

Curdridge Parish Council - Chair's Notes

October 2018

Road Safety

The chairman and District Councillor, Roger Bentote, had a very productive meeting with Rob Humby (Executive Member for Environment and Transport on Hampshire County Council) and two of his traffic engineers, who showed a good understanding of Curdridge's concerns. Our initial goal was to push for some signage and reduced speed limits, recognizing that places with a high incidence of injury (and fatal) accidents have to take priority.

We were pleased to learn that the county undertakes proactive work, analysing the locations and causes of accidents, and that each action they take is followed up, comparing accidents in five-year periods before and after the change. That is how we got the coloured surfaces and warning signs on the A334 approach to the junction with Reading Room Lane. Another place their analysis showed as dangerous was the approach to Curdridge along Botley Road from Bishops Waltham. Accordingly, it is planned to install larger and clearer 40mph limit signs, and mark the road surface with "dragon's teeth". The centre lines are to be refurbished throughout Botley Road. We were pleased to learn of this evidence-based approach.

We proposed some speed limit reductions in order to make roads in the parish less intimidating for walkers and cyclists. Highways explained that speed limits are only effective if they can be enforced or are seen to be reasonable, and the Police are unwilling to support limits that they would be unable to enforce. This is a more serious constraint on the reduction of limits than the legal, consultation and hardware costs of a new or lower limit. Since none of the recent accidents in Curdridge was attributable to excessive speed, Highways would prefer other actions to improve safety, but will continue to evaluate Curbridge and the A334. It is likely that the A3051 will get a consistent 40mph all the way to King's Corner as part of the work for the Botley bypass and North Whiteley development.

We raised the issue of inconsistent speed limits in the area, and learnt that many were as a result of short-lived central government initiatives. That explains the rural 30 limit east of Wickham, and the fact that the A3051 has no 30 limit in Curbridge, but does have one on the section in Swanwick, where there are pavements. Interestingly, the 30/40 alternation on the A27 west of Fareham has greatly reduced accidents there, though this kind of signage is unlikely to be repeated in future, as it is felt to be confusing.

The engineers promised to look again at the missing Give Way sign on the short section of Chapel Lane, from which Lockhams Road is almost invisible on the approach. They will also look for a suitable place for a cross-roads warning sign on the approach to the junction along Lockhams Road.

News from Recent Meetings

The September meeting took place after the deadline for this magazine, and was due to consider six planning applications, and to arrange for councillors to inspect the Council's properties. This is necessary to ensure they are safe, and to schedule work where there are concerns, as is being done with the surround of the pond.

In August, the council considered the Curdridge minibus, which is now little-used by villagers. Although the meeting did not object in principle to selling it, the needs of the Lunch Club were seen as critical, and any proceeds would have to be used in line with the community transport aims of CATS, including providing urgent transport for vulnerable villagers. The council will continue to support the minibus until a suitable buyer emerges and continued provision can be made for the Lunch Club.

Planning Decisions

31 Vicarage Lane Curdridge Southampton Hampshire SO32 2DP - Remove existing 3-bar fence and replace with 2m closed board fence with concrete supports (to the Botley Road boundary only). Fence panels to weather naturally. Case Officer: Marge Ballinger. Case No: 18/00835/HOU. **PERMITTED.**

Future meeting dates for Curdridge Parish Council

Planning, Highway & Licensing Committee Meetings (if there is sufficient business):

4 October, 1 November, 6 December 2018

Full Council Meetings:

13 September, 18 October, 15 November, 20 December 2018

Council Meetings start at 7pm and are held at the Reading Rooms.

Contact details for the Council are published in this magazine. Approved Minutes are available on the Parish Council website.