

Feock Parish Council News Update

September and October 2015



Welcome to our latest Parish News Update. Below you will find set out just some of the ongoing issues and concerns which your Parish Council are currently taking forward on your behalf.

Don't forget members of the public are more than welcome to come along to Council meetings, these are public meetings and there is a 15 minute session at the start of the meeting for residents to make representations to the Council on issues they are concerned about.

There is also lots of information about the work the Council are doing on our website www.feockpc.com (please note this will soon be changing to www.feockparishcouncil.co.uk)

Devoran Park New Play Equipment being installed in September!

The Parish Council agreed at their meeting in July to fully fund the new play equipment, which comprises of a tower system, 3 x swings (2 flat seated and one birdsnest) and a Sammy the Seal Rocker.

The installation of the equipment has now started and will take approximately 2 weeks (weather dependant). During this time, access to the park will be restricted, for example when large machinery is being used, however when it is safe to do so the park will be partially open.



Once the equipment is installed there will be a grand opening, please check our website, Facebook page and the noticeboards for details of when this is and please come along!

We have also been successful in being awarded funding by Cory Environmental to improve access in the park. This will include the installation of two pathways down the grass slopes from each gateway, new benches made from recycled materials, planting of fruit trees over the benches to give some shade and some work to the bank around the slide, including some log stepping stones up the side of the slide.



Grand opening of defibrillator phone box – Saturday 26th September

The second session of the CPR and defibrillator training is currently being arranged, thank you to everyone who has volunteered and attended so far.

The defibrillator in the phonebox at the bottom of Market Street in Devoran is now in place. A grand opening is being held at 10.15am on Saturday 26th September (to coincide with the Railway Centenary Celebrations that weekend) so please come along! Other locations for additional defibrillators around the Parish are currently being considered by the Access & Amenities Committee.

The defibrillator can be used by anyone, training is not necessary, the defibrillator actually talks you through how to use it and will not allow a shock to be delivered unless it decides that the heart is in a 'shockable' rhythm so it is very safe for anyone to use. It is portable so can be collected if needed and taken to the patient.

If you have to use the defibrillator please return it to the Parish Council Office so that it can be reset and put back into the phonebox.

Traffic and Highways issues

The Parish Council are currently investigating traffic issues. The Council has commissioned a feasibility study to be carried out for Devoran village, this will consider the installation of a virtual pavement along Greenbank Road (on the opposite side to the creek), The Old Tram Road to be classified as a 'Quiet Lane' and 30mph limits in Devoran village to be reduced to 20mph limits

It is envisaged that a feasibility study will also be required for Carnon Downs to look at the traffic issues raised at the recently held Traffic Forum and it is likely this will be carried out next year. There are also issues within Feock village that residents would like to see addressed, again the Council are considering these.

There is a page specifically set up on the website for residents to be kept up to date with progress with this work, go to the "Projects" tab and then "Traffic Issues".

If you have any comments regarding traffic in the parish please contact the Parish Clerk or one of the Councillors (a list can be found on the website or in the Parish Council Office).

Carnon Gate Roundabout Replanting and Sponsorship

The Council are very aware that residents have been telling them for some time that they would like to see the Carnon Gate roundabout tidied up as it has been neglected by the previous sponsors. Over the past 6 months the Parish Council have spent a lot of time trying to find a cost effective solution to improve the condition and appearance of the roundabout. Councillors came up with several design ideas that they felt would reflect the history of the local area and also make a nice entranceway to the Parish which they were ready to start consulting residents on.



The Council also held numerous meetings with experts from Cormac regarding the highway regulations that needed to be adhered to and the Tree Officer with regards to which plants would survive and thrive on the roundabout. This resulted in a proposal for phased works to the roundabout, the first being to totally clear it of the current weeds and plants, lay a weed membrane, make improvements to the soil in preparation for planting and covering the roundabout with pea-gravel.

The second phase of works would have been to plant mature trees and flowers when it was the best time of the year for these to survive. Testing of the soil showed that it was a very harsh environment for plants as it has poor quality soil, is water-logged and a frost pocket in the winter, and very dry in the summer which resulted in the Council being very restricted on the type of plants that would be able to survive and thrive on the roundabout.

At their Parish Council meeting on Monday 6th July, the Council considered the price provided by Cormac for the phase 1 works to the roundabout. The cost provided for this work was more than twice the £5000 that the Parish Council had budgeted for and the Parish Council came to the conclusion that this was not the best use of tax payers money. The works to the roundabout are purely cosmetic and the Council felt that this money would be better put towards other projects in Parish, such as road safety improvements works or recreational areas.

The Parish Council are very disappointed that their hard work and plans have not come to fruition and understand that residents may also be disappointed that at the present time there will be no improvements made to the roundabout. If you would like to find out more about the work that has been done please feel free to call into the Parish Council office and speak to the Parish Clerk who will be able to tell you more about this project.

Report a problem online

There is now a form available on the website www.feockpc.com (soon to be www.feockparishcouncil.co.uk) under Community Info – Report a Problem, to report a problem or safety issue to the Parish Council on their land or missing footpath signs, overgrown verges, blocked drains etc. or you can still phone us on 01872 863333 or call into the office.

Feock Reading Room Re-development

The Parish Councils plans for the conversion of the Reading Room into one dwelling have now been submitted to Cornwall Council for planning permission. The planning reference number is PA15/06583 and the full application is available to view on Cornwall Council's website under the Planning section, the plans can also be downloaded from our website, viewed in the entranceway to the Parish Council Office and also on the noticeboard at Retallack Park in Feock.

Micro Library in Parish Council Office, Devoran

It is hoped that the Micro Library will be installed in the entranceway to the office by the end of October. The Bookswap is currently at capacity, so we ask that people bring no more books but please feel to take away more than one!

