

Report on audit of Porton village footpaths/pavements/road surfaces January 2022

On Sunday 30th January 2022, Idmiston Parish Councillors David Sangster & Steven Cocking conducted an audit of the state of footpaths, pavements & road surfaces (which are used by pedestrians in the absence of separate footpaths).

This audit was conducted in response to a report submitted by a parishioner who is a wheelchair user. The focus of her report was the lack of accessibility to wheelchair users but is also of significance to pedestrians & pushchair users. The report was supplied to the IPC in the form of coloured print outs (probably of Google Maps) of the village roads at a highly detailed scale. The areas of concern were indicated with written ‘crosses’ and comments detailing the complaints.

During their audit, Councillors Sangster & Cocking took photos, discussed each location, and decided whether they agreed with the complaints & what we thought could & should be done.

The following is a list of the sites of complaint & their findings. The order has no particular significance; it’s just the order in which the councillors walked around bearing in mind they started at the closest point to both their houses.

The photos of the sites are attached separately & are grouped by site to limit the huge amount of data needed to download.

Site 1. Cross-roads of Winterslow Road & Gomeldon Road (aka.....)

Ref. photos 0463, 0464 & 0465

Complaint: No dropped kerb on corner.

Audit result: The Councillors felt this was an invalid complaint. There was no step from the road surface to the footpath on 3 of the 4 corners. The 4th corner is for access to the north side of Winterslow Road which can easily be accessed by other means.

2. Footpath on the south side of Winterslow Road between St. Nicholas Church/Driveway of Chalk House and Styles Close.

Ref. photo 0466

Complaint: Poor pavement.

Audit result: Agreed the surface is very poor. However, the area is passable in a wheelchair or pushchair by moving to the left (as looking at the photo) onto part of the driveway. Also, this is awaiting repair by the utility companies & the contractors developing up Styles Close (which may have been done by the time this is published). As a result, we do not feel that this is a high priority.

3. Entrance to St. Nicholas Close from Winterslow Road.

Ref. photos 0467, 0468 & 0469

Complaint: No dropped kerbs on corners.

Audit result: Agree, needs corrective action.

4. Footpath on south side of Winterslow Road between Styles Close & St. Nicholas Close.

Ref. photos 0470, 0471 & 0472

Complaint: Footpath way too narrow.

Audit result: Agreed, please note photo 0472 shows footpath between St. Nicholas Close & Bonaker Close to show how it should be.

Corrective action recommended: Relocate telegraph pole (good site nearby) & metalled surface needs to be cleaned back closer to the hedge so it looks more like the footpath shown in photo 0472.

5. Junction of High Street with Winterslow Road near NISA shop.

Ref. photos 0473 & 0474

Complaint: Dropped kerb too steep.

Audit result: Disagree. While not tidy, there are plenty of dropped curb options; none are too steep.

6. Footpath on SW side of Winterslow Road between doctor's surgery & entrance to the playing field; specifically, beside the unnamed close running parallel to the main road.

Ref. photo 0475

Complaint: Pavement not wide enough.

Audit result: Very low priority. There are plenty of options to get around the short narrow bit.

7. Footpath on SW side of Winterslow Road between the river and Parkland Way.

Ref. photo 0476

Complaint: Bad pavement.

Audit result: Not perfect but useable in a wheelchair. Not a high priority.

8. SE entrance into Parkland Way opposite the Porton Burial Ground.

Ref. photo 0477

Complaint: No dropped kerb.

Audit result: Agree, corrective action is necessary.

9. Junction of Malvern Way with Winterslow Road.

Ref. photos 0478, 0479 & 0480

Complaint: No dropped kerbs to cross W/low Road.

Audit result: Agree, corrective action necessary.

10. Footpath on SW side of W/low Road between Malvern Way & NW entrance into Parkland Way.

Ref. photo 0481

Complaint: No dropped kerb.

Audit result: Agree, corrective action necessary.

11. NW entrance into Parkland Way.

Ref. photos 0483 & 0484

Complaint: No dropped kerb.

Audit result: Agree, corrective action necessary.

12. Pavement of footpath turning left from A338 Tidworth Road into W/low Road.

Ref. photos 0485 & 0486

Complaint: Inaccessible!

Audit result: Agree but cannot immediately see what corrective action is possible. Need to consult with WC Highways.

13. Footpath between Malvern Way & Southbourne Close.

Ref. photo 0487

Complaint: No dropped kerb.

Audit result: Agree, corrective action necessary.

14. SE exit from playfield on footpath towards Bourne Close.

Ref. photos 0488 & 0489

Complaint: Poor surface, difficult to pass.

Audit result: Agree, corrective action necessary.

15. High Street, Porton between Parson's Close & Baptist Church.

Ref. photos 0493, 0494 & 0495

Complaint: Very poor & unstable road surface.

Audit result: This is a long-standing problem, but the Councillors understood this area is being attended to and improved in the 2022/23 financial year.

16. South side of Tidworth Road heading east from the junction with The Avenue.

No photos.

Complaint: Totally inaccessible because of narrow footpath.

Audit result: Another long-standing problem that has been reported by the PC to WC multiple times. Appropriate corrective action is necessary to widen the footpath.

17. Two other items. 2 road signs whose posts are rusted through, or nearly so.

1 on High St. by Bourne Close, the other on Winterslow Road near Bonaker Close. Ref. photo 0491, 0492 & 0496.

Noted by IPC Councillors during their audit. Considered to be a danger to the public, new posts are required.