

Calne Without Parish Council
Update from Highways, Transport and Road Safety Working Group

The Highways, Transport and Road Safety Working Group was established by resolution of the Council on 8th November 2021. The Working Group comprises Cllrs Barnes, Rees, Robbins, Deedigan, MacInnes and Price.

This report sets out progress made since September 2022.

1. Road Safety Feasibility Study

The Group continues to oversee the completion and implementation of the Road Safety Feasibility Study, in line with the Implementation Plan approved by Council on 10th October.

The current status of this is as follows:

A4 Sites - 13 (A4 Forest Gate to Studley Crossroads) & 14 (Old Derry Hill A342 j/w A4):

The Speed Limit Review was completed by Wiltshire Council in October. This recommended reducing the speed limit to 50mph between the A342 and Studley Crossroads, and between Studley Crossroads and Calne. However, it recommended retaining the speed limit at 50mph through Studley Crossroads.

The Council supported the Working Group's recommendation to further request a reduction from 50mph to 40mph through Studley Crossroads, due to the high incidence of collisions at this location, the presence of hazardous uncontrolled road junctions, the presence of a Toucan crossing and the high volume of pedestrians and cyclists crossing the road.

This has been raised at the Calne Area LHFIF. Cllr Ashley O'Neill has taken this up further with the Wiltshire Council cabinet member responsible for Highways.

Entran have issued the draft Stage 2 Report for Area 2, covering the A4 sites. This has endorsed the Council's position.

In view of the recent tragic death of a pedestrian at this location, the Council has asked residents to write in with their experiences of using the A4 in this location, as pedestrians, cyclists or motorists, to provide receptor evidence to include in the final report.

Quick Wins – sites 5 (Devizes Road), 6 (Ratford), 7 (Sandy Lane), and 16/16b (Old Derry Hill):

Highway Improvement Forms have been drafted for consideration at the next LHFIF meeting, ahead of the submission deadline of 14th April. These will be reviewed informally with Wiltshire Council's highways officer on 8th March.

Other Sites – Derry Hill (1&4), Studley 20mph zone & Studley weight limit (2) and Broads Green/Stockley speed limit reductions (9&10):

These schemes will be reviewed informally with Wiltshire Council's highways officer on 8th March.

It is then proposed to launch the consultation phase at the Parish Meeting on 27th April. This would include an exhibition, presentation and opportunity for feedback. A follow-up consultation would be held for the Stockley & Broads Green scheme in May at a suitable local venue.

2. Speed Indicator Devices

The first deployment of the two Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs), on the A342 Devizes Road and in Stockley Lane (southbound), was completed in November. The data was download and assessed. In the case of Stockley Lane, the 85thile met the threshold for police enforcement. The data has been provided to Wiltshire Police with a request for some enforcement work, which has been acknowledged.

The second deployment, on Church Road and on the A342 in Sandy Lane, was started in December, with the SIDs removed on 1st March.

The third deployment is planned for the A4 near The Pewsham, and in Stockley Lane (northbound).

3. Community Speedwatch

The Community Speedwatch remains awaiting approval of locations by Wiltshire Police. Two of the three proposed locations have now been rejected. Cllr Rees is seeking a meeting on site to resolve the issue.

4. Lansdowne Arms Bus Stop

Agreements have been obtained from both the Bowood Estate and Wadworth Brewery for improvement work to the bus stop. However, Bowood have indicated that they are no longer able to undertake the work. The next step will be to prepare a sketch and specification for the work and seek quotations from approved contractors.

5. CALW65 Derry Hill and Studley Footpath/Cycle Way

The topographic survey has been undertaken, but Wiltshire Council have put design work on hold pending clarification of land ownership issues. Wiltshire Council believes that the Right of Way only covers the width of the old path and does not extend the full width of the desired construction area, potentially requiring the transfer of land from multiple parties to be negotiated.

6. Sustrans Route 403 Cycle Way Working Group

The cross-council working group continues to meet. Progress includes:

- Signage has been audited, with replacement or supplementary signs procured from Sustrans and installed at twenty locations.
- A site visit has been held with Sustrans to inspect the proposed diversion of the route to the east of Yatesbury. The formal realignment of the route is being progressed by Sustrans.
- A site meeting is being sought with Hills to discussed improvement work.
- Contact is being sought with Valencia Waste Management, the new owners of the meadow between Low Lane and the Hills site.

- Accessibility improvements are being progressed. Wiltshire Council are filling in the cattle grid at the exit from Castlefields Park. An unnecessary gate at Stanley Bridge is to be permanently tied back. Calne Town Council are reviewing the arrangement of the gates into Castlefields Park.
- A site meeting has been held with Wiltshire Council to discuss removal of mud and potential improvements to surfacing along the disused railway line.
- Work has been initiated on developing some information boards.
- The Group is monitoring the situation with respect to lease arrangements on the Calne to Chippenham section. Sustrans are currently undertaking a feasibility study for Wiltshire Council into alternatives to the disused railway line. Early indications are that this is unlikely to recommend substantive changes to the alignment.

7. Projects initiated from Highway Improvement Request Forms

Signage at CALW38 crossing of highway south of Blackland

Horse and Rider Warning signs have now been installed.

Mile Elm

Improvement works are due to be undertaken by Wiltshire Council in mid-March.

Abberd Lane (CALW56)

Wiltshire Council have confirmed that the two National Speed Limit signs can be removed. They have suggested that this might be done more rapidly by Hills.

Cllr John Barnes
Highways, Transport and Road Safety Working Group