

HWG Report – 17th February 2020.

General Update

Traffic Speeds and Monitoring

For the last few weeks we have not had any SIDs deployed. The old ones, as directed at last months PC meeting, have been disposed of in an environmentally friendly way.

After a bit of a delay on the part of the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office, the funds have now been transferred to the PC for the new SIDs and it is hoped to place the order for them as soon as possible. It is equally hoped that the price quoted for them last summer has not risen substantially in the meantime. The PC may wish to consider dropping the PCC a letter of thanks for his support.

Litter and fly-tipping – unofficial layby East of Winforton

A resident has again brought to the notice of the HWG the issue of rubbish collecting on the verge and hedge line at the unofficial pull-in at the side of the road, heading towards Willersley, to the East of Winforton. This is not an adopted layby but is still used by a considerable number of motorists and truck drivers. Having looked at it again recently it would appear that the area has now been cleaned up.

The PC may like to mention the following points during the next drive round by the locality steward: Firstly, the ongoing problem with littering on this major road artery and what can be done about it in the future and, secondly, given that there are very few stopping places heading East between Glasbury and Leominster, the possibility of adopting it as an official layby complete with hard surface and rubbish bins.

Further to the forthcoming drive around; the HWG have passed to the Clerk a list of individual items and areas of concern such as, for example, blocked drains, overhanging hedges, culvert clearance and the road surface on Quebb Lane, to draw to the attention of the locality steward.

TRO Requirement – Parking outside shop, Eardisley

As requested at the last meeting the HWG discussed the implication of the TRO for two short term parking bays outside the shop in Eardisley. When the new owners have been in place for a short while, they take over in early March, one of the HWG will speak to them to solicit their view.

Speeding in Winforton

At the last HWG meeting Councillor Yvonne King reported that some Winforton residents still had concerns about reckless driving through the village. She recently attended an open meeting with the PCC and presented him with traffic information obtained from the SIDs. He undertook to forward it to the Safer Roads Partnership.

Potential Environmental Issue – Winforton

A resident of Winforton brought to the attention of the PC a potential problem with sewage run-off from a field onto the unadopted road in the vicinity of Littlewood Farm. He was advised to speak to the landowner directly and/or report the matter to the Environmental Agency.

Footpath/Gates and Stiles

A resident in Winforton has reported a number of issues with footpaths, gates and stiles. Some of these issues will be forwarded to the Lengthsman or the Footpaths Contractor to address, some will be referred to the landowner with whom the issue lays and the remainder, such as footpath bridge repairs, will be passed to Balfour Beattie for their action.

AGENDA ITEMS

7.1 Blocked ditches behind Eardisley Church

After the last PC meeting the HWG were asked to consider the next steps with this issue given that Balfour Beattie have confirmed it is not their issue. The blockage has recently been cleared by Councillor Steve Whittal. A wider problem is thought to be a collapsed bridge further upstream. It is thought that the entire length of the problem area needs to be walked and assessed and that the Environmental Agency needs to be invited to take a closer interest.

7.2 Unofficial Road Name Sign, Courtlands

On investigation the road sign that appeared by the old telephone box at the Courtlands saying 'Courtlands Meadow' is not in fact unofficial. It was placed by the developer after discussions with Herefordshire County Council and their contractor responsible for highways work and as a result it is compliant with highways requirements.

Given the position of the new sign, attached as it is on the same posts as the original Courtlands road sign near the main road, the PC might wish to take a view on its actual siting, some distance away from Courtlands Meadow, or if it should actually read 'Courtlands, leading to Courtlands Meadow' to avoid any potential confusion.

7.3 Verge Maintenance

The HWG were asked to consider a suggestion from Hereford Council to cut verges once a year in Aug/Sept rather than the current twice a year starting in May/June. This was suggested by HC as a way of encouraging wildflower growth and saving money that could be diverted to ditch and culvert clearance. The HWG took the view that verge maintenance should continue on main highways, especially around junctions, as it considered not to do so would compromise road safety. It was doubted that any funds saved would substantially add to ditch maintenance.

7.4 Raising Works Orders – minor repairs and replacement of stiles and gates.

The HWG discussed a number of separate issues requiring the attention of either the Lengthsman or Footpaths Contractor and agreed those that should be passed to them for remedial action. This list has been provisionally agreed by the Chairman and passed to the Clerk. Given that the end of the financial year is fast approaching it is recommended that Works Orders be raised and completed as soon as possible.

HWG Reports

For those who wish to refresh themselves on HWG matters they can now find the five reports presented at the PC meetings since last September on the PC website under the Highways tab.

They are published under the caveat that they are strictly working documents and do not necessarily reflect the official line of the PC.