

Malmesbury Highways Matters event – 21 November 2023

Highway Maintenance, Improvements and Repairs

<p>1</p>	<p>How much attention is paid to pedestrians when deciding on which roads should be repaired and the quality of those repairs?</p> <p>I would invite Wiltshire Council Members to gather along Park Road pavement on the south side opposite and between Athelstan Court and "Park Road Industrial Units" on almost any day, but rainy days in particular and experience what pedestrians have to dodge when cars pass; or on icy days when the spray from the previous day has created a slippery surface.</p> <p>In preparation, perhaps Members could gather along various parts of Abbey Row; perhaps close to the speed hump, but not just there and take a slightly cleaner shower (contaminated with less road debris from the deteriorating road surface).</p> <p>If they conclude that wet legs are something that pedestrians should expect when walking on pavements, then please make it clear when asking to be re-elected. If they conclude that road repairs should have drains situated at points which can't be reached because of the action of gravity, or that reach the drain which no longer works because it is clogged with debris, then perhaps they should be banned from their cars. If they conclude that road repairs should not be done when water gathers in holes which is then spat back out with gritty contents at the legs of passers-by whenever cars pass, then I guess that we need a different set of Members. I have endured this situation for years now and would like answers as to what the Council will do about it.</p> <p>Answer:</p> <p>Park Road is identified within the future Maintenance program for resurfacing within the next 12 months prior to this work being undertaken an assessment of the Highway drainage system will be undertaken. As part of this the system is cleansed and defects identified, with repairs being made prior to resurfacing.</p>
<p>2</p>	<p>A full report and update as to what action is being taken to resolved the land slip at Lyneham Banks. It has now gone on far too long.</p> <p>Answer:</p> <p>Full details of the Lyneham Banks scheme are available on the Council website at - B4069 Lyneham Banks - Wiltshire Council</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>1. When is Park Road going to be resurfaced? It has been in an unacceptable state of disrepair for many years. The surface needs to be replaced (not just patched up) right along the entire length of Park Road including the part of the road that goes to Huws Grey Yard). Please give date.</p> <p>2. When is the council going to put up speed signs and enforce the speed limit in the part of Park Road near the new footbridge? This is especially important now that the new footbridge is open and used by very young children walking to and from the primary school who often have to cross the road blind behind vans, cars and lorries.</p> <p>Answer:</p> <p>1. Park Road features in our program of works, so should be resurfaced within the next 12months.</p> <p>2. The Council has an adopted process for dealing with local concerns, such as speeding, and any other suggestions for change that you would wish to raise. In terms of speeding a request can be made to carry out a traffic survey to determine actual driven speeds by the completion of a downloadable online form. The completed form needs to be endorsed by the relevant Town or Parish Council, in this case Malmesbury Town Council, and they will then forward to Wiltshire Council for processing. Full details of the process followed, and the</p>

downloadable forms are available on our website at [Introduction - Wiltshire Council](#) . The results of the survey will dictate if action is required to address any recorded speeding issues. Typically, initial action to speeding issues is in the form of Community Speedwatch (CSW) and Speed Indicator Device (SID) deployment. CSW is a Police led initiative whereby they provide support and training to local volunteers to enable them to undertake educational activities. Further details can be found at: [Community Speedwatch | Wiltshire Police](#) . Since 2015 the Council has delegated the deployment of temporary SID's to Town and Parish Councils in Wiltshire. You may wish to approach Malmesbury Town Council direct to discuss this further with them and establish if they would be interested in deploying a SID on Park Road. It should however be remembered that as speeding is a moving vehicle offence the enforcement authority is the Police and not the Council.

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Please note following questions from Malmesbury Town Council for the 'Highways Matters' Area Board meeting on the 21st November.

1. What resources are being committed to clearing blocked drains. For example, at Back Steps, Baskerville and Station Yard but there are numerous others, which are causing serious persistent local flooding problems?
2. What steps are going to be taken to make pedestrian crossings of the A429 at Blicks Hill, by Waitrose, and at Aldi safe and to upgrade the pedestrian crossing to the medical centre to reflect its importance?
3. Road signage and road name signs are increasingly decrepit, broken, dirty and overgrown. This adversely affects the streetscape, and the impression residents and visitors form of our town and county. Not maintaining assets does not equal good economic management. What will be done to establish a proper asset maintenance plan?
4. Road repairs and basic maintenance are not progressing at an adequate pace. Temporary repairs at a number of locations, e.g. Town Bridge have failed. Roads around Malmesbury to Swindon and Sherston are in a declining state, and it appears we are in a worse position going into this winter than we were last year. Can you confirm what road repairs are scheduled to take place in and around Malmesbury in the next 18 months? Can you also estimate the cost to resurfacing on a planned schedule versus delaying resurfacing, having to repair temporarily and then more significantly, including the increased danger and cost to all road users.
5. When will tarmac patch repairs to the Market Cross area and town centre pavements be replaced with appropriate paving? Malmesbury Town Centre is a popular tourist attraction and filled with listed buildings.

