

# **Hilldale Parish Council Newsletter – January 2025**



## **Chairmans Column**

First and foremost, may I wish you all a very happy New Year. I hope you are coping with the current inclement weather.

For the past decade and more, the major concern of Hilldale residents, has been speeding traffic, particularly along Chorley Road. As a Parish Council, we have continued to lobby the two main agencies involved i.e. Police and Lancashire County Council Highways. Our efforts have in turn been supported by our colleagues at The Hilldale Community Association and indeed by several residents themselves.

We have occasionally been paid fleeting lip service, but by and large, the response has invariably been that as there have been no road traffic accidents, then this could not be identified as any sort of priority or area for concern.

Unfortunately, the past twelve months have seen three relatively serious collisions along this stretch of road, primarily at the junction with Malt Kiln Lane and the scenario has changed.

We are now in consultation to install a mobile SPID in suitable locations in the village, details are included in the Newsletter along with a chance for residents to have input.

This has been many years coming so we ask that you please spend a few minutes to support our initiative.

Finally, we still have a vacancy for a Parish Councillor, so if you are keen to be involved in the evolution of Hilldale over the next few years, please contact us via the web site.

Best regards

Gary Ward

Chairman

## **Grant Success**

### **Parking and Access Project**

Following the installation of a new access door and ramp (in 2023) at the village hall, it is was evident that the existing railings required some fabrication to allow better access to the ramp and entry to the hall. In addition to this it was recognised that the village hall car park had no dedicated accessible car park bays which was problematic if using a wheelchair or having limited mobility. Hence, our Parish Clerk, Trish applied for funding towards the cost of improving this area and we were delighted to receive a grant towards the project from West Lancashire Borough Council.

### **Foldable chairs and trolleys**

Our second project in 2024 was to replace the plastic village hall chairs with more up to date steel framed padded chairs that would be far more comfortable and could be stored easily. A dedicated trolley designed to store and transport the chairs with ease was also a priority. The new chairs would provide more comfort and be more versatile being able to be folded and stacked away. Our Parish Clerk put together an application to West Lancashire Borough council and we were extremely pleased that this project was also approved.

A total of £2091.55 was received with the Parish Council contributing the remainder of the cost.

## Stage Curtain

We have recently engaged a contractor to make a bespoke stage curtain for the village hall. The curtain will be used as a background for performances and also provide much improved acoustics for the hall. We have chosen a double-sided curtain to enable hirers to choose a black or grey backdrop. The curtain will be installed before the end of the financial year and has been possible due to a successful grant application of £900.00 to Lancashire County Council's 'Champion' fund, with the Parish Council funding the balance.

## Bulb and Tree Planting – thank you!



Following the bulb and tree planting that was undertaken on a cold but bright February morning in 2024 we would like to thank Ian Wright from LCC Treescapes team, the volunteers who participated in the



planting and the HCA for their coffee and cakes which were gratefully enjoyed by the volunteers. We look forward to the seeing the spring bulbs and blossom again this year made possible via a grant from the Lancashire Environment Fund.

## Playing Field Maintenance

You may not be aware of the ongoing maintenance of the village playing fields, path, hedgerows, shrubs, trees and fencing. This is an ongoing project and in October we once again topped up part of pathway (before and after photo) as it had been washed away due to the extremely wet weather. Our thanks to Laurence Davis and team for ensuring the area is kept to a very high standard which we are very proud of.



**Village Hall Bookings** - If you would like to book the hall, please contact the Clerk 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.



## Consultation Speed Indicator Device

**Introduction** - As reported in our previous newsletter Hilldale Parish Council has taken the decision to invest in a speed indicator device (SpID), similar to the one used in Parbold. Its purpose is to give approaching vehicles an accurate visual indication of their speed, in order to educate them and encourage drivers to remain within the speed limit. It also provides valuable data, such as traffic volumes, average speeds, maximum speeds, etc, although it does not identify individual vehicles or record vehicle registration numbers.

**The Scheme** - The scheme involves the permanent installation of a galvanised steel post at specific locations complete with mounting brackets. It is hoped the SpID will help to remind drivers of the speed limit and to calm traffic.

