

Highways Working Group report (provided by Cllr. S Colson)

Information collection has been progressing steadily regarding the recommendations made to PPC following the traffic consultation. The bulk of the required information will be in place during July, and the traffic working group is planning to meet in August to review everything with a view to putting specific recommendations to PPC at the September Council meeting related to:

- Cost estimates for extending 20 mph limits to Bossington Lane, Old Lane, Redway, Parsons St, Doverhay and Hawkcombe
- Cost estimates and criteria for establishing Porlock as a 20 mph zone
- Updated average speed data on all main roads in Porlock, West Porlock and Porlock Weir
- Purchase of, and training for, a Speed Indicator Device (SID)
- Potential formation of a community speed watch group
- Requesting more, free 15 mins parking spaces in the Doverhay and Central car parks
- Explore changes in bus timetabling to minimise impact of Exmoor Coaster bus on traffic congestion

The items which have been delayed due to very high workload within the Improvements Team are as follows - discussion is ongoing regarding these points:

- Widening the footpath on Dunster Steep by narrowing the grass verge and relocating the kerb
- Introducing dropped kerbs on the High Street to improve accessibility for users of walking aids, mobility scooters, pushchairs and wheelchairs
- Establishing two places (at each end of the High Street) to enable easier crossing for people with mobility issues
- Exploring the use of protected parking measures at each end of the High Street to provide some refuge for pedestrians crossing the road

Other Highways matters

- Lines
 - A work order has now been submitted to Somerset Council's contractor for repainting the white lines near the allotments on Parson's St
 - A work order has also been submitted for the double yellow lines on the junction of The Meadows and Meadowhayes
 - Removal of a short section of double yellow lines on Redway to enable one additional roadside parking space is part of a new Traffic Road Order, which will be advertised soon
 - Reinstatement of 'Give Way' writing on the road at the bottom of Dunster Steep is under investigation by Highways
- Changes on west end of High St
 - the Traffic Road Order (TRO) for removing the yellow kerb ticks (loading/unloading restrictions) will be advertised soon
 - establishing a statutory parking space (in place of the current informal one) will be part of the same TRO
- Parking
 - Parking services are aware of the missing parking restriction sign by the Hardware Store. This will most likely be attended to later in the year as lining is a priority in the summer months
 - Likewise parking services are also aware of the missing signs for parking restrictions for the single yellow lines outside High Bank cottages/Splat Barn, which will also be attended to later in the year
- Information signs
 - A work order has been submitted for a new sign on the High St near the Castle (direction sign for Central Car Park etc)
 - The proposed design for a new sign at the junction of Meadowhayes and Dunster Steep is under review with Highways
- Cleaning all the signs on Porlock Hill to remove build up of algae and improve visibility will be undertaken by Highways

A member of the public advised of problems with large vehicles turning into Sparkhayes from the A39/High Street.

Love Where You Live Porlock

Anti-dog fouling campaign materials have been delivered and posters will soon be displayed in the village, WG to organise. Social media and other publicity will also be used as a discussion forum and to raise awareness as soon as a Facebook page has been set up by the Clerk.

The Clerk has contacted Somerset Council to discuss the bin collection services they provide, currently through idverde, for the public litter and dog bins and a meeting is being arranged. From surveys carried out in 2021 by PPC and recently updated, it is clear that some of the bins listed are no longer in place, other need replacing or repositioning and some bins are filling up too quickly. PPC is also concerned that a street cleaner is not being provided by idverde despite being part of the services paid for by Somerset Council.

Members of the Love Where You Live Working Group have themselves helped in clearing vegetation from various paved areas in Porlock.

It was reported by Cllr. L Thornton that two of the trees planted as part of the 100 trees project in the verge at the junction of Meadowhayes and Sparkhayes (opposite the entrance to the campsite) are looking very stressed – one with no leaves and another with brown leaves. It is recommended that during dry spells these two trees are watered and that the grass around their stems is cleared to prevent competition for water from the grass. The ground around them should then be mulched to keep moisture in. Other trees planted as part of this project should also be checked so their condition can be noted.

Other Working Group reports

Old School Centre Community Garden Working Group

No report provided

Wassail

No report provided

Late night Shopping

No report provided

Festivals & Events

No report provided

Other matters

Footpaths

A meeting with significant landowners and authorities who have responsibility for footpaths was arranged for Monday 1st July Cllr. D Heath and the PPC Clerk, Johnathan Jones, attending on behalf of PPC. Cllr. L Thornton was unable to attend and gave apologies. Dan Barnett from ENPA gave a presentation and Royston Binding attended on behalf of Porlock Manor Estate (PME). The National Trust did not take up the invitation to attend. A report will be circulated once available.

Recent concerns have been raised by PPC about maintenance of the paths including the need to cut vegetation back to keep paths usable and this work has now been undertaken, although it has been reported that some paring was undertaken by members of the public frustrated by the delay.

Parish Online and interactive mapping services

PPC has renewed a previously lapsed subscription for this year costing £120, which will be paid for from the Flood Group EMR, and a continuing subscription will be discussed at a future budget setting meeting in the autumn.

Ongoing:

- Financial support for maintaining areas devolved from SWT and permission for volunteer maintenance of some areas
- Car park provision – a Somerset Council countywide review of parking is to take place in 24/25