

## Notes of the Compton Bishop Annual Open Parish Meeting Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2017

### Present:

Compton Bishop PC: Cllr T Mason (Chairman), Cllr J Cole, Cllr A Dooby, Cllr E Parker, Cllr M Pritchard, Cllr D McCarthy. (one councillor not present)

District and County Councillor : J Denbee

County Councillor in waiting (newly elected) : R Filmer

34 parishioners were present

**Apologies** : Tess Gill, Martin Hodgson

1. **Welcome by the Chairman, Cllr Terry Mason**
2. **Notes of Open meeting - 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2016** (copies were available)  
The notes were approved as a correct record

3. **Matters arising from the Notes** – There was none

4. **Parish Council Report (Cllr Terry Mason)**

As finances in Local Government are being contained we are taking some initiatives such as tidying the Villages and getting them to the standard we'd all like to see it maintained . To that end there is a local plan and we are trying to ensure that any new planning applications stay within that plan and maintain the character of the parish. There are concerns over the amount and speed of traffic through our villages. One of the initiatives is to show the boundaries of the villages and show drivers they're going into an area of interest. So we have some new signs made and will be erected shortly. This has been made possible through the accumulated funds of this council.

a. **Highway signs (Cllr Delia McCarthy)**

The speed of traffic through the parish continues to be an issue. Our parish is within an area of outstanding beauty (AONB) and is visited by a very large number of vulnerable users - walkers, runners, cyclists, horse riders, etc. Safety along the Webbington Road, an unclassified road with no speed limit, is of great concern. The highways department cannot re-classify the road with a speed limit and a compromise has been reached and pedestrian and 'no verge' warning signs have been installed. Cllr McCarthy expressed The Councils' particular thanks to Mike Rolfe and Richard Parker who continue to assist the council and the parish in any way they can. The Chairman said that we rely on volunteers within the community which is what we will need more of, so we would appreciate people coming forward when call go out.

b. **Village sign (Cllr Maggie Pritchard)**

The Village Link is a system which quickly gets information out to villagers so if you want to be included contact me.

The main roads in the parish are used as a 'rat-run' and the entrances are not 'pretty'. We have started to enhance the entry points to the village. The area by Bow Bridge has, with the help of volunteers, been improved with a grass area, plants, and a new seat and has also repaired the existing bench. Visiting walkers have already made use of this area.

The approaches to the villages and signs are being updated and planting more flowers will enhance the approaches, this is known to help reduce speeding. Two new signs will be erected in the next two weeks. One depicts Cross and its Coaching history and Compton Bishop as a picturesque village.

The Council is looking for any volunteer(s) to help planting and maintaining these with a gardening group.

c. **Phone Booths (Cllr Elizabeth Parker)**

The two phone booths, in Compton Bishop and Cross, have been discontinued by BT. A number of people approached The Council suggesting there could be uses for them. We have saved them to be used by the community. While not being the old red type these can be seen as iconic for our age and time. One artist has been approached and we will contact the other artists and maybe we can do something extraordinary and unique with them for our villages. Other parishes have set up libraries or information centres. Parishioners are asked for their support, ideas, and a little work to make these another feature of our villages and Parish. The White Hart has shown their support with a collection box for the project and the alien who has recently occupied the phone box.

5. **County Councillor in waiting :** Bob Filmer

Cllr Filmer stated that he has been a Councillor at Brent Knoll 25 years and Chairman of SDC Planning and is looking forward to working with Compton Bishop Parish Council. The Brent Ward covers 10 parishes as far as Burnham and Brean. As rural parishes there are unique issues but many are common so I want to work across the parishes and on shared issues. The funding from central government is not getting any bigger, both County and District Councils will need to work closer with Parishes.

6. **District and County Councillor :** John Denbee

Pleased to have had the privilege to have been County Councillor for the last five years and will continue to be your District Councillor. The Main points from the last year are :

- The costs in the last 12 months
- Social care costs are increasing dramatically and is the main reason for increases.
- Children in care 500 in Somerset
- Education with good results
- Health concerns over any proposals to downgrade the service at Weston Super Mare hospital. A consultation is out and has been taken up with our MP
- Land Drainage – work continue to ensure parishes do not get flooded.
- Housing is always an issue. Housing in the New Road area and a goodly proportion will be affordable housing, a mix including rental, some shared equity, some for sale, some for sale with a 20% discount for local people which stays with the house. This housing caters for rural areas such as Compton Bishop.
- Nat West Bank will be closing in Cheddar and Burnham which is disappointing
- Roads are always an issue. Flowers, as mentioned – tubs of flowers do actually slow traffic.
- The A38 continues to get busier with residential development and a huge number of lorries from Cheddar to Hinkley. The Airport continues to expand with associated traffic. One of my great disappointments is that I haven't been able to get funding for improvement for the A38. It has been difficult to get any money for the North area with monies spent in the south no substantial roads since the Axbridge Bypass (in 1961). Cross Pedestrian Refuge will happen. In my view the only real solution to the whole traffic issue is to install traffic lights or a roundabout as the only solution
- The Cheddar Police Station will be moving into a building by the Kings of Wessex building by the memorial.

