

## MINUTES OF THE HIGHWAYS MEETING HELD ON 16 APR 08

**Those present:** Cllrs M.J. Bayley (Chairman), A.S.Hardie, C. Pointon-Taylor  
Clerk M.S.Green

**Apologies:** Cllrs M.A. Morley & Cllr. M. Newth-West

**Visitors:** County Cllr Francis Robinson (*see para 2 below*)

CDC Enforcement Officers Eve Chason & Gary Honour (*see para 7 below*)

### **1. Footpaths, Bridleways & tracks**

**County Rights of Way improvement Plan** - We sent our proposals on 21 July 04, and Peter Hale commented on them for the Penn Estate. The draft plan 2007-2011 were sent to us for comment. Detailed action plans will presumably follow

**Parish Paths Partnership** – Investigate with Paul Battye production of parish FP map which County produce under PPP in co-operation with the parish councils and possibly some sponsorship from local business, pubs etc. Coleshill map is a good example.

**Digital FP map for parish website** - has been circulated to members.

**Footpath signs** – On Church Road near the Gatemoor entrance, there is a missing FP sign. Sign at junction with footpath (Chiltern Way) PEN/11/3 and Penn Bottom needs putting back into ground. This is on Colin Jenkins list.

**Kissing Gates, Butcher's Field, W/Hill** - Two new kissing gates are to replace stiles on PEN 8/2 which is on the Chiltern Way from W/Hill Common across Butchers Field to Gawde Water Pond. It is the start of a nearly level circular path back to the common. The W/Hill Residents Association is to pay £250 for a metal gate at the pond end and the County's 'Donate a gate' scheme is to pay for a wooden gate at the Common end. The Chiltern Society will install them and spread a tonne of stone dressing (Type 2) to improve muddy patches, which we will supply.

### **2. Highway safety and traffic matters**

**Highway repairs** - An extra £3.25 m has been allocated this year for road repairs under two main headings:

1. **Blitz Patching Gang**, scraping off the surface of whole lengths of specified roads as decided by the local County Councillors. The gang will come to Penn in May. Cllr Robinson gave us the following list of identified priorities:

Common Wood Lane (*Check if it should be New Road, Penn St?*) - 250m

Whielden Lane (near White Gates) - 300m

Horsemoor Lane - 500m (not first priority)

Gravelly Way/Penn Bottom - 400m

Forty Green Road - 200m (not first priority)

Pauls Hill - no length specified (*Check if because order already placed*)

Eghams Wood Road - no length specified (*Check if because order already placed*)

Holtspur Lane - not on list at all (*Check if because order already placed*)

2. A *community gang* of 2 men with a vehicle and equipment operating for a week at a time in each Local Community Area will deal with a specified list of defects which does not include potholes. They will be in our Area (Amersham) seven times in the next 12 months for the weeks commencing 31 March, 26 May, 21 July, 15 Sep, 10 Nov, 12 Jan 09 and 9 Mar 09. We have to list the work required on a report sheet one week before the start of the week. The clerk & Cllr. Bayley have submitted a list in order to meet the first deadline.

Every member was asked to list the work needed in their immediate area and send it to the Clerk. Cllr Newth-West will cover Penn Bottom/Gravelly Way and the small lanes off them.

Highway inspection - Highways are required to inspect A & B class roads every month; C class every 3 months and unclassified every 6 months.

The repair of *Category 1 potholes* (300x300x40mm) is not affected by this additional money and will continue to be patched (with a new sticky tarmac) within 24 hrs & permanently within 28 days. Report to Highways on Call through the Clerk as problems arise. Highways have photographs of such potholes which we should put on our website.

**Local Area Technician** - Colin Jenkins has promised to update our list of reported defects with the action he has taken.

**Forty Green site meeting** - A note of the meeting held on 7 Apr 08 will be circulated separately.

**'Penn, Please drive carefully sign'** outside Gatemoor has been damaged by impact and removed. Colin Jenkins has confirmed he has it and will replace it..

**Woodbridge Alley** - We now have a possessory title and a site meeting of local members will decide on action needed to clear up the site.

### **3. Local Area Committee**

**Whielden Lane traffic calming and footway** - The County has recommended £30,000 and this money is still available. Together with £5,000 promised by the RHT, this should be enough to cover the cost of the project. Consultation on the detail of the scheme resulted in some amendments which have to go again to public consultation. The special imprinted surface to designate the pedestrian route has been installed.

**Parish Highway projects for 2008/09** - Four of our five projects have been recommended to next week's Local Area Committee:

1. *Penn Road pavement* repair with a slurry top down to Knotty Green Garage (cost £15,000).
2. *Island at Saucy Corner* – kerbing and restoring grass (cost £12,000). Cllr Bayley will suggest that this should be charged to Nicholas King since the damage results from his vehicles.
3. *Elm Road pavement* from Red Lion to French Meadow } £5,000
4. *Elm Road pavement* from the Doctors' new surgery to Rays Lane }
5. *Church Road, Penn/Elm Road pavement* from the Crown to the Red Lion – not recommended.

