

HWG Report – 1st January 2020.

General Update

Traffic Speeds and Monitoring.

The data from our SID has now been published showing speeds of traffic heading South through Eardisley for the month up to the start of December and traffic heading West through Winforton for the month up to the start of January. You will recall that at our last HWG update I reported that one of the SIDs has developed a fault and is now inoperable – hence we only have readings from one end of Eardisley and a split reading, two weeks in each direction through Winforton.

The data gleaned from both locations very much follow recent trends.

As you are aware both locations have a 30mph speed limit. The total number of vehicles travelling through Eardisley was iro 30k with a third of them being over the limit to such an extent that it would have been a reportable offence. The average speed was 37mph with the fastest vehicle clocking 67mph.

In Winforton the number of vehicles recorded was iro 37k. Of these, once again, those committing reportable speeding offences amounted to about a third. The average speed was 42mph and the fastest vehicle was recorded at 81mph.

As you know at the last PC meeting, we were on the cusp of securing funding for two new, state of the art, SIDs from the PCC and I am delighted to say that we now have. Your Clerk is in the process of getting the funds transferred into your account and as soon as this has been achieved an order will be placed for the new units.

Traffic Calming and Road Safety - Eardisley.

The issue of traffic calming in Eardisley during quiet hours and during School times, particularly in relation to the bus pick-up/drop-off times for those children travelling to Kington, was brought up at the last meeting as was other road safety related issues throughout the PC area. Additionally, it was thought, by the HWG and after consultation with the Head Teacher, that the speed limit outside Eardisley school might be reduced during school pick up and drop off times from 30 to 20mph, as it is in other areas.

I have now had a meeting with the Police in Kington to discuss the possibility of them raising their profile to deter both speeding and impatient drivers.

While extremely supportive of our overall aim to reduce the possibility of accidents and potentially dangerous drivers transiting the Parish, to the extent that the HWG and PC were commended for their proactive role in these matters (they also unofficially expressed the view that they wished every PC was as keen on road safety), their actual input on a daily basis is and will remain severely restricted due to an acute lack of staff.

Having said that it is important for us to keep open a direct line of communication with the police and, vis-à-vis highway matters, they are keen that we do. Last month I was invited to accompany an officer manning a speed-trap on the long straight through Whitney and, as resident, I saw at first hand just what a difference this random deterrent can make to vehicles compared to when he is not there.

Winforton TRO progress.

At the last meeting I briefed that the TRO work scheduled for Winforton was imminent. Those of you who have travelled through the village in the last few weeks will have noticed that the work has been completed.

Various speed signs have now been moved, replaced or enhanced as requested and all road marking improvements have taken place including the addition of speed roundels painted on the road surface and give way markings on the junction at Courtlands. This particular TRO is now completed.

It is noted that residents of Winforton still have concerns about speeding through the village and it is hoped that the instillation of the new SIDs will help alleviate them. Councillor Yvonne King has informed your Clerk that she will be meeting with the PCC later this month and will discuss this further.

Redgates to Winforton Restricted Byway

This has been discussed a few times by the HWG. The situation is currently as follows:

That the quote iro of £1k received from the footpaths contractor to work on the Byway was put on hold and no action taken at this time.

That part of the woods is owned by a tree surgeon and Councillor Ken Goodwin was going to approach him with a view to him undertaking some of the clearance work on his land. Another landowner bordering the byway has already carried out some clearance.

In relation to the drainage issue at the Redgates end, the Director of Highways has confirmed he is aware of the matter and has now passed it to his Assistant Director for action.

Parking Issues at The Tram Inn.

Engagement is still underway with BB to consider in greater depth the possible option of remarking the road as it approaches the Tram Inn in Eardisley from Woodseaves.

It should be noted that directly contacting the relevant person/department within BB is now strongly discouraged. Questions and queries are now to be directed to their customer help desk in order that the issue can be prioritised and directed to the relevant desk for resolution.

As far as the pinch point in Eardisley is concerned you will be more than aware that these things take a considerable amount of time to come to fruition and therefore the issue is ongoing. The fact that the road gets blocked at this point on occasion was also noted by the police during our meeting and appropriate action will be taken by them on a case by case basis.

Potholes and blocked culverts – Whitney.

Before Christmas BB appeared in Whitney and jetted a number of culverts in the village and spent some time clearing drains and improving water run-offs on the A438 in the vicinity of the Whitney Court turn off - with varying degrees of success. At the same time a large number of deep potholes were marked for repair on the Whitney Court road although much of the paint markings have now worn off.

Terry Morgan, Councillor for Whitney, took the opportunity to conduct an ad hoc drive around with Lara Edwards our Locality Steward, to highlight local issues. In December he also attended a Parish Briefing Presentation run by BB.

Works Orders.

There is a works order currently in progress with the Lengthsman to repair the broken village gate to the east of Winforton – hopefully this will be completed soon, and it will look as good as new.

It has been brought to the attention of the HWG that the road ditch and hedge on the Stow road by the bridge needs attention. It is unclear if this is a PC or BB responsibility and is being investigated.

A number of issues on footpaths EE33, EE30, EE43 and possibly EE20 need attention mostly site clearance at stiles, repairing and replacing gates and ditch crossing planks.

Given that there is only a couple of months left in this financial year and only 30% of the Lengthsman's budget, and a derisory 5% of the Footpath contractor's budget, has been spent you may wish to consider completing these tasks before April.

On a related matter, as of three hours ago the double stile in the hedge half-way along footpath WW1 in Winforton has still not been modified.

Agenda items

7.1 TRO requirement – parking outside shop, Eardisley (15 min parking bays provision).

This TRO is over five years old and the current need for it is under review by BB, a decision needs to be made on if this matter is still extant.

7.2 Blocked ditches behind Eardisley Church

Your Clerk had written to the Locality Steward, Lara Edwards, asking that she confirm that this is an issue that they could deal with. The following has been received from her:

Unfortunately, as the ditch in question is beyond the highway extent (the adopted highway finishes at the Millennium Green) unfortunately HC / BBLP wouldn't get involved as they could not enforce the landowner to clear the ditch on private ground so I'm unable to help this time.

This leaves a number of options as to how to get the work done and which the HWG will consider at our next meeting and report back a recommendation to progress the matter.

7.3 Latest status on DMMO. Footpath EE49

Cllr Yvonne King to comment.

7.4 Adoption status of roads at the Courtlands, Winforton

Cllr Yvonne King to comment.

7.5 Next Parish Drive around

Scheduled for Feb, exact timings to be confirmed but likely to involve most of the Parish

7.6 Issue in Canon Ford Avenue; rubbish and foliage overhanging pavement

This was raised by Cllr Paul Whittal and has not yet been discussed by the HWG.

7.7 SID Disposal Options

The working SID is currently at the Western end of the A438 at Whitney. The batteries in this unit need to be changed as a matter of urgency but, unfortunately, I am unable to charge those spare batteries we have as the charging unit will now not register over 6v input and they need to be at least 12-14v to last more than a couple of days.

In light of this my personal view, and therefore not run via the HWG, is that it is no longer practical to continue with the old units and you may wish to consider removing them from operational use and disposing of them as you see fit. We will of course need to keep the poles!