**Proposed Locations** - SpIDs are only suitable for use on roads with a 30-mph speed limit. The three locations selected for the permanently-fixed posts are at locations where it is known that a relatively high proportion of vehicles exceed the speed limit. By periodically positioning the SpID at these locations, it is hoped that this will help to educate drivers and calm traffic. The three proposed locations are:

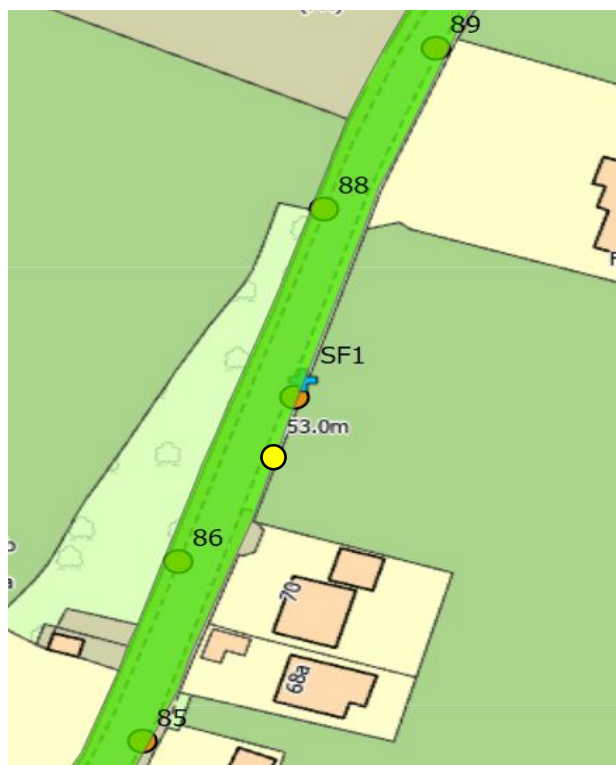
1. Chorley Road (outside the village hall). In the footway outside the village hall 1.3m from kerb and 3m south of LC 67.
2. Chorley Road Southbound (near to 70 Chorley Road) in grass verge 1m from kerb and 18.2m from school flasher.
3. Chorley Road (near to house number 52) in both directions, in grass verge 0.9m from kerb and 13.5m south L70.

The maps below show the approximate locations marked as a yellow ball, although the exact locations will be determined on site by Lancashire County Council to avoid underground services, not to obstruct access to properties, and to comply with highway regulations.

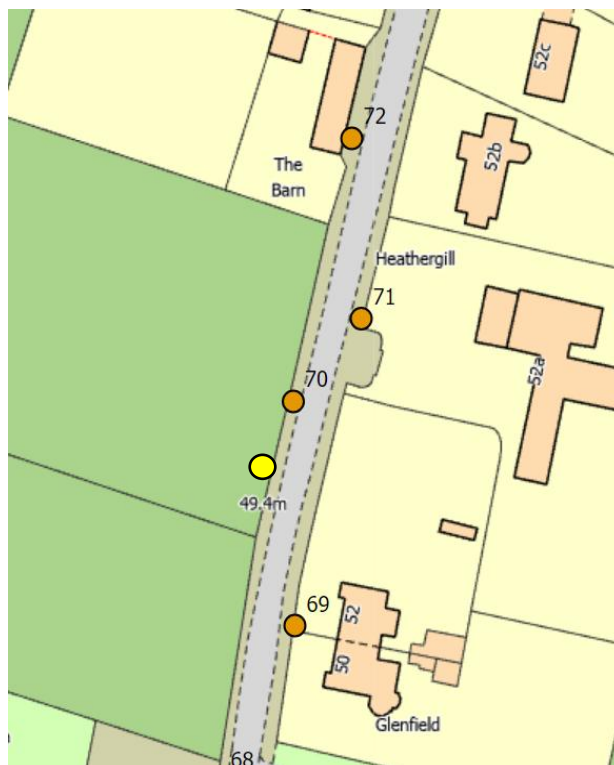
**LOCATION 1.** The yellow ball at the bottom of the image identifies the proposed location outside the village hall



## LOCATION 2



## LOCATION 3



The yellow circle identifies the proposed location

**Types of SpID** – with regards to the type of SpID selected, the Parish Councils preferred option is an environmentally friendly solar device which will not require constant recharging.

**The Cost** – the cost of purchasing a SpID is in the region of £2,500 with additional costs for the purchase and installation of posts and moving the SpID. Part of the cost will be met via a successful grant application to WLBC.

There will be ongoing costs for insurance, maintenance, battery replacement, etc, which would need to be budgeted for in our annual precept.

### How to Respond

Before Hilldale Parish Council makes a final decision, we would like to hear your views. You can let us know by one of the following methods:

1. By completing the attached form and returning it to us via the post box on the side of Hilldale Village Hall, Chorley Road, Hilldale
2. By e mail to: [Clerk@hilldaleparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:Clerk@hilldaleparishcouncil.gov.uk)

If you wish to participate in this consultation or let us know your views, please respond by noon on **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025.**

### 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.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@hilldaleparishcouncil.gov.uk). Website is [www.hilldaleparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.hilldaleparishcouncil.gov.uk)

**Council Meetings** - 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.