

AN INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY INSPIRED PROJECT

# BLACKSNAPE COMMUNITY NEWS

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

SUMMER QUARTER: AUGUST, 2006.

## THE LAUNCH OF A COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Hoddesden is a great place, but it isn't Blacksnape – we felt that it's time for Blacksnape to develop as a community and to have its own newsletter, while working in close association with our

nearest neighbour.

Do you know your neighbours? Do you talk to people around you? Or is Blacksnape, to you, simply a drive-through with no community feel to it?

Whatever your feelings,

we're sure you'd like to join with us to try to make Blacksnape more of an active community.....

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Why we believe that a community newsletter is necessary.*
- *Our urgent need for traffic calming measures.*
- *What can a newsletter do for you?*

## TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES: A COMMUNITY PRIORITY

One issue of deep concern to Blacksnape residents is the speed of the traffic cutting through the area. Where Belmont, Edgworth, Tockholes and Pleasington all have traffic calming measures in place, Blacksnape provides a straight run for drivers wishing to get along in a hurry, with only an occasional speed camera to slow things down. We'd like to see this change.

Blackburn with Darwen highways department are equivocal on the subject of traffic calming measures, yet it is fairly recently that the previously unregulated road to Edgworth was changed to a 40mph limit, an obvious realisation of the speeding traffic problems. When we recently expressed surprise that Edgworth (a village normally clogged with cars

which act as a natural impediment to speeding) has received painted lines demarcating walking areas at the side of the road, and a traffic speed sign, the council's highways engineer told us:

*"To treat highway problems within rural areas there is approximately £10,000 available within the councils Local Transport Plan. £10,000 sounds like a lot of money but in highway terms it is not. Speeding is not just an isolated problem in Blacksnape. Most roads within the borough, urban or rural suffer from a speeding problem and there is not enough money available to address this problem. Blacksnape Road together with many other roads has been considered for the annual traffic calming programme but due to financial constraints could not be included in the construction programme. For*

*this reason this section of road was considered for speed enforcement. Ideally a safety camera would be placed to address this speeding problem during the day and night. However, the Department for Transport has strict rules and guidelines for safety cameras and did not grant permission for a camera on Blacksnape Road. Within the safety camera programme 20% of all the enforcement time can be dedicated to community concern sites. Blacksnape Road is one of the three sites within the borough who gained approval for this special programme.*

*Interactive signs are a new form of trying to slow traffic down. They have been tried in other parts of the country but not in this borough. To gain an indication how effective they are and if they suffer from vandalism, a set of signs have been placed, about two months ago, within Pleasing-*



## GOOD NEWS

The newsletter isn't all about campaigning for change. We would also like to build a sense of community spirit & would like to hear about anyone's news and celebrations e.g. weddings, births, exam successes, & professional training etc.

Does anyone know anything about the history of Blacksnape? We believe that many in the community would be interested in the history of our village.

Please send your stories/news, digital photographs to one of the addresses overleaf.

Deadline for Autumn issue;

**1st October 2006**

Contact us;

Hatton Bank  
21 Blacksnape Road  
Blacksnape  
E-mail: [sueskipper@tinyonline.co.uk](mailto:sueskipper@tinyonline.co.uk)

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Blacksnape  
E-mail: [dawnrobinsonwalsh@supanet.com](mailto:dawnrobinsonwalsh@supanet.com)

## TRAFFIC CALMING: VILLAGE MEETING

We intend to hold a public meeting about the urgent need for traffic calming in our village. We would be most grateful if as many villagers as possible could attend.

Venue: The Red Lion, Blacksnape.

Date: Tuesday, 22nd August, 2006

At: 7pm

**PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU WILL BE ABLE TO ATTEND.**

## CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

ton Village. This location was chosen because this was the area where previously a mobile interactive sign was vandalised two hours after it was placed there. Initially surveys of these signs concluded that they have a slowing down effect on passing traffic, there are no operational problems and the signs are not being vandalised.

To determine how these signs operate in a different environment various other locations were considered. Edgworth was chosen because of the speed of traffic travelling through the village, location of a primary school, community centre, recreation area and church. In addition Edgworth has two walking buses in operation and to improve the safety of parents with children crossing the road this area was selected.

If further funding becomes available Blacksnape could be the next area, however, residents in other rural areas will feel that these signs are just as much justified in their area. To resolve this matter a list of sites will have to be presented to the Executive Member for Regeneration who will have to take a decision on this matter.”



We feel that Blacksnape is a special case in terms of traffic calming/speed reducing measures. It has a riding school, with riders hacking out on the roads to reach bridleways and people walking up to use the riding facilities – this is a pretty dire experience because drivers rarely slow down for pedestrians on country roads. It has a children’s play area and playing fields which are well-used not just by Blacksnape residents. It has areas of very narrow pavements, and sometimes, no pavement at all. Due to the limited bus service, it has cyclists. Most importantly of all, it has children, who cannot walk safely along the road to visit their friends, go to the park, etc.

We’d like your ideas – we have a few ourselves and have suggested chicanes,

speed camera, flashing speed signs at each end of Blacksnape, etc., to the council. We’ve also thought about the children of Blacksnape making and painting signs to attach to street lights – simply ‘please slow down – we play here’. But we’re sure there will be a wealth of ideas out there to make Blacksnape a better place to live and a more active community.

Let’s raise awareness of this important local issue!

Contact Janet Anderson, your MP, at the House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA. Or e-mail through; [writetothem.com](mailto:writetothem.com)

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**Liberal Democrat**

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**Liberal Democrat**

If you do email or write to one of our political representatives, would you kindly let us have a copy of your correspondence and any reply received.

**As a side issue: Can anyone explain why Blacksnape is classed as Marsh House, when we feel that it would be best represented as a rural constituency?**



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