Feock Neighbourhood Development Plan Update

We have recently made some significant advances towards the final public consultation on our Neighbourhood Plan. We have had further meetings and other contacts with Cornwall Council and ironed out several issues of concern. Many of these relate to how we set about retaining the unique character and beauty of our parish from unwanted, inconsiderate and inappropriate housing development.



Among other things we have identified what we consider to be the “settlement boundaries” and “sensitive edges” around our settlements, those for example which back onto local, national and international designated sites such as the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Devoran Conservation Area, the World Heritage Site and other areas along the creek and countryside boundaries within the Parish which we do not want to see spoiled by development.

With most of the building blocks now in place, we are anxious to proceed to the final stages of the acceptance of the Neighbourhood Plan as quickly as possible.

There is still a lot of work to be done which will take a few more weeks before we are ready for the final public consultation to begin. We need, for example to review all our documentation, update it where necessary and add a few final details and then we need to be able to edit the huge amount of documentation to make it a manageable document which can not only be “user friendly” but also retain all the necessary ingredients which you, our Parishioners, wish to see in the final Plan.

Our current timetable is for further meetings in September and a commencement of the final public consultation process as soon as possible after that, hopefully in early October. It is now likely that the final referendum will be in early 2016, but as with all things, there are sometimes delays outside our control and we are working, as a voluntary body, on the hugely complex process of setting out a fully comprehensive Neighbourhood Plan, which will be a tool for development across a wide spectrum of Parish life for many years to come. Better then to get it right first time, even if it takes a while longer, than forge ahead with something which is not fully fit for purpose.

We will keep everyone informed over the coming weeks of progress and details of how we will go about the final public consultation, so please, watch this space, keep an eye on Parish Council minutes and notice boards and, as I have said before, don't be afraid to ask us any questions if you are not sure what is going on.

Thanks to all those involved in the process including of course yourselves as Parishioners and all other interested parties.

Cllr Bob Richards, Chair of Feock Neighbourhood Development Plan

Community Transport Scheme

The Parish Council agreed at their September meeting for Community Transport Scheme to continue indefinitely. So far the scheme has provided over 170 journeys for people within the parish. The scheme continues to attract new users, the majority of trips are to help people to get to the Doctors Surgeries within the Parish, but also trips to the Spar shop, Hairdressers, Trelissick Gardens and visiting friends. We would like to thank all the wonderful volunteer drivers who continue to offer their time to provide this essential service to people who really need it.



The booking line is open between 9.30am and 3.00pm Monday to Thursday, and Fridays between 9.30am and 1.00pm. The car service itself is available Monday to Friday from 9.30 am to 3.00pm (however if you need transport outside of these times or at weekends please contact us and we will do our best to help).

There is a recommended voluntary donation payable at the time of the journey which goes directly back into running the scheme.

To book a journey or volunteer as a driver please call 07904 547822.

External Audit successfully completed

The external auditors have now confirmed to the Parish Council that they have concluded the audit of our accounts. The Council are pleased that no issues were raised by the External Auditors and the audit has been concluded successfully. The Notice of Conclusion of Audit has now been issued and a copy of this document, together with the Statement of Accounts can be downloaded from the Finance page of the website.



National Association of Local Council Star Council Awards

The Parish Council is delighted that the Local Transport Scheme has been longlisted for the “Outstanding Local Council Project of the Year” award and Debra Roberts, our Parish Clerk has been longlisted for “Clerk of the Year”. We will hear by the end of September if we have been successful in being shortlisted for either award.

Next Parish Council Meetings

The next Parish Council meetings are being held as follows, all in the Parish Council Office in Devoran (unless stated otherwise) starting at 7.15pm.

Thursday 24th September – Access & Amenities Committee

Tuesday 29th September – Finance & General Purposes Committee

Monday 5th October – Full Parish Council

Thursday 16th October – Access & Amenities Committee (provisional)

Tuesday 3rd November – Full Parish Council

Monday 7th December – Full Parish Council

The Planning Committee Meetings are held regularly, generally monthly, Finance and General Purposes Committee meetings are held on a quarterly basis and the Access and Amenities Committee meet generally on the third Thursday of each month. Check the website and noticeboards for the dates and agenda, or call us at the Parish Office for details of items on the agenda and the next meeting date.

‘Councillors surgeries’ will be held prior to the start of each full Parish Council Meeting from 6.30pm, where residents can come and discuss any issues they have with councillors. There is a Public Participation session at the start of each Parish Council and Planning Meeting where residents can raise issues with the Council.

New Devoran Ward Councillor

The Parish Council is pleased to announce that a new ward member for Devoran has been co-opted, Paul Lightfoot from Carnon Downs was co-opted at the July Parish Council meeting, a warm welcome to Paul from everyone on the Parish Council.

Cllr Christine Shefford (Feock) and Cllr Phil Allen (Carnon Downs) have also now joined the Council’s Planning Committee.

Parish Council Offices Opening Hours

The Parish Council offices opening hours are as follows, residents can call into the office during these times discuss any issues of concern with the Parish Council staff.

Mondays	9.00am – 5.30pm
Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays	9.00am – 3.00pm
Fridays	9.00am – 1.00pm

You can contact the office on **01872 863333** to discuss any issues or arrange a time to come in, alternatively you can contact Debra Roberts (Parish Clerk) by email debra@feockparishcouncil.co.uk or Debbie Searle (Assistant Clerk) debbie@feockparishcouncil.co.uk

Social Media



You can 'like us' on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/Feockparishcouncil> to be kept up to date with information regarding the Council, such as Full Council and Planning Committee meeting dates, agendas, meeting minutes, local events, press releases etc.



You can also follow us on Twitter **@feockpc**