7. **Cross Hall (Laelia Gold)**

The Parish Council owns The Hall and The Hall Committee looks after it. It is very well used having as many as 10 events in a week including a new a Whist Group, coffee morning, singles lunch and women's fellowship.

Its increased usage is because it is a lovely hall and we have to count our blessings that we have such a good group of volunteer caretakers who clean and tidy after each event and set the

heating in the winter. Like any other volunteer committee we are always open for new ideas and new members. A lot of members are long serving so any new members and ideas would be welcome.

This year we had a very good treasurer, Mr Dick Tyas who has just audited the accounts which are in good shape. We had a number of expenses this year, the inside of the hall was re-decorated; a tree was considered to be a risk to the foundations and was removed.

## 8. Neighbourhood Watch Report (Eddie Farley)

Eddie Farley introduced himself as village co-ordinator and who is assisted by Alan Truman, who looks after Compton Bishop and Sue Acland who is Eddie's deputy and treasurer. There has been little crime in our area although two particular incidents one where someone broke into a property's back gate. Earlier this year a garage, on Old Coach Road, was broken into and tools and property stolen.

There are 19 co-ordinators who we thank for the voluntary work they have done. We have issues 103 electronic communications from Bridgwater, many of them onward reporting to other members by email which is convenient and quick. Please contact the co-ordinators with your email or any changes. New residents should enrol.

We thank our local police force in spite of cut-backs they serve us well. A replacement sign needs replacing in Compton Bishop and three more but volunteers are required to erect these. Finance is reasonably healthy with over £100 in the bank so no funds required just yet.

Signs for 'No Cold Callers' are available for households – contact Eddie Farley.

We are grateful to the four co-ordinators who retired this year and to their replacements. A written report is attached to these notes.

Mrs Caroline Woolley informed the meeting that there is also a Horse and Farm watch group who had two reports.

## 9. Cray Charity Report(Justin Cole)

Cllr Cole took over a Chair of this Charity in September and gave thanks to Jim Warner and the other trustees they've done over the past years and complimented them on organisation and paper work handed over. Cllr Cole outlined the history of the charity and its purpose to award grants for educational needs to residents of Compton Bishop Parish. The charity holds £36,000 which comes from investments from the sale of land. The trust maintains the capital value in order to produce income for distribution through grants. The trust will consider applications for any educational need, these are reviewed in September and grants awarded in November.

## 10. Other Reports

### a. Wildlife site (Sarah Ayling)

The year 2016/17 has seen the wildlife site continue to develop, as the plants come into balance with each other the variety of species is gradually increasing and nettles no longer dominate the central area.

A good variety of different bird species have been seen, including wrens, long-tailed tits and a tree creeper and it appears as if all the bird boxes have been used. The owl box that was put up a few years ago has finally decayed and fallen down, but based on the number of tawny owls heard during the year there are enough suitable nest sites for tawny owls.

Once again there were lots of tadpoles in the pond, creating a good meal for the occasional grass snake.

There are signs (droppings and digging) that both foxes and badgers are visiting the wildlife site. I had hoped to lay a further section of the boundary hedge this winter but lack of volunteers meant that this has been postponed until winter 2017/18.

A large willow tree in the site has died, I have cleared that fallen timber from the path, am waiting for advice from Sedgemoor DC that it is now safe. The large willow beside the pond that was pollarded about 10 years ago has started to split - I have contacted the council Tree officer who will inspect this and other trees in the site and arrange any work that needs to be done.

