



[www.croxdenparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.croxdenparishcouncil.co.uk)

## Croxden Parish Council Newsletter March 2024

Dear Parishioners

Thank you for signing up for the brand new e-Newsletter, which will be produced six times a year after each bi monthly Parish Council meeting. We hope to keep you as up to date as possible with council news from the parish straight to your inbox and also reach a wider audience. In response to the initial mailshot, twenty five percent of households have signed up, a hugely positive result indicating that residents really care about our lovely parish and community. Please encourage friends and neighbours to sign up using this email address - [croxdenpcnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:croxdenpcnewsletter@gmail.com)

### **Information and communication**

The Parish Council met on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at The Abbey Room, Croxden. Detailed minutes can be found on the new website: <https://www.croxdenparishcouncil.co.uk>

Please take time to look at the NEW website, in addition to the latest minutes and documents, you will also find contact details for your local councillors and clerk, and information about clubs, activities, events and local facilities. If you wish to contact Croxden Parish Council, please email: [croxdenparishclerk@gmail.com](mailto:croxdenparishclerk@gmail.com) or you can speak to councillors directly by telephone, numbers listed on the website. Please do not contact us via this newsletter email address.

### **Flooding and Potholes**

Wet weather and flooding continues, so the Council are now reporting flooding to Staffordshire County Council and would encourage residents to do the same. The County Council website for reporting is <https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Highways/flooding/Highway-drains.aspx>

This web page also contains useful information about who is responsible for blocked drains, runoff etc. You can also report potholes via the same County Council website.

### **Traffic and Speeding Update**

Staffordshire County Council have been unable to provide a solution, that is satisfactory to residents, in order to reduce traffic speeding on the A522 through Beamhurst. The Parish Council have therefore taken the case a step further and provided Kate Kniveton MP with a folder of all communications between Parish Council, Residents and Staffordshire County Council regarding this problem. She has forwarded this directly to the Department of Transport Policy Team for their attention and the Parish Council awaits a response, which hopefully will be reported in the May 2024 meeting.

In responding to residents' ongoing concerns about speeding on our narrow roads, the Parish Council has experienced extreme difficulty in getting reduced speed limits imposed locally. The Parish Council used its powers to request that Staffordshire Parish Councils Association (SPCA) liaise with National Association of Local Councils (NALC) to approach Central Government and SPCA have agreed at their Executive Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024 to take this motion forward to NALC. The motion is below:

*“Croxden Parish Council has a number of roads within its rural parish that have a speed limit that are set by law at the National Speed Limit due to country roads automatically being set nationally at the National Speed Limit. Croxden Parish Council residents have for a number of years been asking for some of the roads within the parish to be reduced to 40mph from 60mph and the County Council unfortunately do not have the funds as such a request needs to go to the Secretary of State in Central Government.*”

*Therefore, Croxden Parish Council would like SPCA to accept this motion and to work with NALC, in order that NALC can lobby the Government for a national change to be made to speed limits on rural roads. Rural roads are the most dangerous in the UK, accounting for nearly two thirds (60%) of all road deaths (RAC). With most country roads, even those with no central marking carrying the national speed limit of 60 mph there is a real temptation for motorists to drive at the limit because they are technically allowed to do so, even if it is inappropriate because of the driving conditions or local hazards.*

*Not only are too many lives are being lost on these roads, but damage is caused to roadsides and verges, pollution levels are increased and the speed of drivers acts as a major deterrent for other users of the system such as walkers, cyclists and horse riders. We believe the time has come where strategic, rather than tactical action needs to be taken.*

*The current position of requesting county councils to implement a change in speed limit has significant costs financially, plus in time and effort and generally is not progressed until death or serious injury has occurred.*

*We believe that this needs to change as a matter of urgency. Our suggestion would be to make a simple change to the national speed limit, reducing it to 40mph for carriageway roads without central line marking.*

*This approach has the following advantages: It could be implemented nationally with a simple administrative change by Government. A single national information campaign could be cost effectively run to communicate the benefits of the change to all road users no changes to signage would be required.*

*Croxden Parish Council would ask SPCA to consider the motion to request NALC to pursue this national change of speed limits with Central Government."*

## **Events and Meetings**

### **Spring Parish Walk and Annual Meeting**

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May, 6pm**

**at**

**Wood Farm, Great Gate, ST10 4HF**

Croxden Parish Council invites you to join us for a walk through local history and wildlife by kind permission of Nick and Sue Brandrick. The Council are hoping that Ian Ecclestone, a Plein-air artist, will exhibit his paintings of Croxden Abbey for residents to view

before/after the walk in the barn at Wood Farm. This event is open to all, family, friends and dogs on leads welcome. Parking available in farmyard. No fee or pre booking required, just turn up. Walking will be across meadows, woodland and slopes for 1-1.5 hours.

Refreshments in the barn after. Meet and get to know your local Councillors.

The **next Parish Council Meeting** will be the Annual Meeting which is being held on **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm in The Abbey Room, Croxden, ST14 5JG**. As always, the meeting is open to the public. Come and join us for a cuppa and listen in. If you are not familiar with the Abbey Room, this is a small meeting room situated at the rear of St Giles Church Croxden.

Best Wishes and Happy Easter from Paul, Nick, Marianne, John and Jackie - Your Croxden Parish Council Councillors.