The current neglect of our streetscape reflects poorly on our town, the visitor experience and the hard work of our local businesses to provide a great town centre experience.
6. What thought is being given to developing a strategy to deal with the problems of large HGVs navigating through Malmesbury Town Centre and the increased vehicle overloading of Abbey Row, Bristol Street and Park Road, which are all unsuitable for the volume of traffic of all sizes but including HGV's and agricultural vehicles they are now expected to handle, including taking account of the worsening pedestrian experience in Abbey Row, Gloucester Row, Oxford Street and Bristol Street.

Answer:

1. The council currently has three gully tankers that are employed on a scheduled cleanse of highway gullies. We also utilise two high pressure vector units for clearing blockages within drains. In addition to this we have team of two tankers employed on maintaining the sewage treatment stations that the council own. Any spare capacity in this service area is used on providing a discretionary gully emptying service that can be requested by Parish Councils.
2. Improvements to crossings should be raised with the LHFIC in the first instance for investigation and identification of solution.
3. Investment has been increased in the replacement of signs, priority is given to regulatory

	<p>and warning signs, but we do have a program of replacing street name plates.</p> <p>4. The council does have a program of major maintenance schemes for all Area Boards including Malmesbury. (Detail in 12 Q1) While we would acknowledge that it would be preferable to make substantive repairs immediately, both the scale of investment required, and the impacts of major schemes being undertaken within a limited area all at once on the travelling public does mean that for practical purposes some interim repairs need to be undertaken.</p> <p>5. For Interim repairs that have been undertaken using tarmac within the slabbed area, a program for permanent repairs is being considered.</p> <p>6. Malmesbury Town Centre has a 7.5T weight limit in force. Vehicles in contravention of this should be reported to the Police who are the enforcement authority. In the longer term the Council has applied to Government to take on moving vehicle enforcement, through the use of ANPR cameras that could potentially be used to enforce the weight limit. As part of preparing a new Local Transport Plan, a review of the Council's Freight Strategy is being carried out. Following consultation, it is anticipated publication will take place during Summer 2024.</p>
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Congestion and speeding

1	<p>Regarding installing new SIDs - the recent note seems to suggest that SIDs must be put either on lamp posts (non-existent in many villages) or to have removeable posts (which are expensive and awkward for often elderly volunteers to move). In the past it has been permissible to replace speed limit repeater posts with taller ones and to use this for the SID. Is this still acceptable? If not, why not?</p> <p>Answer:</p> <p>The use of removeable posts in sockets is recommended for Health & Safety reasons. Post extensions on existing sign assemblies is not acceptable as there are concerns around stability and the need to lift the SID unit above chest / head height.</p>
2	<p>My question for the event is how is the council planning to address the issue of speeding traffic on Tetbury Hill, Malmesbury?</p> <p>Speeding traffic on Tetbury Hill is endangering the lives of all pedestrians and cyclists. Most importantly I am concerned about the safety of children who walk to school. The area between The Co-op opposite Station Yard and top of Tetbury Hill has narrow pavements, there is a conflict between through traffic and the drop of area of the primary school. At the present there appear to be NO traffic calming measures, I live near Tetbury Hill and regularly observe traffic that is undoubtedly travelling well over the speed limit of 30 miles hour.</p> <p>Answer:</p> <p>The Council has an adopted process for dealing with local concerns, such as speeding, and any other suggestions for change that you would wish to raise. In terms of speeding a request can be made to carry out a traffic survey to determine actual driven speeds by the completion of a downloadable online form. The completed form needs to be endorsed by the relevant Town or Parish Council, in this case Malmesbury Town Council, and they will then forward to Wiltshire Council for processing. Full details of the process followed, and the downloadable forms are available on our website at Introduction - Wiltshire Council . The results of the survey will dictate if action is required to address any recorded speeding issues. Typically, initial action to speeding issues is in the form of Community Speedwatch (CSW) and Speed Indicator Device (SID) deployment. CSW is a Police led initiative whereby they provide support and training to local volunteers to enable them to undertake educational</p>

activities. Further details can be found at: [Community Speedwatch | Wiltshire Police](#) . Since 2015 the Council has delegated the deployment of temporary SID's to Town and Parish Councils in Wiltshire. You may wish to approach Malmesbury Town Council direct to discuss this further with them and establish if they would be interested in deploying a SID on Altheston Road. It should however be remembered that as speeding is a moving vehicle offence the enforcement authority is the Police and not the Council.