As always I am very grateful to everyone who has helped to look after the site over the last year, especially Richard who mows the path; and to the staff in the Open Spaces department of Sedgemoor DC for their advice and ongoing support. Work parties are every third Sunday from around 10 am; anyone who wants to get involved is very welcome.

b. **Footpaths and Playground** (Cllr Alex Gooby)

i. **Footpaths** : Alex introduced himself and is our Footpaths Liaison Officer. He lives at 24 Church Lane, Compton Bishop. If there are any issues with footpath please contact Alex. The Chairman reported on the problem with footpath AX15/1 behind the Webbington Hotel. Its position was marked in the wrong place, by Somerset CC but has not been a problem for many years, until recently. It has been brought to SCC's attention that it must be sorted and SCC have agreed to move this forward and are trying to resolve this and re-establish where the path should be, we hope to have this completed this year.

ii. **Playground** : The council is looking at the possibility of establishing a play area for children and BBQ area for older people. The Council has funds but is desperate to locate a suitable area of land and if anyone knows of a suitable site then please let Alex know.

c. **Cross Lane** (Cllr Elizabeth Parker) – Chair of Coffin Lane Campaign's Report

Tess Gill, the Chair of this group cannot be here today and has asked me to read her report. This is a full report and, with limited time, and so will pick the main points (copies are available at the front).

This year has ended on a very positive note and we can expect that in 2018 we will see the construction of a pedestrian refuge on the A38 and a footpath linking us up to the Public Footpath half way up Cross Lane. This came about after we applied for funding through John Denbee for the Small Improvement scheme which was the first of many steps until approval. We have received the notes from the design engineer and they supported our proposal for the refuge and footpath from the path we constructed. We call this path 'Clements Corner' because Michael Clements allowed us to have a bit off his land to join the footpath from Weare at one end and the gated entrance opposite The Old Manor House. We did carry out a traffic census showed that there was one HGV every 28 seconds travelling on Cross Lane. This may have even increased since February. This really highlights what the problem is.

The Campaign Group are planning an event in September and one of our groups has volunteered to cycle up and down Cross Lane with a helmet web-cam to record the hazards for walkers and cyclists.

The group are very grateful for all the support we have had from James Heapey, John Denbee, David Forthergill (SCC) and the officials of the Highways Department who have put up with our numerous requests. We have are well under way with stage 2 but we have not stopped. If you have a push chair or wheelchair – when you get to the fields you have the stiles and it's not easy over the bumpy surface. We want is accessible to parents with push chairs and those with wheel Chairs.

The report can be viewed on the Coffin Lane Website ([www.coffinlane.com](http://www.coffinlane.com)).

d. **Social** :

i. **Cross Connections** (Ruth Orris)

Cross Connections was formed around 8 years ago by a group of likeminded people, who wanted to get those living in the communities of Cross, Compton Bishop, Rackley and Webbington to connect up. We are self-financing and events we have facilitated include quiz nights, fun days, children's parties, wildlife walks and recently a successful progressive supper. Many events are free or low cost. We run an email list and if anyone is not on it, please let me know. This will keep you up to date with all our events and we are happy to pass on news of any events in the area.

ii. **Crook Peak Parishes** (Stephen McColgan)

St Andrew's Church is one of 6 in Crook Peak United Parish. We have 6 ancient parishes and churches and one half of a priest. We have the challenge of maintaining these with great complications on what we can do with them. There is no government money, all work is funded by the parish and voluntary effort. This parish has to pay £30,000 per year into the common fund or the Dioceses of Bath and Wells for half a priest. The church is loved as a 700 year old iconic image of the village. We need hard cash to keep this ancient feature. Our gift aid helps to pay the £1,000 a year for insurance alone.

A major project is the wall in Church Lane which needs better support. We don't have a toilet also have the old prayer cross which was damaged in a storm in 1957 and it would be great to have this welcome as we come through the gates.

Last August, the church came into its own when a storm damaged the marquees hosting the village events in the field. Within 24 hours we hosted the event in the Church and it was fantastic. The space belongs to all of us, it is a public space and we, in the parish, are free to use it.

Many people and visit the pleasant and peaceful surroundings. It is a tranquil open, cared for special place – please let's keep it open.

### iii. Gardening Club (Pauline Warner)

The Crook Peak Garden Club continues although at present numbers are down with a few members yet to renew. We have had almost a complete change of committee this year with Nigel Campbell our present chairman. We have had some exceptional speakers during the year; Mary Payne who writes in the Mendip Times gave us some particularly down to earth and practical garden advice including fake grass! More recently, Sally Nex who has great insight into the preparation of Chelsea as a gardening journalist.

This month's speaker is from the Bristol Botanic Garden and this will be followed in June by a visit. We are also visiting Stoberry Park garden in Wells next month. Last years annual show was saved at the last minute by the availability of Weare Hall following the near collapse of the marquee in Old Coach Road the day before the show. This year we are reverting to the relative safety of Cross Hall and the date for your diary is August 26<sup>th</sup>, Bank Holiday weekend. Please, please support us. If you are not sure if your entry is up to scratch – just give it a go!

