

## **Correspondence for 10<sup>th</sup> June PC meeting**

### **a. Dangerous driver in country lanes**

I have been advised to contact the local council by the police in relation to a female member of Kit Wilson staff, who is repeatedly driving dangerously on Wilderness Lane and Riverside. I live with my father and young son at [REDACTED]. I would like the Parish Council to take action and have a discussion with the charity about their driver to reduce further risk of a serious accident occurring. The driver uses the lanes regularly as a cut through to jobs, and today was driving at least 40-50mph up the hill on Riverside around the blind bend outside Fairlight Glen Farm. I was going no more than 10mph and then stationary when she nearly hit me head on. She struggled to stop and ended up with the van hitting and mounting the small bank on the side of the road and nearly in a hedge to avoid me. This is now my fourth dangerous driving encounter with the same young lady (blonde, mid 20s approximately) in the Kit Wilson van.

Today I spoke with her and asked her to slow down and explained she can't be driving so dangerously around the lanes, but her excuse was that she was "rushing to get to a dog" and it "wasn't her fault". Ironically, where she nearly hit my car is a well known deer crossing.

The police confirmed to me that the charity are not an emergency service so there is absolutely no reason for her to be driving so fast and dangerously around the lanes. Like I said, this is now my fourth encounter and near miss with her, but today I had nowhere to move out of her way in time. I appreciate there is a national speed limit around the lanes of 60mph but the road conditions are not safe enough to be driven this way, especially around the bends.

The police have taken the report seriously and are going to try and speak with the driver but they told me to pass this on to yourselves so you can have a word with the charity also, and to make residents in the lanes aware of this driver, and report her where necessary if they encounter further dangerous driving.

I have called the charity this morning, but no one has made contact with me so they seem to be avoiding the issue. Whilst the local charity does some excellent work I'm sure, this does not put them and their employees above the law, regardless of what they're rushing to. It is not fair to the residents on the lanes, the public and other vulnerable road users and animals when they are being put at regular risk by this local organisation, and the same female driver.

Please can you update me on any action taken?

### **b. Verges mown in early May by ESCC contractors**

I've just spoken to a tractor driver with a topper on Waghorns Lane who had just mown the verges along Wilderness lane and was now mowing Waghorns, in early May, just as all the spring wildflowers were either flowering or setting seed. I asked him to leave the stretch under Waghorns House to the junction with Stockland Lane, and below Upper Broadreed. I would have loved to ask him to pack up altogether and go home for the day, not to return until the autumn, but alas, it was not to be.

My partner and I came home distressed. Wildflower verges form one of the only reliable nature networks across the country enriching neighbouring land with both seed and insects at a time when we are supposed to be supporting nature. The beautiful, fecund wildflower verges all across our parish and beyond are now, once again, pointlessly ragged untidy messes. There is

no visual aid to motorists; nothing logical to explain the destruction apart from out of date policy by ESCC.

By now he has probably destroyed yet another year of nature restoration on our Hadlow Down verges, and surrounding areas. There is supposed to be a legal target to turn nature around in England by 2030. I see very little hope that the local councils will do any such thing. I came home and wrote to ESCC about the issue. I expect little to come of it.

What can we do as a parish? I would volunteer as part of a team, however small, to survey local verges and persuade ESCC to designate and leave them until the autumn or for them to be cut on rotation, starting later in the year. I am not an expert botanist but I have more than a basic knowledge of local flora and would love to get involved with like minded locals who want to get stuck in.

Please can this subject be discussed by the Parish Council at the next meeting? It is too late for this year but together we may be able to prevent further destruction next year and onwards

Very distressed.

**c. Comment about overgrown footpath**

May be too late but can I also mention that the footpath beside Springwell Cottage and Main Road is now very overgrown with nettles and brambles.