

BIBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Highways: Cllr Craig Chapman, Long Cottage, Arlington, Bibury, GL7 5ND
Tel No 07710 98 68 38 Email craigchapman@biburyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Highways Report

There follows a report on highways defects and related matters.

Dated: 9th September 2024



Cllr Craig Chapman

Bibury Parish Council – Highways

REPORT

1. Issues Reported / Actions

1.1) **Location:** Crossroads (Winson / Barnsley) on Fossecross Lane

Issue: These crossroads were resurfaced with re-lining required as there was a significant safety risk in that there were no lines.

Enquiry Number: 11394858 logged online on 12th January 2023

Reported by: Cllr Craig Chapman

STATUS – Actioned. Lining to indicate right of way applied.

1.2) **Location:** Arlington Green

Issue: Deep pothole notified

Enquiry Number: 11466005 logged online on 2nd September 2024

Reported by: Cllr Craig Chapman

STATUS – Actioned. Pothole filled.

1.3) **Location:** Opposite Hawkers Hill

Issue: Wall is damaged

Enquiry Number: 11466263 logged online on 2nd September 2024

Reported by: Cllr Craig Chapman

STATUS – It is indicated that this wall will be repaired.

1.4) **Location:** Outside 1 The Old Quarry

Issue: Roadway requires re-surfacing

Enquiry Number: 11466009 logged online on 28th August 2024

Reported by: Cllr Craig Chapman

STATUS – Reported by Mary Ludbrook. GCC Highways reported they visited on 29th August (and met with the / a resident) and are considering appropriate action.

1.5) **Location:** Area of The Pike / Entrance to Hays Lane

Issue: A sign is requested (consistent with that at the Fosseyway end of the lane) to indicate 'Unsuitable for coaches and long vehicles'.

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Enquiry Number: 11466009 logged online on 28th August 2024

Reported by: Cllr Craig Chapman

STATUS – GCC Highways indicate that this will be actioned and at the same time a new post will be provided for the Swan Bridge Weight Limit sign, which is rusted through and has fallen over.

1.6) **Location:** The Swan Hotel bridge

Issue: Resulting from a comment from a member of the community, it was notified to GCC Highways that the bridge appears to be showing signs of distress / cracking.

Enquiry Number: N/A

STATUS: A report has been generated (now attached) which indicates - 'Some of the stones have moved and some of the masonry is missing. It is recommended that this part of the bridge be repaired.' The report also indicates a deterioration since the previous report, 6 month prior.

Action: The state of the bridge is noted by the GCC Parking / Enforcement Team who are reviewing actions to reduce harm. Whilst we have not received a formal response from Highways, Jason Humm (GCC Director of Transport and Highways) has commented in response to recent press coverage – 'The bridge at Bibury is historical and carries the B4425, so busy traffic and any heavy vehicles will inevitably contribute to its maintenance needs. We are aware of the parish Council's aspiration to ban coaches from Bibury. However, the coaches do not cause damage to the bridge over what would be expected to be dealt with by regular maintenance.' The issue of the report and appropriate action, bearing in mind the comment by the GCC Safety Team (see 2.1) to install a (blanket) 17T ban, will be discussed at the Teams meeting on Thursday 12th September referenced in 2.1.

1.7) **Location:** Roadway outside Arlington Row Cottages

Issue: Risk of flooding / poor road condition. Provision of a French drain type arrangement to take the water that flows down Awkward Hill into the stream at Rack Isle is proposed by Flood Warden Phil Challinor who produced a report which Cllr Craig Chapman forwarded to GCC Highways

Enquiry Number: TBA

STATUS – A proposed solution involving a gully / pipe based solution was proposed by Richard Gray of GCC Highways whilst Phil Challinor maintained a grated solution is best. In order to move this forward a meeting was held with Gill Portlock and Jake Thompson on 6th June and they will co-ordinate with their design team to re-instigate / propose a solution. **Action** – Cllrs Brian Skarda and Craig Chapman to maintain contact / follow up.

1.8) **Location:** Carpark in build by The Swan Inn on the right taking the road to Ablington

Issue: What is the status

Enquiry Number: N/A

STATUS: Timing for the works needs to be established. **Action:** A meeting with The Swan hotel indicates they are waiting to see the impact of The Pig in Barnsley on their hotel and also from the Bibury Parking Working Group parking initiative.

Other

2.1) **Safety Report – Swan Bridge / Coach Parking Bays**

A highly relevant report has been written by the GCC Road Safety Team (M Richards -10/07/24) which I have presented in it's entirety below and also attach the actual report:

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REPORT

Introduction:

Bibury is a small, residential village. It is a beautiful village that attracts visitors. For clarity, "Bibury" includes Arlington. Over the last 5-10 years the level of visitors has increased exponentially.

