

Article submitted to The Bridge magazine in September 2021

Parish council meetings

A reminder that the parish council is now back to holding physical meetings in the Harrold Centre. All residents are welcome and encouraged to attend: whether you want to address the council at the beginning, or just sit and watch for entertainment – it's up to you.

Harewelle Way playground benches

You will find two wooden picnic benches at the Harewelle Way playground. These were added after a request from residents.

Public Flood Camera

The Environment Agency have now approved the provision of a public internet flood camera by the main bridge and the camera provider has been engaged. The intention is that this camera will show the state of flooding on the road between Harrold and Carlton to enable drivers to make informed decisions before setting off; having sight of the flood depth marker will also be useful for monitoring the severity of flooding in general, especially during the night.

Neighbourhood Development Plan

The Neighbourhood Development Plan has now been through the independent examination process by a planning expert and has been given the green light following some suggested minor modifications. The process was very challenging and detailed, and should give confidence that the Steering Group have followed the whole process correctly and fairly. All the questions we were asked are on our website, along with our detailed responses and the modified plan. The borough council will now review the examination outcome and then inform us if, and when, the plan can be taken forward to referendum. The outcome of this lengthy and laborious process, is having control over the location, type and amount of development in Harrold, backed by the public through multiple consultations. Please note that there is no route to avoid all development in Harrold, as the numbers are passed down to us by the borough council in their Local Plan.

Streetlights

The works to upgrade the parish council's 15 streetlights to LED is still ongoing at the time of writing. The process has been slower than expected as the installers need to wait for site visits from Western Power to switch over the supply and make more room on the utility poles for the brackets. We will get there before the winter nights set in...

Church clock

It is pleasing to hear the church clock chiming again. The clock winding unit for the "quarter chime" broke earlier in the year. Borough Councillor Alison Foster donated £1600 from her ward fund, which covered the total cost of the repair.

Highways works

The borough council are in the process of arranging for a road closure on the High St (9am to 3.30pm) from 25th to 29th October to resolve the issue of the flooding of the zebra crossing and to repair the surface outside of the Fish bar. At the moment, after heavy rain, the crossing can become impassable due to the pooling of water; a new gully is being created to join to the existing drainage network. This has been requested for some time now so it's good to see it finally happening.

Work should have started on 6th September on the traffic signals down by the bridge. Last year the induction loops under the road surface were upgraded – these are used to detect when vehicles are crossing. This next piece of work is to upgrade the signalling to a more intelligent system that learns driver behaviour. The operation can also be monitored remotely rather than relying on the public to report faults. You'll also be able to have more confidence that the buttons for cyclists/horse riders are working correctly.

Harrold Parish Council Facebook page

If you would like updates on Parish Council activity then please join the Harrold Parish Council Facebook page.

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The next council meeting dates are: 13th October, 10th November, 8th December in the Harrold Centre at 7.30pm.