

HWG REPORT 19th October 2020

SIDs

All PCs would have received from me, on 16th Sep, an email giving an update on where we stand with the new SIDs. Suffice to say that we are on top of the connectivity and technology and the delivery of the support poles happened this morning. The SIDs will now be deployed on a rolling programme around the Parish starting with Whitney. The PC may like to note the work of Parish Councillor Yvonne King for bringing this about and may also like to consider a letter of thanks to Mr Joe Grice at BBLP who is providing the poles, including delivery, free of charge.

Footpaths

There are a number of footpath related issues to bring you up to speed with.

Ramblers way – path clearance, brambles cut back initially by Winforton FP Officer and then sprayed at own expense by local resident. A complaint has been raised on the HC website about a possible defect in the pavement and will be inspected in due course by BBLP.

New kissing stile gates and self-made finger posts have been installed at both ends of WY5 by the Whitney FP Officer with assistance of a local resident and the Whitney Court groundsman. This has been a great improvement from a safety point of view. Many other tasks have also been completed by both FP Officers and BBLP around the Parish such as fitting a new handrail to a footbridge to fallen tree removal for example. Routine maintenance is ongoing year-round.

A discussion has also taken place with the landowner and farmer in respect of the double stile issue on WW1 in Winforton and permission has been obtained to replace them with a single kissing gate. The work has been scheduled to be done as soon as possible and, additionally with the return of EGPC's stock kissing gates from the previous foot paths contractor, more work orders were issued for further installations as required.

A number of requests had previously been posted on the HC website in respect of accessibility over a wide ditch on WY5 in Whitney. BBLP, escorted by Whitney FP Officer, have inspected the site with a view to installing a footbridge. A further inspection was carried out by a BB crew who were not wildly enthusiastic that it was possible to complete this task due to cost issues. We await an official response.

Observations have been made by a number of residents that a few PROWs were inaccessible due to crop growth. Some footpaths were subsequently cleared and some landowners have undertaken to widen paths in future to the ease access. and allow crops to grow without the possibility of the path being obscured. New crops have been planted in a couple of places since then and footpaths will need to be reinstated. This is obviously an ongoing issue and closer liaison with landowners and farmers is encouraged to alleviate problems going forward.

It is true to say that the Parish footpath network gets mentioned a fair amount in HWG meetings as they are an important local amenity which should be accessible to all. While we will always have ongoing issues I would like to say, having spent a lot of time walking the footpaths of neighbouring Parishes and beyond, that we do not suffer from the dangerously dilapidated stiles, blocked paths or hinge less gates (some held up with knotted bailing twine making them impossible to navigate), that are all too common elsewhere. Credit for that must go to our footpath officers, the majority of landowners and interested Parishioners as a whole.

Road Maintenance. Gullies have been cleaned by BBLP on the A4111 Eardisley to Willersley Road.

Carpark Consultation. The HWG were recently asked to consider a HC Consultation document on car park charges in the county. Having done so they had no specific recommendations.

Excessive noise. A complaint about excessive vehicle noise, among other things, has been received from an Eardisley resident asking what the PC can do about his concerns. The complaint actually encompassed many different noise sources from Aircraft, motorcycles, garden machinery to perceived farming and industrial annoyances. The HWG had nothing specific to add to the advice the resident had already received, and it is noted that the Resident has written to our local MP, copied to the PC, stating his concerns. It is suggested that this issue is progressed, if required, by the Environmental Working Group.

Junction from Courtlands Farm & The Paddocks to The Courtlands in Winforton

Local residents are reporting that drivers are ignoring the new Give Way white line at the junction of Courtlands and the road to Courtlands Farm. The majority of the HWG were of the opinion that, at this time, no further action will be taken on this issue unless verifiable evidence, obtained over a reasonable period of time, is produced to substantiate this claim.

Road resurfacing work at the Northern end of Eardisley.

BBLP have reviewed this location and the condition of the road is known to them. There is no resurfacing planned at this location in the next 24 months as they concluded that residual life remains in the carriageway and many roads elsewhere in the county have greater priority based on risk and budget availability. There will likely be a need to repair some localised patches over the next 12 – 24 months as the need arises.

Restricted Byway in Winforton

Observations have been raised many times in respect of drainage runoff from the road at Redgates on to the Restricted Byway. These have been passed by our Locality Steward to the relevant BBLP Team for consideration and the matter is being further pursued by another interested party who is reportedly considering going to the Ombudsman on the issue.

Agenda Item

A Winforton volunteer clearance and maintenance group has been established, with the aim to clear the restricted byway and track and dispose of unwanted materials using formed volunteer work parties. Great progress has been made without recourse to financial assistance from the PC and the byway is now cleared from the southern end up to the old railway line. The next step, with the assistance of suitably qualified locals, is to push on all the way up to Redgates. It is unclear if any technical work will need to be overseen by BBLP, but this is something that perhaps should be borne in mind.

Much of the work is being carried out by landowners at their own expense although there is also an aspiration to raise funds as and when necessary to progress the project as required.

The HWG commended this initiative and would like to receive regular update reports from them, furthermore it suggests that the PC formally support this work.

Line of Sight Issue – Willersley. A resident has raised an issue access to the A438 from their property having suffered a couple of near misses recently. They are seeking a safe solution to the problem and have asked for support from the PC.

Traffic Regulation Orders - Prioritisation

You would have all seen an email forwarded to you from the BBLP TRO Team Leader. It was very informative and details the way to go about submitting TROs but said, in part, that they regularly receive many new requests for TROs. It also stated that for many years now the demand has outstripped their ability to deliver as and when requests are received. They have now adopted a waiting list where all requests are given a score and the work listed in order of priority.

Agenda Item

A438 TRO

Following the recent fatal accident at the junction of the A438 and Whitney Toll bridge a number of residents in Whitney have raised the long-standing issue of the speed limit on that stretch of road. This issue has been raised a number of times over many years.

While it should be emphasised that the cause of the accident has not as yet been established, the PC are asked to consider the possibility of raising a TRO to cover this section of the A438.

For ease, and to ensure everyone knows exactly what stretch of the road is being discussed, I have produced a few slides.

The proposal could be to continue the 50mph limit, which expires a hundred metres or so west of the Whitney Court turn to as far as the 50mph limit approaching the sharp cut back towards Brilley.

This 'gap' in the 50mph limit is on a stretch of road that has many bends and turns hampering visibility made worse in places by overhanging foliage.