

MINUTES OF THE HIGHWAYS MEETING HELD ON 29 OCTOBER 2008

Those present: Cllrs M.J. Bayley (Chairman), A.S.Hardie, M.A. Morley , C. Pointon-Taylor
Clerk M.S.Green

Apologies: Cllrs M. Newth-West

Visitor: Colin Jenkins, Local Area Technician was unable to attend. [His later comments at a meeting with the Clerk are shown in blue.](#)

Colin Jenkins' absence on a course was regretted and it was agreed that we should try to ensure that both he and David Brown were able to come to the next meeting on Wed 17 Dec at 11 am.

1. Footpaths, Bridleways & tracks

County Rights of Way improvement Plan - We sent our proposals on 21 July 04, and Peter Hale commented on them for the Penn Estate. The plan for 2007-2011 is now held by the Clerk. It deals in general rather than specific terms.

Parish Paths Partnership – [Investigate production of parish FP map](#) with Paul Battye, which County produce under PPP in co-operation with the parish councils and possibly some sponsorship from local business, pubs etc. Coleshill map is a good example.

Footpath signs – On Church Road near the Gatemoor entrance, there is a missing FP sign. [Check with Alison Perry.](#)

The fallen Chiltern Way/FP sign on Penn Bottom near Church Knoll has been removed but not replaced. [Check with Alison Perry.](#)

Kissing Gates – The Penn Estate seem to be putting in more kissing gates.

2. Highway safety and traffic matters

Highway repairs - An extra £3.25 m has been allocated this year for road repairs under two main headings:

1. *Blitz Patching Gang*, scraping off the surface of whole lengths of specified roads as decided by the local County Councillors. The gang came to Penn in May/June. The roads have mostly been considerably improved but those [still awaiting significant repair are:](#)

The bottom of Gatemoor Hill - [Only patching possible because no funds for resurfacing. C.J. to check.](#)
Horsemoor Lane - 500m. [No funds for resurfacing. Inspector reviewed last week to deal with any urgent potholes.](#)

Forty Green Road - 200m. Done

Eghams Wood Road - Some rough patching only. [200 holes filled. Concrete road, so can't cut out.](#)

[The same system is likely to be continued under a new contract next year.](#)

2. A *community gang* of 2 men with a vehicle and equipment operating for a week at a time in each Local Community Area deals with a specified list of defects which does not include potholes. They come at 2-monthly intervals to the Amersham area, which includes Penn, and it is important that we send in a Report Sheet listing the tasks we want completed, seven days before their visits. Another Gang may well be set up.

They were in our Area (Amersham) w/c 15 September and a Report Sheet listing the work required on was agreed and discussed with Colin Jenkins. [Highways have not sent a report of what they have done. But CJ reports that all were done except re-setting the 40 mph sign opposite Penbury Farm.](#)

[A Report Sheet for their next visit for week commencing 10 Nov has been agreed between CJ and the Clerk and Colin Jenkins.](#)

3. *Highway inspection* - Highways are required to inspect A & B class roads every month; C class every 3 months and unclassified every 6 months.

The repair of *Category 1 potholes* (300x300x40mm) is not affected by this additional money and will continue to be patched (with a new sticky tarmac) within 24 hrs & permanently within 28 days. **Report to Highways on Call through the Clerk as problems arise.** There is also a gang doing Category 2 tarmac repairs

Junction Common Wood Lane/Penn Bottom - Clean mud and washdown around junction

Penn surgery, Elm Road - Cars are parking outside, obstructing the highway and pavement and endangering exiting cars. **Discuss lay-by, bollards, use of Sports Club etc with doctors. C.J. thinks this is a reasonable approach.**

Elm Road speed limit signs & road markings - A Village Voice consultation on whether it was advisable to remove many of the non-statutory signs was not well presented and has resulted in only three responses. **Agree future action.**

3. Local Area Committee

Whielden Lane traffic calming and footway - Ken Moloughney has told us that following a review by the BCC safety audit engineer a report was presented on 19 August to the Transportation Board at BCC recommending the installation of two narrowing features and associated markings, traffic cushions etc as the safest and most effective scheme. However, in view of the adverse comments on the scheme from two residents the Board recommended that the scheme should only go ahead with one narrowing at the affordable housing end, but that the scheme should be reviewed after installation and the second part installed only if traffic counts etc. indicated that it was still necessary. BCC have started to implement this part of the scheme and hope that it will be in place by the end of this year. Once the scheme is in place BCC will monitor the traffic to see if the second phase is needed. We are assured that finance for this second stage is available. Marking out of the narrowing feature has taken place.