Visitors are always welcome to our talks for a small fee and our outings when space is available, you may even decide to become a member. At £12 a year – a bargain.

## 11. Open Forum - Chaired by Cllr. Terry Mason

- a. Cllr Justin Cole raised the issue of **Superfast Broadband**. The first roll-out did not benefit some locations in this parish. We are now expecting the second phase of the roll-out but some still won't benefit. If you want to seek an alternative supplier (approved by the 'Connecting Devon and Somerset' team) for the phase 2 you are urged to register with 'Gigaclear' (google it or see the parish website for a link) to declare an interest and get a possible solution.
- b. Martin Hodgson is currently taking a group of people up to the top of Crook Peak on a torchlight walk, raising funds.
- c. Mrs Caroline Woolley thanked the councillors for all their hard work and for explaining what they all do. One councillor is not here and nobody knows what he does. Cllr Mason informed the meeting that part of the problem was that when most of the previous council (for whatever reasons) were unable to continue it was left with only five people from within The Parish. So we got someone who is not actually resident within the area and as such means that we have a different agenda. Come two years' time when we do have an election we would be grateful if we can get members from this community to come forward and stand for election so we can have a proper election rather than having someone there by default.
- d. Richard Parker made the following statement : As many of you may know I am passionate about the place in which we live. I recognise the value of the countryside, the Mendips, the AONB, the SSSI (*site of special scientific interest*), the amazing views across the Levels and the fantastic network of footpaths and bridleways which we, as residents and the hundreds of visitors can

enjoy. We must recognise that we have a responsibility to do what we can to protect our environment for future generations. You may be aware that Sedgemoor District Council invited the public to participate in their Local Plan which sets a strategy to accommodate new housing. This plan replaces their Core Strategy where Compton Bishop was classified as 'Countryside' and where development was not permitted except for small infill. The Local Plan now classifies Compton Bishop as Tier 5 which contains any development to very limited infill *ONLY IF IT IS FULLY SUPPORTED BY THE LOCAL COMMUNITY* and stakeholders. We all know that Cheddar and Axbridge are having significant development potential forced on them and there will be an impact on our parish insofar as road congestion, pollution and noise is concerned, we must also recognise that the continuing expansion of Bristol Airport will add to the problem. Oh and don't forget the 'Rat Run' to and from Weston will have more traffic not only from Cheddar development but also from the significant developments in Weston. We must all engage in the planning process to protect this very special place. You can Google Sedgemoor Planning or get the link from the Parish Website.

There have been incidents where planning applications will affect us and our community and conditions imposed on successful applications have appeared to have been ignored by developers — we must all be diligent in engaging in consultations and reporting breaches of planning conditions to help control abuse of planning rules and protect our community and its wider landscape.

- e. Eddie Farley raised the issue of more vehicles using Cross Moor Drove between the A38 and Bow Bridge. In response Richard Parker stated that he had witnessed this when working on the new grassed area and had been in touch with Somerset CC and they confirmed it was a footpath and vehicles are not permitted. A notice stating no vehicular access would be erected and further action taken if it continues.
- f. Caroline Woolley noticed that Google Maps has renamed the Cheddar Yeo to the River Axe. It was suggested that she should advise Google of this error, they will respond.
- g. Stephen McColgan asked the chairman whether 'our absent councillor' attends regular parish meeting. The Chairman confirmed that he did regularly.
- h. Mrs Farley commented that the Parish Clerk was not here and doesn't the Clerk usually attend. The Chairman explained that the clerk has a prior long-standing engagement.

## 12. Date of next meeting

Two dates were proposed: Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May or Friday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2018

The attendees voted for **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2018**

## Attachments :

- Compton Bishop and Cross Neighbourhood Watch Report
- Cray Foundation information
- Coffin Lane Annual Report 2016 - 2017

# Compton Bishop and Cross Neighbourhood Watch

## Report April 2017

Period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017

### 1 Crimes

Once again there has been minimal crime in our Parish. Early in the year a garage was broken into and tools were stolen. A motor car was parked for a long time and most recently a prowler damaged a back gate and entered other properties. Our vigilance is still required.

