents considerably from 30mph and makes very little difference to the time traffic would take to actually drive through the village, although it makes considerable difference to pedestrians trying to walk on the road. She has responded and we are still digesting her comments which seem to exclude the 20mph limit,

which we were encouraged to include in our submission. It seems this comes under a different category and may mean therefore that we have not applied for it correctly.

She does not seem enthusiastic about signs for the Coombe, but it is unclear if that is due to highways regulation or lack of money, but that can be investigated further. She does not have the full account of all the incidents over the last 12 months which have occurred in the Coombe. I am arranging for local residents to write this up in detail with illustrations to send to her.

She had no answer for the narrows, and we will continue to press for this, due to the impact on the residents living on each side.

There will be further information for residents when we get some answers to our queries.

Footpaths

An application was made from Copseside Farm to put in a very much larger area, which would be quite visible without considerable earth movement and shielding from the A30 and other sides of this new industrial development. The application has been granted and, separately, enquiries to remove all of the footpath from the centre of the fields to the woodland area were made. There have been objections from various sources to the removal of the footpath; Tisbury rambblers and others are not happy with this, and I am not in fact at this stage absolutely clear about what the council have decided. Since then the new variation to the FP has been started and seems to our footpath subcommittee of Tim Martin and Rob Wilkinson to be satisfactory and safe.

Parish Council meetings

We have now had some of our meetings at the Ansty Pick Your Own cafeteria, by kind permission of Karen Price and all the staff there. These have been at 6 o'clock and we have been able to get cups of tea and coffee, which is so convenient, and of course it has been warm and comfortable without the worry of trying to heat up the church. It was resolved that in future the PC could try to have the meetings that are in the cold part of the year at Ansty Pick Your Own, and the staff there are happy with this; and when it's the warmer time of year, for example the May and August meetings could be in the church since there is no problem with heating at that time of year.

Responsibilities of Cllrs

Please note that:

Cllr Ridley is in charge of hedge and ditch issues in the village, which he has found extremely difficult in view of council cutbacks.

Cllr Foy is keeping in touch with Clouds estate and footpath issues there which have been problematic.

Cllr Davies has been looking after the traffic issues in Ansty Coombe, and whether a sign to stop Heavy Lorries coming down the coombe is possible.

Cllr Brewer has been engaging a rally club which recently used the Ansty Coombe road at night for a rally. They have since agreed not to repeat this in view of the noise and disruption.

Tim Martin and Rob Wilkinson, our footpath subcommittee have continued to look after footpath issues in the village, which is a very large task due to flooding, decay of stiles and fences and path diversions and simply that we have many paths.

Brian Hamshere is keeping an eye on flood issues in the village

Please if you have any issues contact them via the Clerk Lal Poynter

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Chair of Ansty Parish Council

February 2017

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