

Bredenbury Group Parish Council

Many of you will be aware that our Vicar, the Reverend Elizabeth Sidwell has retired and will leave the village later this summer. On behalf of the Parish Council, I would like to wish her a long and happy retirement.

Since last month we have distributed the initial survey for our NDP renewal to every household in Bredenbury, Wacton & Grendon Bishop. The purpose of this initial survey was to check if everyone still agrees that the vision and main categories of objectives are still fit for purpose. It is also an opportunity to introduce new policies based on the comments we receive from the survey. Please can I ask that if anyone has not completed the survey, that you do so and either drop off your completed survey in the red box at Vicky Hancock's home, The Old Post Office, Bredenbury, HR7 4TF or hand it to the member of the Steering Group who delivered it. If anyone needs another copy, please let Vicky or your steering group member know.

Once we have reviewed all responses, we will be arranging a community meeting in Bredenbury Village Hall so we will be able to share the results. At this time, we haven't settled on a date for this meeting but I expect it will be in early to mid-September. We will make sure that the date is publicised well in advance.

As I said last month, the government has taken away the support grants for this NDP work. All very strange as their junior minister then announced in Parliament that NDPs remain the cornerstone of local democracy! We are still hopeful that they will reverse this decision but after discussion at our June Parish Council meeting, we agreed to continue to try to make progress using our existing funds. We will have to be very frugal but we think we can accomplish the renewal or at least make significant progress towards that goal.

Next, some much more encouraging news. You will know that we have been lobbying to have extensive traffic calming measures installed on the A44 through Bredenbury. We have been told that this work will be carried out in August, probably starting around the 18th of the month and the result will be a full resurfacing of the entire current 40mph zone. There will also be new white lines throughout. I am sure you will understand that there will be some disruption while the work is carried out. We understand that while the consultation work towards reducing the speed limit to 30mph as well as having a no overtaking regulation imposed is not yet complete, this will take place in the coming months. So we are increasingly optimistic that this work will be completed in the near future.

In early July, the long awaited clean up of the roadside pavements from Grendon Firs to Bredenbury School started but was brought to a halt almost immediately afterwards due to the amount of dust. Balfour Beatty informed us that they had to stop for safety reasons but we have asked them to reschedule the work as soon as possible. We hope that this can be completed once the current dry spell ends. In addition, we do expect some of this to be accomplished during the period when the resurfacing work is carried out.

As always - *Our Place, Our Future!*

John Hulse – Chairman, Bredenbury Group Parish Council