**Rural grass-cutting** - The outcome of the BCC review of rural grass cutting was for no change to the existing programme for 2008, but it will be reviewed again in 2009.

### **4. Neighbourhood Action Group**

The NAG has met twice so far this year.

**Speeding** - Speed enforcement is being addressed by the NAG and targeted in a number of ways:

**Speed enforcement days** These take place at regular intervals and involve a number of police officers capable of dealing with a number of offending motorists at any one time. Sites for such enforcement are limited by safety considerations. Speeding as well as other driving offences are actioned. The Penn Church Hall car park is one of the sites targeted.

**Police laser guns** - Additional guns have been purchased and PC Gavin McVeigh has been trained to operate them in conjunction with a PCSO. This will enable more ad hoc speed enforcement at a wider choice of sites to be undertaken

**'Count on us'** are an independent data collection company which has a current contract with Thames Valley Police. Their Automatic Traffic Count (ATC) equipment, which is basically a tube across a road, will measure hourly traffic numbers by direction, type (13 categories) and speed (13 categories). The advantage of ATC is that it provides the information without alerting the drivers to slow down. It has been agreed to pay for two 3-day ATCs (i.e. about £270) to cover Gravelly Way near Lions Farm and Penn Bottom near Church Knoll. The order for this work is about to be placed and the traffic measurement is expected to take place soon. The results will enable speed enforcement to be targeted more effectively.

**Speed indication device SID** Two refurbished devices are available and free to be borrowed from the police. Brief training is needed but a police presence is not needed to operate it.

**Community Speed Watch CSW camera**-displays the speed of a vehicle. This equipment is available and free to be borrowed from the police. Brief training is needed but a police presence is not needed to operate it. The speed and vehicle registration has to be recorded, possibly direct into a lap top. This information enables the police to send warning letters which after three offences puts the drivers details

onto the police data base. An instrument costs about £2,000 but the cost would be shared between several parishes in a NAG. We have agreed to pay a share and so we and Resident Societies can use it provided public liability insurance is in operation. Once CH. St. Peter PC agrees the unit will be purchased and can be booked from the police.

## **5. Traffic signs, road markings, gullies, highway furniture, finger posts and bus shelters**

*Cleaning and clearing road signs* - This one of the tasks now done by the Community Gang (see para 2.3 above).

*Penn Street triangle signpost* - Ken Moloughney has long promised pricing for a modern and traditional replacement. We would have to pay extra for the traditional kind. Now best to await completion of the industrial estate project since lorries are turning there and may damage the sign.

*Oil traps & gullies* - We need a firm programme of cleaning for e.g. Potters Cross pond (incl catchpit) Widmer Pond, Penn Street Pond. If no progress on Potters Cross we can prohibit road drainage into the pond.

*Penbury Grove gully* - The gully on the B474 opposite the Penbury Grove entrance is blocked.

*Royal Standard tourist sign* - We have written to the landlord. No further action.

## **6. Highway hedges and verges**

*Stumpwell Lane verge* - The recommendations made in the report of a site meeting with the owner of Thatchers Field on 9 October 05 included. native wild flowers to be planted along one stretch and cut twice a year. Bluebells and other woodland plants were to be planted along another stretch and we offered to contribute to the cost. *Check on progress.*

## **7. Highway litter, fly tipping and abandoned vehicles**

Gary Honour and Eve Chason explained that they dealt with Refuse & recycling collections, Flytipping & litter, Abandoned vehicles, Litter bin installation & clearance, Street & FP cleaning, Mechanical sweeping of roads, Verge grass-cutting & hedges. The following points were raised:

1. We should report all these matters to [wmanagement@chiltern.gov.uk](mailto:wmanagement@chiltern.gov.uk) They then scout and place the order with Verdant.
2. They will notify us of clearance days for our litter bins which sometimes overflow.
3. Mechanical sweeps of kerbs are about every quarter in Knotty Green and yearly elsewhere.
4. New road names - they welcomed the news and will get a map from David Stowe.

## **8. Street & Footway lighting**

*Trial switching-off street lights* - Following consultation BCC are proceeding with Phase 2 as planned This includes the A404 Inkerman Hill to Beamond End From 40mph at Hazlemere to end of lit length near Penn Street. The following work will be undertaken before the trial is started. Internally lit bollards to be replaced with high intensity reflective bollards. All road markings to be renewed. Road studs along centreline to be upgraded along length. Solar studs to be provided around bend. Foliage to be cut back around existing signing.

## **9. Street and Road naming and signs**

*Unnamed Lanes* - The new name plates have all been ordered and should be in place very soon. A note of the names should be put on our website,

## **10. Future meetings**

*Highways Committee* - It was agreed to meet a week before the District-wide Local Area Committee, which is soon to be replaced by a smaller Local Area Forum covering only a quarter of Chiltern District. Assuming meetings will probably follow the same pattern, our Committee meetings in 2008-09 will therefore be at 11am on Wednesday, on: **9 Jul; 15 Oct 2008 and 21 Jan & 22 April 2009**