

H
A
P
P
Y
E
A
S
T
E
R

A595 update and future plans

At the recent Howgate/Distinguon Locality Group meeting held on 2nd April at the Distinguon Club for Young People, Highways England's Asset Manager for the area, Jonathan Reade, attended and updated local parishes in the group about the state of plans for the A595 in our area, which is Highways England's responsibility.

A595 Parton Long Mile drainage and resurfacing. In April/May this year a feasibility study will commence to consider repairs to the current Parton Long Mile drainage. The idea is to reduce the water pressure and build up on Moresby Embankment during heavy rainfall. There is a repair and resurfacing scheme planned from Pelican Garage to Howgate. First stage will be in October 2019 and target repairing the potholes. Then after the drainage study has been completed the whole carriageway width will be resurfaced, also including any drainage changes suggested, that work will be 2021/22.

Moresby Embankment. Highways England are doing further surveys on their Option 8 route from the Howgate island behind the parish hall and down to the Criffel Road junction. The actual embankment is currently being monitored with a full topographical survey which includes watching markings on existing walls to monitor if there is movement. The Option 8 study is to finish September this year and detailed design to take approximately 12 months after that.

Parton Brow Pedestrian Island. There has already been a consultation, local parishes, Lowca included, have voiced their opinions. A feasibility design will be drafted 2019/20 for further consultation and a detailed design for 2020/21, but it will depend on land acquisition.

Pelican Garage. Highways England are consulting on a proposal to change the layout, install traffic signals and install controlled pedestrian crossings.

Roundabout surfaces on A595. The resurfacing of the roundabouts at Howgate, Toll Bar and Dobie's Garage are imminent. It is proposed to do the work overnight and it could take 28 days.

Whitehaven Relief Road. In the government annual autumn statement 2019 it will be revealed if this scheme is to go ahead. Local residents should be aware that if the relief road is given the go ahead, then common sense dictates that there must be thought about the line of where Option 8, the Moresby Embankment road and the proposed relief road could come together. Also, if the relief road is given the go ahead, it could take up to another 16 months to identify all the options. Once that is done the Department of Transport have to formally instruct Highways England that the scheme meets government policy. After that they then have to consider and explore the preferred route. This relief road if approved is not going to be an immediate part of the landscape.

Existing A595 safety issues. There are to be three other studies, one involves lane usage at existing traffic islands and perhaps incorporate mandatory lane use, Dobie's island especially. Second issue covers review by survey and traffic count of uncontrolled junctions and thirdly a study of the visibility problems on the road between Dobie's and Lillyhall, around Walkingshaw car showroom and the petrol station area.



Fly tipping, if it's cheap it's probably illegal and anti-social



On 23rd January the parish council were alerted to the anti-social behaviour of an illegal fly tipper. Copeland BC were also made aware of the unsightly mess and investigated the material. They discovered information as to the likely source of the material and sent investigating officers to the address discovered.

It transpired that the householders thought they were dealing with a legitimate removal company and handed over cash for the material to be removed and supposedly correctly disposed of.

Action has been taken against the original owners of the material and the person who dumped the material after charging for the disposal.

Lowca Parish Council and Copeland Borough Council will actively investigate all such actions, be it rubbish, items of furniture or just builder's rubble, it costs council tax payers money for the council to send out a team and remove it. If you have are offered a cheap quote to remove material, it is more than likely not due to a

contractor's mistake, but a fly tipper out for some tax-free income. Be aware you could be caught and then not only will you have paid to have the material illegally removed you will face the possibility of a hefty fine. Ignorance is no defence, if you employ a company ask to see their appropriate authorisation certificate, if they show you it, use your phone and photograph it. Keep that picture and ensure that you receive printed and correctly signed paperwork showing material removed, dated and payment received. A paid-for collection service, by Copeland, for large items such as furniture and white goods is available. Please call 01946 598300 to arrange this.

Dropped kerbs the new rules as applied by Cumbria CC.

The parish council are aware that since 2/03/2019 Cumbria County Council have amended their attitude and manner in which they manage Enforcement Protocol for Parking across Dropped Kerbs.

Pedestrian dropped kerbs On-Street.

A dropped kerb involves kerb stones lowered and the pavement being strengthened and made into a ramp. This helps people with pushchairs or in wheel chairs to access the road from the pavement more easily. There are two types of dropped kerbs – those for pedestrians and those for vehicle access to off street parking.

Penalty charge level: Higher

Obstructing pedestrian dropped kerbs can: - make it difficult for people with wheelchairs and pushchairs, make crossing the road difficult for older and disabled people, obstruct the view of motorist turning at a junction.

Enforcement

Contravention Code 27. Parked in a special enforcement area adjacent to a footpath, cycle track or verge lowered to meet the level of the carriageway.

Parking across Dropped Kerbs will be enforced where there are dropped kerbs both side of the street/junction.

The offending vehicle does not have to be fully obstructing the dropped kerb to be committing a parking contravention. For the contravention to occur, the offending vehicle must be physically over (with any part of the vehicle) the point where the footway meets the carriageway.

A PCN can be issued without an observation period (SEA). **Disabled badge holders are NOT exempt from this restriction.** Parking very close to the dropped kerb or directly opposite is not illegal, even if it restricts or impedes access.

Exemptions. A vehicle that is parked wholly within a designated parking place or any other part of the carriageway where parking is specifically authorised. A vehicle parked outside a residential premise or with the consent of the occupier of the premises (BUT NOT in the case of a shared driveway)

Loading/unloading allowed, yes for commercial vehicles, **NO** for private vehicles.

The parish council has clarified the position, they will contact the relevant authorities now when future complaints are made. Owners of vehicles who park across such kerbs, be warned a fine could closer than you realise.