The main features of the scheme will be:-

1. Road narrowing feature with traffic cushion adjacent to 1 Horsletts Cottages forcing traffic to the far (N) side of the road and illuminated by additional street light
2. Existing pedestrian impressed road marking extended further towards The Hill.
3. Line marking to highlight the edge of this impressed surface.
4. Modification to the layout of the 'stop' line at the foot of The Hill to improve visibility of traffic emerging from The Hill
5. Associated mandatory signage.

Parish Highway projects

For 2008/09 - The first three of our five projects have been completed

1. *Penn Road pavement* repair with a slurry top down to Knotty Green Garage (cost £15,000).
2. *Elm Road pavement* from Red Lion to French Meadow } £5,000
3. *Elm Road pavement* from the Doctors' new surgery to Rays Lane }
4. *Island at Saucy Corner* – kerbing and restoring grass (cost £12,000) is to be completed by Nicholas King since the damage results from his vehicles
5. *Church Road, Penn/Elm Road pavement* from the Crown to the Red Lion – was not recommended.

For 2009/10 - The following projects are proposed:

- a) Footway along Church Road (Penn) from The Crown to the Red Lion
- b) Grass verge and kerb at the end of Brindle Lane
- c) Kerb on the flooded area of Whielden Lane to prevent mud and stones blocking the drain
- d) Investigate possibility/desirability of a lay-by outside the Penn Surgery.

Rural grass-cutting - The outcome of the BCC review of rural grass cutting was for no change to the existing programme for 2008, but it will be reviewed again in 2009. However some of our verges are seldom cut even when we specifically request it and **we should investigate taking over responsibility from County Highways for:**

- Penn Street School field verge**
- KG allotment verge**
- Saucy Corner junction**

4. Neighbourhood Action Group

The NAG has met twice so far this year. It covers C.St G., Seer Green, Coleshill and Penn and works much better for nucleated, urban parishes than for the more rural ones like Penn where Police turning up at Parish Council meetings is much more efficient.

Speeding - Speed enforcement is being addressed by the NAG and targeted in a number of ways:

Speed enforcement days These take place at regular intervals and involve a number of police officers capable of dealing with a number of offending motorists at any one time. Sites for such enforcement are limited by safety considerations. Speeding as well as other driving offences are actioned. The Penn Church Hall car park is one of the sites targeted.

Police laser guns - Additional guns have been purchased and PC Gavin McVeigh has been trained to operate them in conjunction with a PCSO. This will enable more ad hoc speed enforcement at a wider choice of sites to be undertaken

'Count on us' are an independent data collection company which has a current contract with Thames Valley Police. Their Automatic Traffic Count (ATC) equipment, which is basically a tube across a road, will measure hourly traffic numbers by direction, type (13 categories) and speed (13 categories). The advantage of ATC is that it provides the information without alerting the drivers to slow down. We have paid for two 3-day ATCs and got a third from the police. They covered Penn Bottom near Church Knoll, Forty Green Road near the allotments and Church Road (Penn) near Alde House. The results, expected shortly, will enable speed enforcement to be targeted more effectively.

Speed indication device SID Two refurbished devices are available and free to be borrowed from the police. Brief training is needed but a police presence is not needed to operate it.

Community Speed Watch CSW camera-displays the speed of a vehicle. This equipment is available and free to be borrowed from the police. Brief training is needed but a police presence is not needed to operate it. The speed and vehicle registration has to be recorded, possibly direct into a lap top. This information enables the police to send warning letters which after three offences puts the driver's details onto the police data base. An instrument costs about £2,000 but the cost would be shared between several parishes in a NAG. We have agreed to pay a share and so we and Resident Societies can use it provided public liability insurance is in operation. Once Chalfont St. Peter PC agrees the unit will be purchased and can be booked from the police. Our cheque has been returned pending the outcome of a legal problem with the use of the equipment.

Temporary Speed Indicator Devices (TSID) are post-mounted devices that display the speed limit if it is being exceeded so they can only be used where there is a 30 or 40mph speed limit and not generally where speed limit enforcement already takes place regularly. Parishes can hire them in for 2 weeks at a cost of £100.

5. Traffic signs, road markings, gullies, highway furniture, finger posts and bus shelters

Cleaning and clearing road signs - This one of the tasks now done by the Community Gang (see para 2 above). **A task to take over from Highways unless the CG is effective.**

Penn Street triangle fingerpost - Now repaired and in place.

W/Hill crossroads fingerpost - The wood is rotting and we should **request a new fingerpost.** **No news.**

Roadside gullies - The programme of cleaning shows Penn between 31 Oct and 7 Nov, **but is running a month late. It is not clear which roads are covered because there are no ABC roads in e.g. Forty Green or W/Hill. Almost all our roads are unclassified and therefore only cleared every three years, one third each year. Kerb weirs are not included- they are cleared as needed. Clarify with Chris Schwier.**

Oil traps - e.g. Potters Cross pond (incl catchpit) Widmer Pond, Penn Street Pond. If no progress on Potters Cross we can prohibit road drainage into the pond. **They are not included in roadside gully clearance. We must have a specific programme. Consult Chris Schwier.**

Witheridge Lane below The Crown – Replace Please Drive carefully sign. On order with Ken Moloughney.

