

Lacock Parish Council - Highways & Parish Steward Report – April 2022

1. Lacock Parish Traffic Issues

A new proposal to review the original High Street/ West Street layout was formally submitted to the CATG to identify where cost savings can be made. This will be discussed at the April CATG.

If costs can be reduced, then a new substantive bid submission could be made in Sept 2022 and with the same LPC contribution, this is more likely to be successful.

The other priority Atkins initiatives, previously agreed at the LPC, were formally submitted to the April CATG meeting for their consideration.

These priority initiatives are traffic calming (raised tables) at: -

Bowden Hill (Forrest Lane) and The Wharf (above the bridge), Cantax Hill (top) with extended 30 mph, West St (near Cemetery). Once in place, with reduced traffic speed, then a 20 mph limit is requested.

2. Lorry Watch - Enforcement of 7.5 tonne Weight Restrictions

The equipment and documents will be issued to the LW volunteers once the training of the last volunteer is completed. Peter Glen is still progressing the completion of this training with Sarah Holden.

3. CATG Report Progress since 12th January last CATG meeting.

3.1 The road signage at Church St and into Nethercote

This signage needs to be improved to inform drivers not to go to the top of Church Street and into Nethercote; as there is no through road. Cars are often seen backing down Nethercote and/or turning around in Church Street where pedestrians are freely walking.

A proposal to improve signage and to make East Street one way (down from the Red Lion) has been formally submitted to the CATG to the April CATG Meeting.

4. Lacock Traffic Group (LTG) Subcommittee reporting to the LPC

Areas of work still under consideration, in addition to those listed in the CATG report section 3 above:

4.1 Block Drains still to be cleaned by WC Highways

The drainage access into the river needs unblocking from the ditch opposite the raised footway into the river. David Arnup WC has been asked to arrange for this to be done. Still outstanding.

4.2 Auto Speed Watch Camera system

The March LPC discussed and approved buying a camera and has now been obtained. The camera will now be fitted in consultation with WC Highways. Pete Shaw will update the LPC at the April meeting.

5. Double Yellow Road Lining

In January 2019 we made an application to double yellow line the 30m length outside the Abbey to dissuade drivers from seeking parking spaces and turning around damaging the road and verges.

A similar request was made in July 2020 with the Nethercote turning circle. Residents there are complaining that cars are regularly parking there making turning very difficult.

WC Senior Traffic Engineer, Jamie Mundy, has replied to my recent email requesting WC complete the long outstanding work, outside the Abbey and in Nethercote. The inspections and Yellow lining were delayed for the past two years due to Covid. I could not get any commitment as to when our yellow lining request will be dealt with, but more WC inspection staff are now available after their recent reorganisation.

This will be raised at the April CATG to ask for their assistance to progress this work.

On a brighter note, the double yellow lining at Whitehall requested over two years ago was completed in March.

6. Remembrance Bench for Leo

The bench has been fitted by the Parish Steward, with Peter Glen's assistance. Now awaiting the plaque to be provided and fitted.

7. Damage to the grass verge and road side opposite the Abbey entrance

The grass verge and roadside outside the Abbey is being badly damaged by illegally parked vehicles and by vehicles turning around. This is unsightly and large pools of water often form on the damaged roadside.

The NT has obtained the posts using a specification provided by David Arnup, WC Highways. Awaiting a reply from David Arnup as to when the posts can be fitted by the WC Highways team.

Once the posts are installed the NT have already agreed to landscape the verge by adding more soil and reseeding the area.

8. Moving the Abbey Gateway further towards the Red Lion Entrance

Karen Bolger, NT, and LPC traffic representatives Stuart Gregory and Pete Shaw, meet on site to consider the options as to where the gateway could be moved. The current Gateway allows vehicles to go to the Abbey entrance and to turn around in areas where pedestrians are walking. This is a safety concern and causes unsightly road and verge damage.

No other new gateway position was thought to be a practical option. The NT are going to document the issues and what they hope to achieve from moving the gateway. Awaiting NT to reply.

The LTG are to discuss the issues with WC Highways and CATG and ask for their ideas with moving the Gateway.

9. Parish Steward (PS)

Work for March may still be affected by PS's availability with Road Salting duties

- Grips and gullies- continue to be checked and cleaned.
- Fill pothole on the fallen grid cover at the Cantax Hill village gates.
- Large brown NT parking direction sign at the Cantax Hill and Lovers walk junction was reported and a replacement sign ordered. This may take two months before a new one can be fitted.
- The Rey bridge keystone that was dislodged, probably by a large vehicle, has been recemented back in place.
- Strim the long footpath from Notton School/A350 junction to the bus stop opposite Lackham college. (as PS time allows)
- Ask again for the WC Road Sweeper tanker to return again next month to keep the gutters clear of debris.

Let us know of any other work or potholes needing repair?

**There is always more that can be done, so please let us know of any other jobs that need doing ASAP.
Stuart Gregory and Pete Shaw**