Flooding

1 The recent flooding has been dreadful in some villages and exacerbated by the lack of ditch clearance. Please can we produce a new ditch clearance note and circulate it to parish councils and rural communities? Can we then actually clear some refusenik's ditch and charge them for the service - with much publicity? Otherwise, nothing will be done by the landowners who simply promise they will get around to it soon - for year after year.

Answer:

The task of upkeeping ditches is shared among various entities, including the council and landowners. Although not all instances of flooding are tied to ditch conditions, it is evident that a considerable portion of issues worsens due to poorly maintained ditch lines. While it would be inaccurate to claim that all landowners neglect their responsibilities, it is undeniable that some do. In such instances, we take measures to address the issue with landowners, including resorting to formal enforcement actions.

2 I write to politely request that something be done about the constant flooding at the junction of Blicks Hill and Holloway (opposite the Spice Merchant restaurant). The drains are permanently blocked with mud and detritus that flows like a river down Blicks Hill with each rainfall and residents now have permanent sandbags outside their gates to prevent their homes from flooding. With each event, thick mud is deposited across the road and driveways which residents then have to clean up. This location is the culmination point of water flowing from a number of directions, which has become worse over previous years. It is time a decent review of the drainage is carried out and the single drain at the bottom of the hill either upgraded or replaced.

Answer:

The issues at Blicks Hill/Holloway have been acknowledged by the Local Highways, and the site was recently attended using a high-pressure jetting unit to clear drains. Additionally, a road sweeper was deployed to remove debris from the carriageway. The particular situation of a road sunk into embankments, coupled with a gradient, results in the accumulation of debris at the lowest point, particularly at the junction with Holloway. Given the limited drainage in this area, there will be a consideration for potential improvements, but this will have to be done within the context of the demands for improvements at other sites and prioritisation.

Parking

1.	<p>Station Road car park. Two of the three ticket machines are broken (the one in the middle of the car park is an eyesore). Parking is becoming more expensive but there are around 9 'free' spaces in the lay-by at the end of Station Road (where the clothing donation bank is situated). How much income is being lost there? I have suffered nearly £1000 in repair costs after vandalism over the last few years including having all my tyres slashed and windscreen wipers ripped off. What are your plans for making the car park more secure?</p> <p>Answer:</p> <p>The recycling centre is not within the car park and therefore no income is being lost. Regarding the parking machines, one was hit by a lorry, the other was recently broken into, and we are negotiating next steps with our machine supplier.</p> <p>The Council is unaware of any criminal activity; however, this will be raised with the local PCSO to see if more patrols are possible.</p>
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My Wilts

1	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Is there a strategic road maintenance plan i.e. is regular maintenance/resurfacing of roads scheduled over a rolling period and if so, is this detail available for our area i.e. Sherston so that we a) understand and b) can publicise.2. When we recently reported a MyWilts case for the resurfacing of a pavement as we were concerned about health and safety, we were advised that this did not meet the required criteria – is this publicly available and if so, where?3. We have been actively trying to promote the use of the MyWilts facility however we are finding that cases are being closed with no action being taken and no explanation given – are there plans to improve this? The concern here is that residents are losing confidence in what could be a really valuable facility.4. MyWilts – we regularly experience the closure of reported issues on the basis that they have already been logged, however the 'master ticket' detail is not made available so that residents can track progress, this must be causing more work for the council will residents repeatedly reporting issues you are already aware of – are there any plans to address this?5. Would it not make sense for Parish Councils to have control over and set the speed limits they believe area appropriate for their parishes? This would significantly reduce workload and cost for the Council in manpower and equipment and allow the Parish Councils to be more accountable for their highways. <p>Answer:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The council does have a forward plan of strategic maintenance this can be found on our website: Highways Maintenance - Wiltshire Council2. Intervention levels for highway defects are found within our Highway Inspection Manual that can be found on our Web Site: Highways Maintenance - Wiltshire Council3 & 4. We are aware of a number of issues with the MyWilts App and the messaging that goes back to customers. This is being resolved as a priority.5. The Council as Highway Authority is responsible for the setting of speed limits in accordance with national guidance issued by the Department for Transport. This is to ensure a consistency of approach. The views of local people and Councils is fully taken into account in the process.
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