### 2 Contacts for you

The Watch Scheme Administrator continues to be: Mrs Lindsey Stone located at Bridgwater Police Centre in Sandy Padgett House, she can be reached for Neighbourhood Watch matters via E-mail at [lindsey.stone@avonandsomerset.police.uk](mailto:lindsey.stone@avonandsomerset.police.uk) or by calling 101, the non-emergency telephone number for the Police. This will connect via a call centre to the Police. Police personnel for the area currently are: Police Constable Tracey Jones, Beat Manager; and PCSO's Jake Dade, Eliot Green and Sheila Dickinson. We very much appreciate their efforts to ensure our area remains as crime free as possible. Our Police and Crime Commissioner, is Mrs Mountstevens who was re-elected at the last election.

### 3 Coordinators

We have a full complement of Coordinators (20) and we are very appreciative of the efforts that they all make on residents' behalf. There have been 4 changes to our volunteer Coordinators and we would like to thank the retirees most sincerely for their service over the years. We welcome the new Coordinators, who have filled the vacancies created. We endeavour to make contact with known new residents to ask that if they wish to be included in our Watch Scheme, but we do need their details. This is an occasion for them to do so. Being a member of a Watch Scheme is beneficial for Home Insurance purposes. Please complete your details on the form available to enable us to progress your inclusion in the Scheme. The Compton Bishop area is looked after by Allan Truman and Cross through Eddie Farley. Their contact numbers are provided at the end of this report.

### 4 Local communications

There are still a few Co-ordinators who are not on E-mail. This technology assists in making internal communications easier. We have advanced and now 87% of coordinators are on E-mail. We have received 103 electronic communications during the year with many of these being circulated to Coordinators.

P.T.O.

**5 Signs**

We have thirteen signs in 12 locations throughout the Parish. We have obtained a replacement for a damaged sign in Compton Bishop, but this has still to be erected. Resulting from a recent inspection we note that there are a further three signs that need replacement and we shall be seeking funds of £21.00 from the Treasurer to action these replacements. Our area continues as a "No cold calling" one and notices are displayed. Labels for residents to display are available. Nationally there have been reported scams involving the internet and users are warned to ensure they do not succumb to what are often genuine looking requests and to be cautious about disclosing any personal details.

**6 Finance**

Whilst our funds were last used in November 1998 they remain in excess of £100.00, which is deemed sufficient for our needs, although the time will come when we shall need to supplement these through voluntary donations to maintain a reasonable level.

**7 Meetings**

We attended the annual Watch Scheme meeting in October 2016 and learned about restorative justice and the approach to problem solving that the Police employ. They are under considerable financial pressure and this is expected to continue. The Police are involved with an "Impact" survey associated with the Hinkley Point developments.

**8 Cards**

The originators of our Watch Scheme provided cards with useful contact details for Coordinators and residents. We have attempted to obtain current details to be able to re-issue these in updated form. This is ongoing, but still we lack revised details from a number of coordinators. It would be helpful if they could complete the revision so we can progress the issue of new cards.

**9 Publications**

The latest issue of "Senior Siren" number 30 is available through their web site and this can be reached through [www.http://sclt.us](http://sclt.us).

**10 E-mail is such an easy way to communicate, so we would encourage as many members as possible to use this medium and please keep us up to date if you change your E-mail address.**

We wish everyone a crime free 2017 year, but please remain vigilant. Thank you.

Eddie Farley (732989)

Allan Truman (732374)

Sue Acland (732086)



# William Cray Foundation

- What is it ?
  - An educational foundation dating back to 1728
- What does it do ?
  - Provides educational grants
- Who can benefit ?
  - Anyone who is resident in the Parish of Compton Bishop
- How big is the charity?
  - £36,000 of assets at the end of March 2017
- How much is paid out in grants each year?
  - It varies, but in 2016 the charity made 8 grants totally £1,500
- How do I apply?
  - Grant applications are invited each year in September and October

# Coffin Lane Campaign

Support the creation of a safe route for walkers and cyclists between Cross and Compton Bishop and Axbridge.

## Coffin Lane Annual Report 2016-2017

### Overview

The year ended on a positive note with news that we can expect 2018 to see the construction of the pedestrian refuge across the A38 and a footpath linking the footpath already constructed by the Coffin Lane Group around the junction of the A38 and Cross Lane to the public right of way across the fields to Axbridge.

This is phase 1 of our campaign to achieve a safe footpath and cycleway accessible to all from the junction to Axbridge. We now have to work for the phase 1 work to be completed as soon as possible, particularly in view of the increasing heavy vehicle use of Cross Lane. We also have to work for Phase 2 to be agreed, namely for the footpaths to be sufficiently wide and properly surfaced to allow use by families with buggies, wheelchairs and cycles.

