

Buriton Parish Council Street Design Improvements

Initial signs from the first phase of the High Street project are promising with generally positive comments about the improvements. It is already easy to forget how untidy the crossroads looked beforehand and how little space there was for pedestrians.

The junction by the Master Robert includes the principles of 'shared space', based on successful projects elsewhere in the country. The narrowed roads and absence of markings reduces traffic speeds whilst the very low kerb heights allow wide vehicles, including buses and farm vehicles, to pass by sharing the paved areas.

The improvements around the access to the Recreation Ground on Kiln Lane have also been well received.

In total, it has been possible to remove about twenty road signs, ten plastic bollards and verge markers and around two kilometres of centre-line road markings. More changes have still to be implemented, including new seating and extensions of the 30 mph speed limits.

All this has been achieved with barely any financial input from the Parish Council and local taxpayers as we have been able to attract significant sums of grant funding from far and wide. And it is only just two years ago that the consultants, **Hamilton-Baillie Associates**, appointed following our Parish Plan exercise, held the big public meeting in the Village Hall which led to the consultation exhibition of detailed design ideas last year.

We will continue to monitor the new arrangements and we welcome any comments that you may have. We are in regular contact with Hampshire County Council who designed and implemented the scheme with thorough safety considerations.

Whilst average traffic speeds appear to be slower on all the roads affected, there are still a few drivers who try to drive at inappropriate speeds. Unfortunately we suspect that many of the offenders may be parishioners and we would ask everyone to drive responsibly and to have regard to the elderly and children who may be trying to cross the roads.

We also hope that the new paved areas will not be used for parking – even for short periods of time. These spaces are important for pedestrians and for large vehicles.

Ideas for a second phase of improvements include a 'gateway' in North Lane to reduce traffic speeds and improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists; improvements by the pond including a bridge over the stream and a path across pond green to Bones Lane; refurbishment of the old sheep wash on pond green; improving access around the pond and in front of the church; provision of larger pedestrian space and seating by the school; and possible changes to the bus stop area in the High Street.

If funding can be secured, detail design suggestions for some of these areas will be drawn up in the next few months followed by community consultation – including an opportunity to see the designs and discuss ideas with the Highways engineers at the village hall. The Parish Council needs your input – in the first phase, many important proposals and new design ideas came from you!

Andrew Bray