

# SCARISBRICK PARISH COUNCIL

# NEWSLETTER

## ISSUE 1: APRIL 2023

### WELCOME TO SCARISBRICK PARISH COUNCIL'S FIRST NEWSLETTER

During the pandemic the Scarisbrick Village Matters publication was put on hold and, sadly, has now been discontinued. The Council has decided to produce its own newsletter so that the residents of Scarisbrick continue to receive useful information about the Parish of Scarisbrick and the Council's activities that serve the community. We aim to publish a newsletter about every three months. We hope you enjoy reading it and find it useful. We welcome any feedback or comments you may have on the content and what you would like to see included.

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The last year has been quite busy for the Council with several projects coming to fruition. Speeding is the commonest complaint we receive and, although we have no powers of enforcement, we have been proactive in trying to educate motorists. Initially this involved a wheelie bin sticker campaign but more recently the purchase and deployment of two state-of-the-art speed indicating devices (SpIDs). The procurement was helped by a successful capital grant bid from West Lancashire Borough Council. There are updates on SpIDs, and also works completed at the Millennium Wood, later in this newsletter.

We are at an advanced stage of installing two repositories for the storage of flood equipment in the parish. This will be for the use of residents in times of emergency and will include the modern equivalent of sandbags and other useful items. Details of location and how to access the equipment will follow as the project is completed.

The past year has seen the refurbishment of seating at Diglake and the A570/Turning Lane junction using recycled plastics. This was part-funded by a successful grant application to Lancashire County Council for which we are grateful. The Council marked the Platinum Jubilee of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II by purchasing celebratory mugs for all school children in the parish. We have representatives on the Peter Lathom Charity which saw £2,000 distributed to various local groups. The Council made contributions towards the maintenance of churchyards and to other voluntary groups in the parish. We are grateful to the local clergy for their help in arranging an ecumenical civic service and our annual Service of Remembrance. On a lighter note, the Council's garden competition returned after an enforced break due to the pandemic and was a great success due to the huge amount of work put in by a small group. Photographs can be viewed in the "News" section at [www.scarisbrick.today](http://www.scarisbrick.today). We are hoping that this may form the springboard for also re-instating the parish's scarecrow competition later in the year.

The pandemic saw the suspension and eventual winding-up of Scarisbrick Village Matters. The publication was run entirely by local volunteers and the Council is keen to note their immense contribution to the life of the parish over many years. Thank you to all involved. We hope this newsletter will help fill some of the void and encourage feedback and opinions via email or by your attendance at Council meetings

(details on noticeboards or in the "Parish Council" section of our website).

Finally, I wish to acknowledge the hard work of Parish Councillors and our Clerk over the last year.

It is worth noting that our last audit commented on a high standard of financial management, for which our Parish Clerk takes great credit. Thank you to all.

### SpID PROJECT UPDATE

Speed indicating devices (SpIDs) have been deployed in Scarisbrick for the first time. The units will be rotated around the parish on mounting posts that have been installed on Smithy Lane, Turning Lane, Pool Hey Lane, Bescar Brow Lane, and on Heaton's Bridge Road. The devices enable the collection of traffic data (both ways) such as traffic volumes and vehicle speeds at particular times of the day. The data will be passed on to other agencies for them to utilise when planning enforcement actions. Subject to the availability of funding it is hoped to extend the project to cover further roads in Scarisbrick, including Southport Road. Data collected on the speed and volume of passing traffic is as follows:

<b>Smithy Lane Sept – November 2022</b>		
<b>Southport Road proximity</b>		
<b>Average</b>	<b>Max Speed</b>	<b>Traffic Volume</b>
In – 32mph	In – 131mph	In – 138,138
Out 32mph	Out- 131mph	Out – 137,107
<b>Heatons Bridge proximity</b>		
<b>Average</b>	<b>Max Speed</b>	<b>Traffic Volume</b>
In – 29mph	In – 83mph	In – 119,117
Out – 31mph	Out – 86mph	Out -119,472
<b>Turning Lane November 2022 – January 2023</b>		
<b>Southport Road proximity.</b>		
<b>Average</b>	<b>Max Speed</b>	<b>Traffic Volume</b>
In – 23mph	In – 58mph	In – 22,126
Out – 24mph	Out – 65mph	Out – 24,918
<b>Heatons Bridge November 2022 – January 2023</b>		
<b>Average</b>	<b>Max Speed</b>	<b>Traffic Volume</b>
In – 38mph	In – 91mph	In – 40,495
Out – 39mph	Out – 99mph	Out – 62,845

