

Annual Parish Meeting – Monday 21 April 2008
Highways, Footpaths and Lighting Committee

BATHFORD HILL/HIGH STREET

A survey is to be carried out by B&NES to substantiate a weight limit on Bathford Hill and the High Street (*initially requested 11 June 2007*). This however would not apply to service buses, agricultural vehicles, plated HGVs and deliveries to dwellings or of an established business premises. NAVTEQ were requested earlier in the year to use alternative routes - a major contributory factor in vehicle increase. How effective this will now be in the light of the closure of the A36 remains to be seen.

Diligence is also required on exit/entrance to the High Street from Kingsdown as double parking dangerously restricts access.

Despite repeated requests, Priority Point 1 (*at the British Legion*) will NOT be removed for the time being. The 20 mph flashing school signs and painted SLOW road markings however are being installed plus a small barrier at the entrance to the Village Green. B&NES propose to pursue options for improvements to the build-out and safer crossing facilities for pedestrians at Ashley Road and the High Street and these will be forwarded in due course for our approval.

A363

Regretfully, we record another fatality at the end of March on this notoriously accident-prone stretch of road. Recurring accidents are still unacceptably high and in an effort to introduce further safety measures, increased mobile speed checks and the possibility of a static speed camera have been requested (*7 March 2008*).

Red carriageway studs were installed (*August 2008*) on two sections at Sally-in-the-Woods. Continuing subsidence makes it impossible to install further reflector posts or a safety barrier.

Potholes appear with alarming regularity on this and all other stretches of highway - another safety hazard.

Flooding is unlikely to be a one-off event and two particular sections of the A363 repeatedly flood and we fully intend to rectify or reduce this danger. We have the added rural problem of hillside debris blocking gulleys and drains and requests for increased emptying of gulleys “is unlikely due to lack of resources”. Areas of local flooding reported immediately to Council Connect (394041) will receive priority action.

PUBLIC FOOTPATHS

The top section of the public footpath leading from Prospect Place to Dovers Lane remains in an acceptably dangerous condition. Despite repeated requests, repair is not anticipated until Spring 2008 but has been listed as a “major project” by B&NES.

MILESTONES

I am delighted to report that repairs/replacement of these has now been completed and for their lasting contribution towards the heritage of Bathford, we have to thank the combined efforts of Philip Harris and David Howells. Literature and photographs are on display.

WARLEIGH LANE

The closure of the A36 at the end of March 2008 for 3 months will inevitably increase the use of this narrow and in several places single track only lane as a “rat run”. Inter-route were therefore requested to provide barriers and Access Only Permits, but please be aware of the increasing use of this and other roads of the Parish by both domestic and HGV traffic. Expect the unexpected!

A speed restriction on Warleigh Lane has also been requested. This however requires a Traffic Regulation Order (a lengthy procedure) to be undertaken by B&NES.

BOX ROAD

Access/exit from Westwoods and other properties at Box Road has become increasingly and unacceptably dangerous due to excessive speeding.

Recommendations to improve safety (*October 2007*) have still to be provided.

ROUNDABOUT

Removal of bushes and pruning of base of trees on the Roundabout to enable adequate visibility on exit from Box Road and Bathford is still awaited from Inter-route. Once again, excessive speeding on this stretch of road has contributed to its increasingly difficult and dangerous negotiation.

GRIT BIN AT DOVERS PARK

The grit bin situated on the green at Dovers Park will be moved approximately 6 ft to the left to facilitate access to the existing bench.

BIRDCAGE WALK

The use of Birdcage Walk by horses has recently occurred. This is totally illegal. It is not a Bridlepath and is used constantly, especially by invalid vehicles and elderly residents.

The spillage of woodchip onto the footpath was thoughtfully remedied by the provision of kickboards by the School.

And finally, please do not hesitate to inform Council Connect (394041), myself or any Councillor of any problem.

Shirley Beazer

Chair - Highways, Footpaths & Lighting Committee