Penbury Grove gully - Report gully blocked on the B474 opposite the Penbury Grove entrance. **Check after gully clearance visit.**

Chevron, Gravelly Way - Report missing chevron. **Progress?**

Saucy Corner end of Clay Street – Report missing 40mph sign. **Progress?**

- Replace worn W/Hill/Penn St sign. **Progress?**

Clay Street/Marrods Bottom junction - Missing Give Way sign has been reinstated

6. Highway hedges and verges and pavements

Elm Road pavement down to Potters Cross – **pavement needs sweeping Reported CDC.**

Stumpwell Lane - Order a road sign. The recommendations made in the report of a site meeting with the owner of Thatchers Field on 9 October 05 included. native wild flowers to be planted along one stretch of verge and cut twice a year. Bluebells and other woodland plants were to be planted along another stretch and we offered to contribute to the cost. **Check on progress.**

Penn Street school field hedge on the A404 – A site meeting with Phil Hallam established that the removal of two large branches on both the field and road side of the old oak would be essential to allow enough light for a newly planted hedge. All the large sycamores need to be dug out and the stands of ash thinned. There are no layable trees and the few straggly hawthorns need to be coppiced. The total length is about 40 yds. A ditch protects half of it from vehicles entering the field but 20 yds of fencing would be needed on the corner. **First persuade Highways to remove large oak branches (A quote from Pete Whipp would be helpful).**

Penn Street School hedge - The school's contractor (funded by County) is not cutting right up to the new and laid hedge. **Ask Tom Barron for quote to be agreed and charged to school.**

Penn Estate hedge on Church Road (Penn) - **Check on plans to lay the hedge.**

7. Highway litter, fly tipping and abandoned vehicles

Gary Honour and Eve Chason explained that they dealt with Refuse & recycling collections, Flytipping & litter, Abandoned vehicles, Litter bin installation & clearance, Street & FP cleaning, Mechanical sweeping of roads, Verge grass-cutting & hedges. The following points were raised:

1. We should report all these matters to wmanagement@chiltern.gov.uk They then scout and place the order with Verdant.
2. They will notify us of clearance days for our litter bins which sometimes overflow.
3. Mechanical sweeps of kerbs are about every quarter in Knotty Green and yearly elsewhere.
4. New road names - they welcomed the news.

8. Street & Footway lighting

Trial switching-off street lights - Following consultation BCC are proceeding with Phase 2 as planned This includes the A404 Inkerman Hill to Beamond End from 40mph at Hazlemere to end of lit length near Penn Street. The following work will be undertaken before the trial is started. Internally lit bollards to be replaced with high intensity reflective bollards. All road markings to be renewed. Road studs along centreline to be upgraded along length. Solar studs to be provided around bend. Foliage to be cut back around existing signing. - **Check with Chris Schwier** whether any chance in future for Hazlemere Road.

9. Street and Road naming and signs

Unnamed Lanes - The Holtspur Road name plates are to be temporarily removed by the two District Councils following their realisation that they had not followed the required procedure by displaying a public notice. Three objectors to the name met Cllr Smiley and the Clerk to discuss their concerns and

we will be asked in due course whether we wish to change the name to Ridings Lane. Most, but not all the other new name plates are in place. **Enquire of David Stowe..**

Elm Road sign at Potters Cross which we reported as broken has been removed but not yet replaced. **Enquire of David Stowe.**

10. Future meetings

Highways Committee - Gang Timings - Scheduled for weeks commencing: 10 Nov 08; 12 Jan 09; 9 Mar 09. It has been agreed that we would meet 10 days or so before each deadline and that Colin Jenkins would join us half way through every meeting to bring us up to date (all reports we send to Highways on Call are sent to him for action) and to review our Community Gang list.

11. Long outstanding tasks - We agreed to send Colin Jenkins a brief list of our long outstanding tasks, other than highway surface repairs and Community Gang tasks, **all of which require a regular published schedule :**

Potters Cross catchpits and drainage channel - **Order placed and CJ will investigate why no action**

Widmer Pond oil traps - not covered by ordinary gully clearance.

Verges of Penn Street School field - never cut

Verges of allotments on Forty Green Road - never cut

Gully clearance

12. Bus services - The service through Penn Street and W/Hill has been much reduced leaving no weekend services. Cllr Bayley and the Clerk had a meeting with the County Council officer concerned to try to get a better service.

Future meeting dates are: 17 Dec 08, 25 Feb 09.

Request both Colin Jenkins and David Brown come to the meeting.