

From the Parish Clerk

REMINDER!

**Public Meeting on Saturday 3rd September,
Parker Hall, Parsonage Croft
at 11.30 am**

(please walk or car share if you can, we're expecting a lot of interest but there are not a lot of parking spaces – thank you)

The Etchingam Safety Action Group (a sub-committee of Etchingam Parish Council) will present and explain the thinking behind a proposed application to East Sussex County Council Highways Department to consider and – hopefully – agree substantial road safety engineering works in the village to protect *all* road users.

HELP US CREATE A SAFER LOWER SPEED ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL ETCHINGHAM RESIDENTS

Having established village opinion on the necessity of such improvements you, the residents, also need to consider the financial implication as the maximum funding available from the Highways Department would be 50%. Match Funding as it is known.

Current best estimates suggest the total cost of the proposed improvements would be £80,000. The Council has to be able to prove to the Highways Department that it can fund this 50% to trigger a feasibility study, the precursor to any works commencing. Although the Council has reserves specifically earmarked for capital expenditure such as this there are other legitimate calls on these reserves so it is unlikely a total of £40,000 could be met this way. If the Council were to make up the shortfall by applying to the Public Works Loan Board – by far the least expensive form of borrowing available to parish councils – it must be able to prove that it is the wish of a majority of the residents of the Parish to do so. This is all

taken care of by the use of the Survey that will be with you shortly, if you haven't already received it, with your regular post.

The bottom line is that if the Parish Council was successful in applying for a loan of £40,000 - the maximum and likely to be less taking reserves into account - this would equate (at the time of going to print) to £6.12 per annum at Band D on our rate bills if other savings cannot be found.

Please try to be there, the meeting will have to be over by 1pm at the latest to allow for another booking coming in so back home in time for lunch.