

Hermitage Parish Council Update October 2019

- ❖ Good news for walkers, pedal cyclists and horse riders. At long last the Hermitage stretch of the Hermitage to Hampstead Norreys section of the active travel route (ATR) is open,(from Pinewood Crescent to the parish boundary with Hampstead Norreys, i.e. the M4). There are already reports of multiple users. The ATR is a permissive path, not a public right of way. Notices are still to be erected. The council understands that delays have been caused by weather and staffing issues.

The longer stretch from the motorway to Hampstead Norreys village will be a much bigger job. It includes bridge repairs and tree felling. Works will need to be fitted around dormice as well as the weather. Whilst they are taking place please do not try to use the route as it will delay matters.

The project was partially financed by a developer contribution from the builders of Blake Rd, a parish plan grant from West Berkshire Council and matched funding of £750 from Hermitage PC.

- ❖ On a windy day with sunny intervals a big butterfly count was carried out in the butterfly meadow at Furze Hill.

Gate keeper	4
Common blue	4
Small white	1
6 spot burnet	1
Green veined white	1

The meadow included plants for the benefit of the grizzled skipper butterfly, which was not spotted, does not fly in August.

- ❖ Regrettably there has recently been a spate of petty vandalism and damage in Pinewood Park and at Furze Hill. If you encounter vandalism and anti-social behaviour whilst it is taking place please dial 999.
- ❖ The stile into Pinewood Park will soon be replaced by a gate.
- ❖ The parish council pays for the eight dog bins in Hermitage to be emptied weekly so there is no reason for them to be full to the top or overflowing. If you find this to be the case, please report the matter to West Berkshire Council by going to Report a Problem on their web site or calling 01635 551111.
- ❖ Village organisations will soon be able to apply for a grant from the parish council. Grants are awarded annually to organisations that can demonstrate they work for the good of Hermitage residents and are open to all. Applications are invited in November, watch this space. The Clerk to the council can send you the criteria if this would be helpful.
- ❖ The date of the next parish council meeting is Thursday October 17th. All monthly meetings are held in the Adelaide Room at the rear of the church and begin at 7.30pm. Agendas, minutes and information about the council are posted on notice boards throughout the village and on www.hermitage.org.uk.
- ❖ Hermitage Parish Council can be contacted through the clerk, Nicky Pierce, by emailing hermitagepc@outlook.com.