LOWCA PARISH COUNCILLORS

May 2nd sees election day for Copeland Borough Councillors, parish councillors and of course the Copeland Mayor. At Lowca the current parish councillors all completed their appropriate nomination forms and as there was no excess of candidates over the available parish councillor vacancies, the existing parish councillors were duly elected as an uncontested election by the Copeland Returning Officer Pat Graham on 4th April 2019.

Your councillors are,

Mercia J Oliver, 6 Micklam Cottages, Lowca, CA28 6QR. Mobile 07933975766
John Crawford, 2 Solway Road, Lowca, CA28 6QB. Mobile 07796905193
Tom Milligan, 1-2 Micklam Cottages, Lowca, CA28 6QR. Mobile 07956787089
Hugh Thinnesen, Seabreeze, Lowca, CA28 6PZ. Mobile 07825155008
Ann Oliver, Glen lea Guest House, Stamford Hill, Lowca, CA28 6PS. Home 01946 693873
Dee Butterworth, 35 Meadow View, Lowca, CA28 6QD. Home 01946 63665
Paul Todd, 24 Solway Road, Lowca, CA28 6QB. Mobile 07881644477

Parish Clerk, Mike Milner, 54 Wentworth Park, Stainburn, Workington CA14 1XP,
Home 01900 66040. email lowcaparishclerk@gmail.com



Lowca Parish Council. Our Facebook page. Website. www.lowcapc.org.uk

Cumbria County Councillor. Martin Barbour, email martin.barbour@cumbria.gov.uk
Mobile 07795207894

Following the May 2nd elections the next edition of the Lowca Lowdown will contain the names of the Borough councillors duly elected. Full list of candidates for the borough and mayoral elections are on display in the village noticeboard by the bus stop in East Road.

Dog Fouling on Lowca pavements

A regular topic that is discussed at Lowca parish council meetings is the problem of dogs fouling the pavements of Lowca. You may well have noticed a noticeable increase in the presence of the Copeland dog warden in Lowca. You may have received a leaflet drop on the topic through your letter box, noticed extra signs on the lamp posts and also the stencils on some of the pavements. Lowca parish council have requested a more proactive approach by the dog wardens, hence the warden and his van.

To report episodes of dog fouling contact Copeland Council on 01946 598300 or email info@copeland.gov.uk. A final thought on this topic no one is really going to put a dog in a car and spend 5 or 10 minutes driving to Lowca to exercise it, the problem is localized. The Copeland's enforcement officers can and have issued fixed penalty notices of £80 to dog owners.

December 2018 omission apology

When one was compiling the war memorial commemorative item, in the 3rd paragraph the name of William Rowley was omitted, he has been very active over the past 15 years in the Remembrance Day services. This mention is to rectify that omission.

War memorial funding source.

Councillor Tom Milligan raised the point at the January parish council meeting that the accounts did not show the funding received from the old War Memorial Fund bank account. Due to no activity on the account over a number of years, HSBC had closed the account and put the funds of £454.10p into suspension. The parish clerk found the funding, organised for the monies to be transferred to the parish bank account. Cllr T M had spent £264.71 on the war memorial and the parish bank account still has a ring-fenced figure of £189.39 for future expenditure on the ongoing project. The £454.10p was transferred into the parish account on 7th Jan' 2019.

Refuse bin siting and responsibilities of Lowca residents

Everyone has refuse bins; they are part of daily life and on allotted days Copeland send the bin lorry to empty the bin that has been put outside the relevant property. However, nothing is simple and the question was asked as to what was the correct protocol about storage of bins.

The issue of bins being left outside on pavements all the time was raised by a councillor following a question from a resident. Therefore, the question was asked of the Waste and Enforcement Services team at Copeland. This is what they expect of all residents across the borough, not just Lowca.

Please present your bin for collection, by 7am ensuring no obstruction is caused by your bin on collection, but no earlier than the night before.

And that you should collect your bin and return it to the confines of your property as soon as possible, following collection.

We would expect the bins to be placed in a safe place, not causing any danger of being hit by a car or causing an obstruction for prams, wheelchair users etc.

For problems with bins, which appear to be blown into cars when they should be in the confines of the property or just left out on pavements from one collection to another, resort to the mobile phone, photograph the bin, its location and most have a number on of the property it is allocated too. Then contact the Waste Team at Copeland, 01946 598300 or email info@copeland.gov.uk and raise the issue directly with them.

LOWCA OVER 50 CLUB

We have been asked to promote the Lowca Over 50 Club. Details of what actually goes on are somewhat sketchy, but we are reliably informed that they meet in the Lowca Social Club at 1.30pm on Wednesday's. We were told that they have "the craic" which is actually Irish and means interactive, laughing, singing, typically with drinking and / or music. Now we don't know about drinking and music, but we are told bingo does come into the equation. More importantly they organize trips to other venues for meals and places to visit.

If you wish to investigate what their "craic" is, make yourself known at 1.30 on a Wednesday afternoon.



And finally, a school sign to finish on

They say "that all things come to those who wait" well Cllr Tom Milligan has waited for over a year for the new larger school sign that has finally appeared before the school at the entrance to Lowca. The old one, which was clearly there in May 2017 when Google street view went through, disappeared and was replaced with a very small version. Tom has made his request for the bigger sign for over a year and been promised it on numerous occasions.

All to no avail. Then out of the blue earlier this month it appeared. The photo confirms it has finally arrived, so a big thank you to Tom for constantly reminding the parish council, the County Councillor Martin Barbour and Highway's department that on this occasion size did matter he wanted the bigger sign not the paltry smaller version.