

FRIETH VILLAGE SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

August 2024

Welcome to Your Summer-Extra Edition

Ah, the perfect British summer, there's simply nothing like it ... and of course, this is simply nothing like it. Hopefully, you've managed to be outside at the right time to catch the sun when it does appear – at random.

Let's also acknowledge that this edition is exceptional to intentions, as we don't generally put something out this month. Instead, we aspire to the European habit of disappearing for most of August, but as you can see, we didn't get away with it – here's the latest news from the village.

Frieth Summer Fete will happen – with your help

Most of us enjoy the village fete, and the opportunity to get together as a community. As you might guess, making the fete happen depends on a sizable team of volunteers, firstly on Saturday and Sunday to build gazebos, set up and make sure everything is clean etc. On the day, we need people to run the stalls and activities and then finally to clear up after the event. In recent years, the event had become increasingly dependent on the same loyal volunteers and its future was in jeopardy. Fortunately, we had new people volunteer last year, which was fantastic and made a huge difference.

Once again, we need more people to step forward this year, to enable everyone who volunteers to have spare time to enjoy the event themselves, (as well as provide help). So please consider giving us an hour or so of your time, on one or both days (Saturday and Sunday).

To give you an idea, we need more help with the following:

- Setting up the day before (Sat.)
- Horseshoe throwing stall
- Welly throwing contest on the school field
- Running the raffle
- Running the rowing, (recording timings etc.)
- Running the bottle Tombola
- Help with the Dog Photo booth (tbc)
- Help with clearing up



Each activity has a designated 'lead' so there will be someone who can guide you on the day.

If you are willing to join the team, please drop a note to info@fvs.org.uk, indicating what time(s) you are available to help, and how best to contact you.

**JOIN
US!**

Another way to support; we need donations of:

- Raffle prizes – please bring them to the Village Hall on Saturday morning
- Cakes and biscuits – please bring them to the Village Hall on Sunday morning
- Bottles for the tombola, more details to follow on bottle donations (lead is Lisa Sanderson)

Electronic copies of the newsletter are now available via the Frieth Village Society website: www.fvs.org.uk
We welcome all your feedback, thoughts and ideas for future issues.

Please send all messages to our **NEW** email address: newsletter@fvs.org.uk



Planned Enlargement of Frieth School

From the Head Teacher, Martin Gosling

Firstly, thank you for your time in reading this communication from Frieth CEC School regarding a subject which I know resonates strongly throughout the local community. For those who aren't aware, we plan to admit approximately 10 more children per year, for the next 5 years. I can assure you that this decision wasn't taken lightly and followed several strategy meetings with the Governing Body which focused on securing the long-term future of the school. Schools are funded by an allocation of money per pupil and, speaking candidly, without these increased numbers the school would not be financially viable and at significant risk of closure. I fully understand your concerns and frustrations with traffic and parking, and of course, the school has considered the local infrastructure, with this increase in size. We have already taken several measures which include:

1. An agreement with The Yew Tree public house to use the car park and for the children to walk the remainder of their journey into school.
2. The implementation of a car-sharing app 'Home Run'.
3. Increased investment in our wrap-around care, including staggered pick-up options.
4. Before-school clubs: From September, there will be a before-school clubs from Wednesday - Friday.
5. Additional parking on Parmoor Park Farm and the avenue of trees next to the cricket club.
6. From September, we will be moving to staggered entry, e.g. by age group.

Recently, some of the Governing Body members and I had a constructive meeting with representatives from the local community who shared their concerns, and I am keen for the school and the residents to continue to build a positive relationship.

Key School Dates for the Diary:

- **Thurs 5th Sept.** Children Return to School - **Fri 11th Oct.** School Harvest Service (St John the Evangelist)

Frieth Village Society (FVS) Response, From David House, Chairman

FVS

On 1st July, Amanda Hopkins (Local Parish Councillor) and I attended a meeting with the Head Teacher and the Chair and School Governors representatives to discuss the current traffic issues, the planned developments of the school and their impact on the village/community. In addition to the immediate increase in traffic through the village, there is also the potential future build of additional classroom(s) to consider. During the discussion, we represented views from the village, in particular from the FVS AGM discussion. We agreed that a thriving school is important to Frieth, but achieving this must be balanced with the wider community's needs. We concluded that:

- **Pupil numbers** in 2022/23 were 119 and in 2024/25 are proposed to be 155, the proposed additional 10-15 p.a. will be capped at 196.

-**The Car sharing app** is a positive idea although take up/adoption is known to be low.

-**Staggered entry times** to try to spread out the traffic and avoid the current 'gridlock' situations: An increase in pupil numbers potentially negates this measure since more traffic is coming into the village overall. Plus, since related pressures on parents include their work times, unavoidably running late, etc. many are less likely to adhere to them.

-**Farm parking:** Offering parking at the top end of the village means most cars still drive through the village (past the school), which seems less helpful. In bad weather, we doubt parents will choose this option.

-**School bus:** Of all the measures discussed, we believe the provision of a school bus would be most helpful for the situation. Cost is of course a major concern for the school, but parents who choose Frieth CEC School from neighbouring areas should be prepared to support such an initiative and FVS also offered to help.

-**More engagement/consultation** with the village is vital to find solutions that work for all stakeholders.

We suggested Martin use our Newsletter to engage the village and we're pleased to include his first article here. FVS will continue the dialogue with Martin and the board of Governors, and feedback via the newsletter and our website. If you'd like to share your thoughts, please email me at chair@fvs.org.uk