There has been a huge increase in the number of cars and coaches visiting the village. There is a lack of infrastructure and parking control to support the increased levels of tourism. Further, there are a limited number of commercial activities and these indicate that they see limited income from the coach passengers.

Issues:

- The width of the carriageway on the approach to the village on the B4425 is restricted due to limited road widths. There are multiple bends where vehicles over 17T have to stray across the central line markings in order to continue their journey. This poses a risk of head on collisions.
- The bridge is suffering structural damage.
- The bridge in the centre of the village is an attraction for tourists. While there is a dedicated pedestrian bridge, there were a number of people standing in the carriageway to get a photograph taken.
- There is nothing in place to indicate which vehicle has right of way at the bridge, this could cause conflicts and create frustration amongst drivers leading to 'aggressive' driving.
- There are 2 number of coach parking bays, however in order to manoeuvre into these spaces coaches are blocking the carriageway and reversing into the space. this is in the same area where pedestrian s are directed to use the pedestrian footbridge.

Recommendations:

- Install a priority system at the bridge (install the correct signage and carriageway markings).
- Remove and relocate the coach parking area. This could be troublesome as there seems to be no area within the immediate vicinity (3Km) which is suitable for coaches.
- Install a park and ride system outside of the village (using smaller vehicles to 'ferry' visitors into the area).
- Install a pedestrian footpath on the bridge.
- Install a width restriction on the bridge (it would need to be wide enough for emergency vehicles to access) - any advance signs would have to be located on all approaches to the village to allow oversized vehicles to leave the area. Local businesses would be affected, so a campaign to inform them to organise deliveries etc would be required.
- Install a 17T ban.

NOTE:

GCC Road Safety Officers witnessed on separate occasions Coaches reversing in to the parking bays - without a banksman - Traffic Stopped for 5 minutes due to blocked carriageway. Coaches alighting passengers in to the carriageway (See picture 10).

ENDS

Whilst I disagree with the recommendation regarding 'a pedestrian footpath on the bridge' (which is why with have the dedicated pedestrian footbridge, I think the report could have been stronger with respect to the size of the coach bays reflected by the bollards being knocked over and parking over the pavement resuming which is not mentioned.

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A follow-up Teams meeting has been organised by Lisa Spivey for Thursday 12th September (10am-11am) with representation on behalf of Bibury PC by myself, Brian Skarda and Mark Honeyball. Present will be a senior team from GCC Highways / TRO / enforcement and the police to include Jason Humm (GCC Director of Transport and Highways).

2.2) TRO

The TRO yellow lining has been implemented as has the associated signage. The next action is snagging and issues identified (which have yet to be communicated) are as follows:

- Extend lines on B4425 around corner of roadway (where it goes down to the arch) opposite Blenheim Cottage (this was on original design)
- Extend double yellow line from Cemetery Lane around corner to front of Sherborne Cottage (Malcolm / Alison James). This was not on the original design but requested by the James's to prevent parking on that corner and hence obscuring vision of drivers leaving Cemetery Lane and turning right
- Lines in front of Trout Farm / Arlington Mill (with parking area currently behind double yellows) to be modified to follow wall
- Extend lines on B4425 around corner of Hawkers Hill. This was not on original design but necessary as the existing lines need reinforcing and are being parked on as a consequence making enforcement unclear
- Reinforce 'No entry' signage at exit from Church Road. People are driving into Church Road (one way) the wrong way. Not directly TRO related but maybe due to lack of parking opportunity in Cemetery Lane
- Parking bays have been marked out for cars in the carpark opposite the Trout Farm but there is no provision for the ice cream van although an annual fee is paid for an area to park.

2.3) Bibury Parking Working Group

Having received the Safety Report (2.1) and the Bridge Structural Report (1.6) a meeting has been urgently progressed to discuss / agree solutions and this is now set for 12th September. Meanwhile there has been significant press and media interest with Mark Honeyball and I giving interviews to the local Gloucestershire media, Daily Mail, Daily Express and BBC (local and national). We were notified that Bob Skellern, Area Highways Manager East of GGC Highways would be taking overall Project Management responsibility to management the multiple parking / traffic issues we face, however he has yet to engage with the BPWG / PC.

2.4) Ablington Manor Working Group / Actions

Planning approval has been given for the works. Whilst there was not opportunity to attend and present discussion with the project team at a Planning Review it is positive that there is continued engagement with the representatives of the Ablington Manor construction team being Mike Fraser (Project Manager), Richard Bell (Construction Manager of Westgreen) and Toni Bell (Estate Manager) with the next meeting scheduled for Thursday 26th September.

2.5) Community / ANPR Camera

The camera is functioning and data is being recorded. The next step is to install signage and two have been requested (one from the East approach and one from the West). Data is currently being

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validated ahead of issuing warning letters, which if offences continue can / will lead to Police follow-up. I have chased the signage, due to the overly long time it is taking, and am told it will be installed early this month.