

# Sutton Poyntz Society



*Affiliated to the Council for the Protection of Rural England (Dorset Branch)*

## TRAFFIC CALMING - PLAISTERS LANE AND SUTTON ROAD

The SPS Committee invited to its January meeting Mr Tim Westwood, Transportation Manager of Dorset C.C., to discuss the vexed problem of the amount of traffic passing through the village. The invitation was extended at the suggestion of Inspector Paul Boundy, the Dorset police traffic expert, who was consulted on the matter but was unable to offer any solutions of a practical nature. Below is a summary of the main points made by Mr Westwood:

- 1 Traffic problems in Sutton Poyntz are not unique; whilst sympathetic, he was not likely to be able to offer any magic or immediate solutions.
- 2 Speeding is a universal problem, but because of the hazards in Plaisters Lane and Sutton Road speeds in absolute terms are low here. The series of hazards, including narrow stretches of road and parked cars, do – in spite of what residents think – reinforce in motorists' minds the need for care.
- 3 The growing national problem of increased traffic is likely to be proportionately worse in rural areas and the only long-term solution is the 'national' one of reduced road usage.
- 4 He felt that his team in Dorset were good at telling residents what will not work but not so good at saying what should be done practically to tackle traffic problems. It was his belief that many of the more popular traffic safety measures can cause as many problems as they solve.
- 5 Specific comments about Plaisters Lane and Sutton Road were:
  - (i) do not introduce passing-bays; experience shows they lead to increased speeding;
  - (ii) do not widen the roads as this would encourage speeding;
  - (iii) keep these roads as they are;
  - (iv) rumble-strips are unlikely to be allowed unless they are 1/4 mile away from the nearest dwelling (or in very special circumstances, which do not apply here);
  - (v) it is the responsibility of individuals if they wish to protect their property from encroachment by vehicles; but placing obstacles can be dangerous if they cause damage to persons or vehicles and those responsible for the obstacles could be liable to face legal action.
- 6 Mr Westwood agreed to look at a number of improvements:
  - (a) warning signs at the top of Plaisters Lane to indicate that it is a 'single lane' highway;
  - (b) a 'road narrows' sign at the area near Sutton Court Lawns;
  - (c) a rationalisation of current signposts;
  - (d) new signs showing 'Pedestrians in Carriageway' and 'slow' markings to be replaced just south of the junction at the top of Plaisters Lane.

### 7 Other points raised with Mr Westwood:

\*\* 20mph restriction: At the time of the meeting this could be obtained only by specific order from the Secretary of State, but a recent announcement says he has relinquished this tight control and it may be possible for the County Council to allow 20mph restrictions to be set in place. In a subsequent phone conversation Mr Westwood confirmed that the Secretary of State had only designated responsibility to county councils where it could be shown that physical changes were already being made. It would be unlikely that a 20mph limit would be introduced in Sutton Road in the near future.

\*\* 'Drive slowly through the village' signs. These would have to be agreed with the Borough Council and paid for by the Society. In Mr Westwood's view, they are a waste of time unless they clearly demarcate a 'gateway' into a village from a rural development.

Since the meeting, Mr Westwood's Department has carried out some changes in the signposting and

more may be in the pipeline. The problem, however, will not go away because in the final analysis it is not possible to control the actions of individual drivers, many of whom seem to be oblivious to the dangers of speeding in both these roads.

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#### VICTORIAN STREET FAYRE - 28 JUNE 1998

Support for Charities. The result of the poll conducted by the Street Fayre Committee was: MRI Scanner - 42 votes; CLIC - 30 votes; Trimar - 27 votes; Motor Neurone - 18 votes. The first two of these, with Water Aid, will therefore be the charities to be supported this year. The organisers wish to thank residents for attending the public meeting on 29 January and for their offers of assistance at the event itself.

Tombola Stall. The Society has again accepted the Fayre Committee's invitation to run the tombola. With this in mind, we hope you will give the SPS Committee your backing. The aim is to exceed the profit of £740 the tombola made in 1996. Committee members will be approaching you in the coming months for your support in providing items for the stall; please delve into your cupboards, pockets, bags, and the good nature of your associates to give suitable prizes - bottles, toys, meals in restaurants, vouchers for Carribean holidays, etc! Anything you can provide will be most welcome to help us all achieve a record-breaking contribution to the three charities. The Society's co-ordinating Committee member for this exercise is Peter Jones (tel: 833288).

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#### PLANNING MATTERS - Proposed large agricultural building off Puddledock Lane

In the last Newsletter members were urged to write to the WPBC Chief Planning Officer to express serious concern at this proposed development and support the strenuous efforts of the SPS Committee to convince planners to reject the scheme. From contacts with the CPO it appears that many letters were received, which have succeeded in reinforcing the Committee's action. Thank you for your support.

The latest news is that the Planning Committee has again postponed consideration of the application, which will not now take place in March. In the meantime we have been promised the backing of our local councillors, and members of the Planning Committee have been lobbied. The CPRE is adding its weight to the campaign, and the Society's Chairman has held discussions with officials of the Environment Agency and other experts on the possible dangers of flooding and on the legal liability for damage which might occur as a result of the development. Let us hope that the application will be turned down when it eventually comes before the Planning Committee.

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#### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

\*\* THURSDAY 18 MARCH at 7.30 pm in the Sutton Room - the Society's A.G.M. This will be followed by a talk by Mr Wilfred Weld, the Lord of the Manor of Sutton Poyntz, on his family's connection with Sutton Poyntz.

Nominations for Committee membership for 1998/9 should be submitted to the Secretary (D.Brierley, 3 Sutton Close, tel: 833244) by Monday 9 March

\*\* SATURDAY 21 MARCH at 10.30 am in the Sutton Room - 'A DAY OF 1,000 CAKES'  
This event is organised by the Village W.I. and affords an opportunity to buy delicious home-made cakes and preserves. Refreshments, including coffee, hot cross buns and Easter biscuits, will be served and there will be a raffle. Admission is £1. Please come to support your local W.I.

\*\* WEDNESDAY 1 APRIL at 3 pm in the Sutton Room - A talk on WILTON HOUSE by the Estate Manager. Refreshments will be served. Non-W.I. members - 50p.