

ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY PORTFOLIO REPORT 13 Dec 2023

Highways

Traffic Calming Working Group

Written by Cllr. S Colson, 6th December 2023

All ongoing Highways related activities are recorded on the PPP Highways log spreadsheet, with the following highlights:

- The system of using the Highways steward is working well, with a number of road signs recently cleared of overgrown vegetation and/or repaired.
- By the time of the Council meeting, the Traffic Order amendment for the yellow lines extension for Meadowhayes/The Meadows will have been advertised by Somerset Council, with this work likely to take place from April next year.
- Due to the Somerset Council financial situation, there will not be any free parking in the run up to Christmas this year.
- A statutory Traffic Order amendment for removing the yellow kerb ticks on the High Street (loading/unloading restrictions) and implementing a statutory disabled parking bay on the High Street will be advertised by Somerset Council in February/March next year, with the work likely to take place from April 2024. Unfortunately, it isn't possible to take any short-term remediation steps until the order has been advertised.
- Two additional free, 15-minute shopping parking spaces were requested for Doverhay car park, and four new ones were requested for Central car park. Somerset Council will review this and come back to PPC.
- The traffic survey is now closed, with a very pleasing 230 responses. All the information is currently being downloaded and analysis will start in mid-December, with initial findings being available for January's Council meeting.

Other matters:

Porlock Manor Estate has given approval for a new rustic bench on the marsh near the War Memorial. Installation will take place after Easter.

The Council has pledged to support the Climate & Ecology Bill and has sent a press release confirming this to the West Somerset Free Press. A letter has also been sent to our local MP requesting his support for the Bill.

The vegetation encroaching on the parking and turning area at the end of Crawter Drive has been cut back and the carpet of earth and organic matter has also now been removed by Somerset Council.

Preventative flood measures – jetting works are to be carried out on the gully under the path leading from Central car park to the High Street.

Ongoing:

- Missing sign on High Street by the Castle directing cars and pedestrians to Central Long Stay car park – on Somerset Council work list for 2024.
- Screening has been requested on a very bright streetlamp on the Drang, to stop light pollution into the neighbouring gardens and houses – in progress.
- Financial support for maintaining areas devolved from SWT and permission for volunteer maintenance of some areas – to be determined.
- Idverde bin emptying SLA – to be reviewed.
- Signage for OSC/Parish Room – to confirm opening times going forward before replacing sign.

- Further notices requested last month from the Dog Warden have still to be installed by PPC.
- Car park provision – a Somerset Council county wide review of parking is to take place in 24/25.