

Betchworth Parish Council- Highways Report August/September 2024

Outstanding highways issues

Despite referral of residents concerns to our C.Clr Clack, who has passed these issues to the Highways Teams there is no sign of any programme for works on essential matters & the response that matters are in hand is not satisfactory.

A meaningful coordination of priority cases needs to be undertaken & it is clear that requires escalation to senior level. As well as the broken drain on Pebblehill & the unstable embankment with limited footpath access there are other significant problems elsewhere in the Parish . The accident black spot at Betchworth Bridge has received no attention in 2 years & the road surface remains a skid path needing surface dressing. The Parish Council has regularly highlighted concerns to Highways without action.

As further examples among many others, the improved signage & renewal of worn road markings in The Street have not been addressed although these affect safety for the School.

The Parish Council will continue to press for resolution of these issues. Further meetings are being arranged with C.Clr Clack to review all priority outstanding cases.

Damaged Road Verge Opposite To Something Special On Pebblehill

Large delivery vehicles have been traversing the verge causing damage. In order to resolve this problem a meeting was held on site with the Director of Something Special & tenants, Karcher ,attended by C. Cllr. Clack, District Councillor Budd, Parish Clerk & Parish Councillor Randall. As a result Something Special, the site owners, will seek to improve the access gate configuration to avoid vehicles having to turn onto the verge to reverse into the site. Karcher confirmed they were having deliveries in smaller vehicles but Fresh Connect still have large vehicles entering. We await their proposals.

Speedwatch

Discussion with the Coordinator has resulted in a meeting proposed to take place after the holiday season with all volunteers in an endeavour to hold more regular attendance at agreed locations.

Betchworth Station Car Parking

The scheme by NCP in the former goods yard area has not proceeded due to change of ownership of the site. There is no provision for disabled drop off or pick at the Station as the original sale by British Rail made no reservation on the forecourt which was a disappointing shortcoming.

The new owner of the Quarry, Andy Needham, has assisted at his own cost on land adjacent to the private road to form & surface the disabled layby.

This shows commendable community spirit. GWR have been requested to provide signage on the Station building indicating its location.

Alternative Bus Route During Network rail closure

In conjunction with Pebblehill Residents Group , a proposal has been developed for a safer location of bus top pick up/set down in Station Road where existing bus shelter facilities & previous stop pole apply. This will avoid walking a mile down the A25 over a uneven footpath , mostly unlit ,to Pilgrim Cottages. We are awaiting confirmation that Highways have referred the proposal to The Police for ratification. NR & GWR have been advised .

Bus Stop Proposal Opposite Station

The North Downs Line Rail Group have been requested to look into release of land by NR for formation of a bus waiting area on land immediately north of the level crossing.

DfT A25 Dorking to Reigate Road Safety Project

The SCC road safety team in conjunction with Surrey Highways, recently requested councillor representation from Buckland, Betchworth and Brockham Parish councils for an initial workshop to look at high level plans for a programme of improvements along the A25 from Dorking to Reigate. The meeting was productive, and the council were pleased to be able to put forward ideas, including safer pedestrian facilities at the roundabout, and concerns in relation to the schemes being considered.

Information about the project and the 16 schemes which make up this programme can be found [here](#).

At this stage your views as Parishioners would be welcome regarding the Betchworth roundabout (scheme 7) & should be copied into clerk@betchworth-pc.gov.uk

The council is looking forward to working with SCC on this significant improvement initiative.