### Key events during the year

#### May

We had a presentation from Steph Keeble on the Axbridge Neighbourhood plan and agreed to participate in the consultation. We were later informed there was widespread support for improved pedestrian and cycle access between Cross and Axbridge. Pedestrian access to Cross was given the highest high or medium rating after traffic calming. There was also strong support for a pedestrian walkway over the A38.

John Denbee informed us that that our bid for Small Improvement Scheme funding for a pedestrian crossing and a pathway had been approved subject to a feasibility study by design engineers.

#### June

We wrote to the Secretary of State, Amber Rudd, to complain at Somerset County Council's truly excessive delay in deciding our application to modify the definitive map to add the footpath at the Cross end of Coffin Lane.

#### July

A working party led by Richard Parker and Mike Rolfe completed the pathway around 'Clement's Corner' at the junction of A38 and Cross Lane. Thanks were given to the contractor Craig Channon and Callow and Batts Coombe Quarries who donated aggregates. A celebratory opening was planned.

#### August

We received the result of our appeal to the Planning Inspectorate against the delay in deciding our application to modify the definitive map to add the footpath at the Cross end of Coffin Lane. Our appeal was successful and it was recognised that the footpath was required for safety reasons. SCC were ordered to determine our application by January 2018.

#### September

On 1 September we held a summer walk up Crook Peak followed by a social enjoyed by all.

The Coffin Lane float at the Axbridge Blackberry Carnival, "King John rides again" with a striking King John on his bike created by Noellvie Watson and David Parkin and supported by bikers and walkers a received much applause and good press coverage.

There was a celebratory opening of the first section of the Footpath at Clement's Corner with James Heappey MP, officiating.

## **October/November**

We were sad to lose our very efficient press secretary, Annie Vickerstaff on her move to Herefordshire. Fortunately, by the end of year Ian Calderbank agreed to take her place and showed some expertise in updating the website as well as press statements.

On 5 November we walked up Coffin Lane with placards to the Axbridge Farmers Market with leaflets to inform all on progress. We were met with considerable support from shoppers and pleased to note that by now most of those we spoke to had heard of the campaign and there was considerable support and enthusiasm.

## **December/January**

We joined with CB Parish Council and other local groups for a successful social on 27 January at the Memorial Hall. We were pleased to note that those participating in Axbridge Action Group's workshop were fully supportive of the proposals for Coffin Lane .

Erica Darch from Somerset County Council interviewed our witnesses as to their usage of the footpath in support of our application to have the Cross end of the footpath recognised and added to the definitive map. Her report is awaited.

## **February**

We finally received the report and recommendations from the design engineers on our SIS application. It supported the proposal for a pedestrian refuge on the A38 north of the junction and an extension of the footpath from the section already constructed by our group to the stile leading to the footpath across the fields. It was supported by detailed plans of the proposed refuge, ancillary road safety improvements on the A38, and the footpath which was to be 1.5 metres wide.

A traffic census carried out on 13 February between 7.30 and 9.00 showed that on average and HGV vehicle turned into Cross Lane from the A38 every 28 seconds.

## **March/April**

In March we were informed that the design engineers report had been accepted by the Board and now had been sent back to the design engineers for detailed design. We understand that construction will not take place until 2018 and are seeking reassurance that it will be early in the year.

We are now planning the next stages in our campaign. As Cross Lane is currently closed we will have an family event in September to include walks and bike rides. We remain deeply concerned as to the dangers to bikers of Cross Lane and with the aid of a webcam, Sandy Parkin has bravely volunteered to cycle up and down and record the hazards.

## **General**

Throughout the year we have issued press statements and have been encouraged by good coverage in the Cheddar Valley Gazette, Mendip Times, and Mendip Society in particular.

We are grateful for the support we have received from James Heapey, MP and John Denbee, District and County Councillor as well as the Parish Council. We would also like to thank David Fothergill and the officials of the highway department who have had to put up with our numerous requests for support and updates on progress and for the support we have received from the County Council for our plans.

## **Conclusion**

We are pleased that after 3 years of campaigning we will see a safer crossing of the A38 and pedestrian pathway from Cross to Axbridge. We hope that we can swiftly see full access to all pedestrians along the full length of the footpath from Cross to Axbridge with stiles replaced with gates suitable for buggies and wheelchairs and solid surfacing. We will continue to campaign for the footway to be upgraded to a cycle path.

Tess Gill

On behalf of Coffin Lane Group.