

Traffic and Parking Working Group

Report to the Parish Assembly, 25th May 2023, by Diana Smith (chair)

Looking back at Parish Council minutes over the past decade and beyond, it is clear the problem of Traffic and Parking in the village has been a topic that has arisen time after time. The need for action was highlighted by the results of the September 2021 survey carried out by TAPWG. The volume of traffic is beyond our control, but I am pleased to say that on 10th November last year the Parish Council passed a motion to proceed with the parking plan produced by TAPWG and OCC Highways. This plan has double yellow heritage lines to improve safety and sight lines at junctions, four parking bays on the west side of the High Street and single yellow heritage lines to allow additional parking overnight and at weekends. In January 2023 the Parish Council discussed the use of the bays and single yellow lines and sent their preference to OCC. These preferences were altered by "local Councillors and the Traffic Team". The Parish Council has paid OCC the fee for the Traffic Regulation Order and we are now waiting for the Public Consultation to begin. When this starts, we will ask for details to be displayed on the village website together with the plans. Please send your comments when the Consultation begins. It is important that positive as well as any negative thoughts are put forward. Changes such as use of bays may be possible at this point. If the plan is implemented, it will be reviewed after a year.

Alongside the Parking plan is a move to improve pedestrian safety around the Eastfield Lane/ High Street junction with establishing a virtual crossing outside the Greyhound. This would be paid for by OCC but can only go ahead if sight lines in that area are improved by the use of double yellow lines.

Members of TAPWG have done a great deal of work investigating the possibility of providing electric charging points for residents without drives. The OCC Charging Project team have visited the Village but unfortunately informed us that there are not enough houses without drives for them to implement a scheme.

As you will all be aware, we now have a 20mph speed limit throughout the village. To back this up and encourage drivers to keep to the limit we now have our own Speed Watch team. This team has been set up and headed by a member of TAPWG. The group and operation sites have had to be registered by the police and members have done on-line training. We got out with speed guns in April and expect to do random checks every week. More members would be very welcome. Everyone can help by keeping to the speed limit and thus slowing down other vehicles.

The only area in which we have made no progress is pedestrian safety in the upper and lower narrows. Both sites pose great difficulties in finding a solution. The lower narrows has high voltage cables which preclude bollards to protect the pavement and the upper narrows is too narrow for even a pavement. We will keep looking for an answer.
