

AGENDA ITEM 78b ROAD SAFETY WITHIN THE PARISH

2 issues—Speeding & parking neither of which are unique to our parish.

SPEEDING

- Long standing issue in both villages.
- Exacerbated by ‘pinch points’.
- 4 meetings have been had with Highways operatives to discuss and seek advice over the last 3 years.

Options

Temporary signage. Which have been put in place. Ideally, should be moved every 4-6 weeks.

Permanent VAS. Expensive, Needs permanent power source. Cannot be moved.

Mobile VAS.

PC owned.

Someone needs to take operational ownership of the VAS.

New poles to site the VAS unit will need to be put in place by Highways under license.

Brackets are attached to the poles so that only the unit needs moving.

Moved from A to B by us.

Remote data collection important to monitor.

Moving VAS reduces motorist familiarity, as shown by data collection.

Sites identified for mobile VAS

UB.

1. Warwick Rd 30mph sign inside village gate by 31 Warwick Rd.
2. Village gate approaching from Wormleighton before the Village Hall.
3. Warwick Road travelling west by Dial House...a pinch point.

LB.

1. Village gate approaching from Aston Le Walls.
2. New pole sited on Banbury Road just inside the village gate before crossroads.

Rumble strips

Although these were mentioned, highways are very reluctant to recommend due to noise, maintenance and responsibility for damage etc.

Parking

Long standing issue in any village which has a pub, shop, church or school.

Different times of the day bring larger than normal numbers to a small area where the parking is inadequate. A combination of numbers and inconsiderate parking contribute to the problem.

LB. Millers Close.

This is a pinch point on the Banbury Road. Inadequate parking for residents despite the ‘layby’. There have been issues with passing vehicles striking parked vehicles. Highways have land just beyond Millers Close which could provide a further ‘layby’ type parking, but will be limited. This will also require a license, funding and will be expensive.

UB. Village Hall. We are very fortunate to have off road parking for the VH. Currently 20+ spaces. However, this has been proven to be inadequate and identified in the Parish Plan as a problem. Many vehicles park along the highway opposite the village hall as well as in Frog lane, often obstructing driveways etc. The VH have 20+ major events this calendar year and probably more this year. The new playground was anticipated to exacerbate the problem. Fortunately, the PC has land at the road end of the Charles Cowper Playing Field, which can be utilized as overflow parking. Work is currently going on to provide much more off-road parking to offset this issue. It is anticipated that at least 40 extra spaces can be created in the overflow car park.

UB. London End/Warwick Road junction opposite the Plough PH.

There are 3 distinct problems.

1. Inadequate off-road parking.
2. Inconsiderate parking.
3. Speeding into the village from the Byfield direction.

Entering the village from Byfield presents a number of traffic calming measures.

1. You are driving up a steady incline towards the crossroads with Welsh Road.
2. You have a sharp incline from the crossroads to the brow of the hill by 31 Warwick Road.
3. The Village gate is clearly marked and visible.
4. 30mpgh signs are clearly visible.
5. The visual effect is that of a pinch point as you approach the brow of the hill.

However, many drivers, some of them local failed to take note of the warnings. To my knowledge, there have only been 2 accidents outside the pub in the 34 years that I have lived in UB. Both speed-related, but no doubt many near misses, which are unreported, as would be the case elsewhere.

The car park at the back of the pub is small but is off road. There is a large sign opposite pointing to the car park. However, access in/out onto Warwick Road is not easy, especially if vehicles are parked on Warwick Road.

Parking along Warwick Road from the brow of the hill towards the Village garage narrows the carriageway. Drivers also park along London End.

The problems highlighted recently by parishioners are due to the inconsiderate parking down London End, blocking drives, turning the road into a chicane with narrow pinch points making driving difficult for passing vehicles. There is also inconsiderate parking down to the junction and on the grass verges, reducing road width and visibility.

I recently met with Jane Richards, Landlady of the Plough and Matthew Clarke from Highways to discuss these issues, none of which are new. Jane is very keen to work with the Parish Council and Highways to improve road safety within the Parish, and will help in any way she can.

Points to note.

There is very little that Highways or the Police can do to enforce parking restrictions without legislation and even then, enforcement is difficult. Both Highways and the Police are reluctant to go down this route. On the whole Vehicles are parked in a sensible fashion and do not obstruct the highway or footpaths. Inconsiderate parking and speeding are the main culprits here.

THE WAY FORWARD

Speeding.

Raising funds to buy a VAS unit with licenses etc., will cost about £4000

This could come from PC funds, grants and donations.

Buy one unit now and consider a second unit.

Parking.

You can't influence the volume of vehicles which need to park.

You can influence where they park.

Education. Use of road side signage, public notices and social media to increase public awareness.

Councillor Dennis Burton

On behalf of Boddington Parish Council

26th September 2018