

News from The Parish Council – February 2024

By the time you read this you'll probably all be heartily fed-up with all the local road closures and diversions. We update the PC website and Facebook page with all KCC Highways notices as and when received – which is sometimes only at the last moment, if at all, and can change. We are therefore very grateful to Karen Ault for constantly scanning local sources and providing timely additional updates in the Facebook Discussion Group.

Highways issues can occupy a great deal of time and we have agreed that, as the only retired Councillor with "time on his hands", Richard should take-on the Highways Portfolio role. In January this has included dealing with parking issues and trying to get the streetlight opposite St. Mildred's Church - that was broken by UK Power Networks when telegraph poles were being replaced, then removed together with its power supply - replaced. It's no easy task, but I'm hopeful it will have been done by early March!

In other leadership role changes from our "mini reshuffle" Wendy will take-on Training, and Health & Wellbeing, and Gavin will take-on Planning & Development. All our lead responsibilities are listed under the Parish Council tab on our website, but you can, of course, address any matter to any Councillor. If you make contact via website messaging or 'phone the Parish Council office, Sara, will ensure the matter is dealt-with as appropriate.

In other news, convex mirrors will be installed at some village junctions to assist turning onto roads where visibility is partially obstructed. An Acol Residents Survey will be delivered to all homes during February.

The Acol Village Survey will be delivered to all homes during February. Its completion and return has a very important role in the first stage of the development of our Local Area Plan, which is vital in providing our community with a say in any development affecting our village.

The next Council meeting is on Thursday 15th February at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall. The agenda is on the website and posted on Village Hall noticeboards. Additionally, at our meetings Councillors report on all work in progress. Henceforth, an Action List with lead responsibilities and due dates will be appended to all Council minutes.

The Acol Parish Council website is updated as and when there is anything new to report, which is most days! You can subscribe to news content and be notified by email whenever there are news updates. Some information, including details of KCC Highways closures and Neighbourhood Watch updates are automatically posted to the Acol Village site at <https://www.facebook.com/Acol.Village/>. Like or subscribe to the page to be automatically alerted of updates. Note this is separate to the discussion group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/acolkent/>. We are always keen to receive any feedback on how our Communications, including the online presence, can be improved.

Richard Steel (Chair)