

WPC HIGHWAYS REPORT SEPTEMBER 2010

The main points to report this month are listed below.

1. Mountford Close traffic and parking

I have had a meeting this month with Larry Granelly and PCSO Claire Murray. We reviewed the plans that had been put in place for next term, and both Larry and I impressed on the PCSO the need for a much more visible - and if necessary assertive - presence in Mountford Close at key times. She has agreed to do this, and to enlist the support of the PCs if necessary.

We will be keeping a close watch on the situation as the new academic year begins.

2. Newbold Road parking problems

I am still waiting to hear from Graham Stanley of County Highways to see if the CCTV camera can be used to get some objective information on long and short term parking in the alleged trouble zone.

We have ordered the oak bollards (matching the two newly installed) to put outside the OneStop to prevent people driving onto the grass.

3. 30mph Vehicle Activated Signs and speeding

I have been given a schedule of speed camera deployments. We need to observe whether it is frequent enough to have a deterrent effect. The subject is on the agenda for the Community Forum meeting on Thursday (9th)

4. Grit bins

The Precinct grit bin was partly emptied onto the pavement on its first Saturday night at the same time as the temporary fencing round the Library was upended. If it happens again, we'll put a lock on it, and/or move it to the other side of the railings which was the original chosen site.

Discussion of the Mountford Close site near the school gate for the fourth bin is waiting on the return of the Head from holiday.

5. Constance Harris Close

I have seen a copy of part of the Section 106 agreement, but need to talk to SDC, and Barteak before knowing if there is a possible way forward.

6. Footpath by White Bridge

The willow by the footpath from Salmon's to White Bridge was felled by the Environment Agency to "improve" the flow across the flood plain. The stump was left in and, predictably, has sprouted a fine crop of withies which completely block the tarmac path. This is a major push-chair route to the pre-school at the Church Rooms. I've spoken to the EA about it, but they don't see it as their problem. I'll be trying WCC next- unless anyone knows a basket maker.

7. Effluent in the Dene

As part of the flood prevention work all outfalls into the river have been modified. The work by the bridge is not yet complete, but certainly offers no permanent solution. If anything it has made the problem worse because the discharge now sits on an extended mud flat at most river levels. I have spoken to Matt Goodall about this and he has agreed to help with a further concerted push to get the problem traced and solved.

8. Dogs on Mountford playing field.(I'm reporting this in Rob's absence)

The dog warden has paid on early morning visit and reported that most owners are behaving properly. One person was given a warning for not using a lead. Another visit is planned.

9. Horse muck in the underpass

There has been a complaint about horse droppings in the Dovehouse underpass – culprit unknown. Should a country Parish which is determined to remain a village have a view on whether this is an acceptable part of rural life?

Tony Copeland September 2nd 2010.