

Lacock Parish Council - Highways & Parish Steward Report – February 2023

1. Introduction of a 20 mph speed limit in Lacock Village

By way of background, at the 20th December meeting, Dave Thomas confirmed that a 20mph limit can be implemented in the village going from West St outside cemetery to Cantax Hill north of the ByeBrook bridge to include High St, East St and Church St. This decision is based on the results of monitoring and recording traffic speeds.

The NT will provide the funding for implementing this reduction in speed limit to 20 mph.

At the LPC January meeting councillors voted to proceed with this project as a priority. This was subsequently presented to the LHFIG and they agreed for Sarah Dearden, WC Highways Senior Engineer to draw up the detail plans for approval and costing.

Traffic calming interventions will follow in due course on Bowden Hill (below Forest Lane), on Cantax Hill and on Bowden Hill above Forest Lane and then ultimately to extend the 20mph from Forest Lane junction to Cantax Hill.

2. High Street/West Street Revised Layout Improvement

Still awaiting a decision from WC to see if our Substantive bid has been successful.

If so, the work will start in the 2023/24 financial year.

3. Lorry Watch (LW) - Enforcement of 7.5 tonne Weight Restrictions

Still awaiting a start date from Wiltshire Police. Peter Glen is progressing.

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

4.1 Auto Speed Watch Camera (ASW) system

The Auto Speed Watch camera is now operational on Bowden Hill. Unfortunately, floods, road closures and road works have affected its ability to produce any meaningful data.

5. Coaches back in the Village

Everyone, please continue report the details of the coaches that are still parking badly to Pete Shaw, or Peter Glen or Stuart Gregory to progress with the coach companies involved. A photograph of such incidents would be a great help.

6. Double Yellow Lining still outstanding from 2019

The outstanding short lengths of double yellow lining outside the Abbey and at the top of Nethercote are planned in 2023 financial year.

Sarah Dearden, WC Highways Senior Engineer is working on preparatory drawings, plans and consultation documents. This will allow yellow lining to start without further delay in the new financial year.

7. Bowden Hill – road damage caused by overflowing pond

Peter Glen has reported that the Pond on the Common is still overflowing down Bowden Hill, Gully's are blocked and ditches are in need of clearing out.

Peter's comments are summarised below :

“Due to lack of maintenance for over 40 years on a pond on the common, adjacent to the access to Bowden House, it overflowed on the 14 January. This was due to the heavy rain prior to that date, followed by about a week of freezing conditions down to -6/7C.

The problem is that the pond, whilst lacking any maintenance for years, drains into the ditch that WC, via Gemma Wilmslow, confirmed in 2021 needed cleaning out. The LPC were requested to pass this on to then Graham Heard, needless to say it hasn't yet been cleaned out. It has likely become silted up to above the drain from the pond.

The NT carried out work by only partially diverting the water off the road, after the nightly frosts ceased."

This problem will persist unless we, the NT, WC and LPC, can agree precisely what needs to be done, by whom and by when. We then need commitment from everyone to get the work done quickly to avoid further damage to the road surfaces and higher risk of accidents from this ice hazard.

8. Parish Steward (PS)

Work for the February's PS's visit

- Grips and gullies- continue to be checked and cleaned.
- Continue to identify and fill potholes. (In January, the PS filled potholes at the top of Bowden Hill, Church Street and Lovers Walk)
- Request the WC Road Sweeper tanker returns 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. Please be observant and let us know of any other PS jobs ASAP, ideally with a photograph to identify issue and its precise location.

Stuart Gregory and Pete Shaw

