

Highways

Traffic Calming Working Group

The Traffic Calming Working Group's report has been circulated to all councillors and will be discussed at Full Council on February 14th. A number of recommendations have been made for PPC's consideration. The Working Group has agreed to continue in operation to support implementation of the recommendations approved by PPC.

Other Highways matters

The blocked drain in Sparkhayes Lane has been reported, which was causing a lot of overflowing surface water to run down the lane during periods of heavy rain. This has been reviewed by Highways, and no action will be taken because the problem is not considered a safety issue and not severe enough for them to deal with. They will monitor the problem during planned inspections and plan work if the issue gets worse.

There is not much other progress to report on Highways matters. The recent storms have resulted in flooding and other storm damage, which has required the diversion of a lot of Highways resources to deal with these issues. We are also waiting for clarity on Somerset's budgeting decisions, which will be known after their meeting on 20th February.

A broken road sign reported on road to Porlock Weir (between Greencombe and West Porlock) has been fixed.

The hedge/bank growth at Villes Lane leading to the cul-de-sac has been reported.

Fixing the faulty light at West Porlock has been chased.

Buses

On Tuesday 6 February, the Somerset Bus Partnership attended Somerset Council's Bus Advisory Board where it was announced by First Bus (who accounts for 3/4 of the bus miles in Somerset) that the following bus services are either to be withdrawn or will have significant reductions as from April 14th:

- **54** Taunton to Yeovil via Langport and Somerton **withdrawn in its entirety**.
- **58** Yeovil to Wincanton via Templecombe and Sherborne **withdrawn in its entirety**.
- **25** Taunton and Dulverton via Norton Fitzwarren, Cotford St Luke, Milverton and Wiveliscombe will be **reduced to 3 hourly** and only call at Cotford St Luke at peak hours.
- **28** Taunton to Minehead, via Bishops Lydeard, Williton, Watchet, Washford and Minehead will be **reduced from 30 minutes to every 45 minutes** with some occasional journeys diverted via Cotford St Luke and Norton Fitzwarren.

This is of major concern to the Somerset Bus Partnership and potentially leaves our community with either no bus or significantly reduced bus services such that they will become unattractive to enable and promote passenger growth. For more information about the changes and a petition set up by the Somerset Bus Partnership, see <https://www.change.org/p/save-the-essential-bus-services-1-25-28-54-and-58-in-somerset>

Other matters

A request from a member of the public to fund a bench at Porlock Weir has been received. The member of the public has been referred to Porlock Manor Estate.

The floral displays maintained by PPC need refreshing with Spring flowers and fresh organic compost. Some tidying will be undertaken once the threat of frost damage has passed. A working group for volunteer gardeners headed up by a Councillor should be considered to help with maintenance and to provide PLI cover. Watering contractors will resume once required.

The daffodils planted on the Village Hall verges are coming up so the contractor will be asked not to cut the grass around them until they have died back fully.

A suggestion to provide/plant trees in the Memorial Garden at the Recreation Ground has been received. This will be passed on to the Rec Committee for discussion at their meeting on Tuesday 20th Feb 2024.

Ongoing:

- Missing sign on High Street by the Castle directing cars and pedestrians to Central Long Stay car park
- Financial support for maintaining areas devolved from SWT and permission for volunteer maintenance of some areas
- Idverde bin emptying SLA
- 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 countywide review of parking is to take place in 24/25