Data from Heatons Bridge Road (40mph limit) shows that 85% of vehicles travelled at, or less than, 42mph. Most speeding took place in the 41-50mph range and the top speed recorded was 99mph. Figures for Turning Lane (30mph limit) show that 85% of vehicles travelled at, or less than, 28mph but the maximum speed recorded was 65mph.

The road most affected by speeding is Smithy Lane where only 44% of vehicles passing the unit at the Southport Road end travelled within the 30mph speed limit. The overall top speed recorded was 131mph with most of the speeding being in the 31-40mph range.

More detailed information will be published on our website for all locations.

### MILLENNIUM WOOD PROJECT

Scarisbrick Parish Council owns Millennium Wood, on Drummersdale Lane; it is a very peaceful wildlife haven which is used by the public for recreational purposes.

Repairs have been completed and the wooden gate and fencing has been replaced with a steel fence and kissing gate. Additionally, drainage works have been undertaken to reduce the mud levels, and the entrance pathway has been improved.

The hedge, and branches overhanging the pathway have been trimmed. Further work is planned to trim the trees in the glade in the centre of the Wood. When this is all completed further signage will be installed, and the smaller gate will be able to be utilised to enable wheelchair access to the Wood.

### RED TELEPHONE BOX – MORRIS DANCERS

The Council has acquired the old-style BT phone box located on Southport Road and is keen to refurbish and preserve it as part of Scarisbrick's heritage.

The phone box has been neglected for some time and is in urgent need of refurbishment before it can be put to any alternative use.

We are looking for ideas as to what it could be used for, so please email us if you have any suggestions to put forward.

### POLICING IN SCARISBRICK:

Lancashire's Police and Crime Plan promises increase in police officers and a return to neighbourhood and high-visibility policing. Tackling anti-social behaviour is a priority. However, there is a lot of ground to make up

and the Council's fear is that rural parishes will remain the poor-relation amongst competing priorities.

Inspector John Bent attended the parish council meeting in June. He advised that the local force covering Scarisbrick comprises six police officers and thirteen PCSOs, but these also cover the whole of the South Lancashire area. He was of the view that police had to build stronger relationships with the public and gave an undertaking that they would attend SPC meetings, hopefully on a quarterly basis. This would give opportunity for a two-way dialogue between the public and the police regarding local issues.

The Council welcomed Andy Pratt MBE, the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, to our October meeting. He spoke mainly on speeding and driver behaviour in Scarisbrick and was very supportive of the SPID installation, confirming that the data collected would be used by the police to focus resources on appropriate areas of the parish. He talked about a number of initiatives currently being undertaken, including a project whereby dashcam footage and clear images of drivers, vehicles and registration plates can be submitted to the police for them to take action (see [www.lancashire.police.uk/op-snap-public-submission-of-dashcam-footage-faqs/](http://www.lancashire.police.uk/op-snap-public-submission-of-dashcam-footage-faqs/)).

**SCARISBRICK PARISH COUNCIL** Your current Parish Councillors are:

John Herbert (Chairman), Alex Blundell – (Vice Chairman), Nichola Makin, Jane Marshall, Charles Marshall, Allan Pickersgill, Chris Berks, Mike Wood, and Stephen Roberts.

**We currently have a vacancy so, if you would like to be a Councillor, please send expressions of interest to the Clerk.**

Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer - Judith Smith

If you have any comments on this newsletter, or anything else about Scarisbrick, please email us on: [scarisbrickpc@outlook.com](mailto:scarisbrickpc@outlook.com)

Take a look at our website at: <http://www.scarisbrick.today> and our Facebook page: Scarisbrick Parish Council