

# 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: 11<sup>th</sup> November 2024



Cllr Craig Chapman

Bibury Parish Council – Highways

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## REPORT

### 1. Issues Reported / Actions

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

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

**Enquiry Number:** 11466009 logged online on 28<sup>th</sup> August 2024

**Reported by:** Cllr Craig Chapman

**STATUS** – Actioned so that there is a new sign and at the same time a new post was provided for the Swan Bridge Weight Limit sign, which had fallen over.

1.2) **Location:** Opposite Hawkers Hill

**Issue:** Wall is damaged

**Enquiry Number:** 11466263 logged online on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024

**Reported by:** Cllr Craig Chapman

**STATUS** Actioned – repair undertaken.

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

**Issue:** Roadway requires re-surfacing

**Enquiry Number:** 11466009 logged online on 28<sup>th</sup> August 2024

**Reported by:** Cllr Craig Chapman

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

1.4) **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 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 months prior.

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Action: The issue of the report and appropriate action, bearing in mind the comment by the GCC Safety Team to install a (blanket) 17T ban, was discussed at the new meeting on Over-Tourism on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October referenced in 2.2.

1.5) **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 solution involving a gulley /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 6<sup>th</sup> June and they will co-ordinate with their design team to re-instantiate / propose a solution. Action – Cllrs Brian Skarda and Craig Chapman to maintain contact / follow up.

## Other

### 2.1) Coach Bays – Post Replacement (For discussion 8 /10 / 24 PC Meeting)

Gill Portlock (GCC - Local Highways Manager) has put on hold the action to erect plastic rebound posts to replace the damaged wooden posts in the coach bays by the Swan Bridge. I discussed with Gill and whilst there is the planned follow-up meeting to that of 21<sup>st</sup> October (as referred to in 2.2) she does not feel that she should act and is waiting for guidance from this next meeting. I asked whether removal of the coach bays is dependent on a TRO and she does not know but will find out.

### 2.2) Over-tourism and Parking Meeting

I circulated the minutes from the Overtourism and Parking Meeting held on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October which Brian Skarda and I attended on behalf of the PC, with support from Mike Pini, and which I chaired. The following attended in addition to the Parish Council members:

- Cllr Dom Morris (Conservative County Councillor - Cabinet Member for Highways and Flood)
- Jack Payne (GCC Political Researcher for Cabinet and Conservative Group) – who took the minutes
- Jason Humm (GCC – Director of Transport and Highways)
- Chris Jackson (Cotswolds Tourism Board) - funded primarily by CDC and West Oxfordshire District Council with around 450 member businesses. It is the Destination Management Organisation for the Cotswolds
- Gillian Portlock (GCC - Local Highways Manager)
- Dan Tiffany (GCC Highways – Deputy Area Officer)
- Cllr Paul Hodgkinson (Liberal County Councillor - Bourton-on-the-Water and Northleach)
- Cllr David Fowles (Conservative District Councillor – Coln Valley)
- Inspector Simon Ellson (Gloucestershire Constabulary - Police Inspector / Cotswolds Neighbourhood Team)

With apologies from

- Cllr Lisa Spivey (County Councillor for South Cerney – Liberal Group Leader)
- Cllr Tony Dale (Liberal Cabinet Member for the Economy and Council Transformation)

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The following reports were circulated ahead of the meeting:

- Safety Report – Swan Bridge / Coach Parking Bays. A highly relevant report written by the GCC Road Safety Team (M Richards -10/07/24) which was summarized in my last report and issued to the PC
- Bibury Parking Working Group - ACTION PLAN
- Swan Bridge – ANPR survey and Structural Report.

There was recognition and strong support for removing the coach bays and preventing coaches coming into Bibury from Cllr Paul Hodgkinson, Inspector Simon Elson, Chris Jackson and particularly CDC Cllr David Fowles. Whilst Lisa Spivey could not attend she is also supportive. It was thus frustrating that despite this and whilst there are three reports (Swan Bridge ANPR, Swan Bridge Structural Report plus Coach Bays / Swan Bridge Safety Report) Dom Morris (GCC cabinet member for Highways) concluded further evidence is needed and is proposing a further meeting, which Brian Skarda and I feel is not needed as all of the facts / reports were presented at the minuted meeting to a group of highly relevant representatives.

Dom Morris's conclusion at the end of the meeting was that there are 4 courses of action 1 - look at coach parking outside the village, 2 - ban coaches, 3 - remove the coach bays, 4 - assess more use of mini-coaches.

With respect to the following up meeting, it is indicated that this is being organised by Jason Humm (although delayed for personal reasons). Also, participating will be David Owen (GCC – Interim Director of Economy and Environment)

Relevant to the above the following email was received from Angus Hay at the Trout Farm:

‘In light of the of the Parish Council meeting tomorrow night, I wanted to provide you with an update at our end on coaching parking. We have been in contact with various landowners and have located a potential area suitable for parking coaches on the Cirencester side of the village. The area itself would be around 2 acres, providing ample parking keeping the village free of coaches. Logistics of the coach park will obviously take some consideration to keep all concerned parties happy. We will keep you updated as we progress with plans.’

I have asked for confirmation of location / more data on this land.

## 2.3) Community / ANPR Camera

An updated report on the operation of an ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) camera on the B4425 coming into Arlington (from The Pike) indicates a month-on-month reduction in speeding offences as indicated below:

	June	July	August	September	October
<b>Total Vehicles</b>	31,714	30,542	29,569	22,443	14,380
<b>Speeding Incidents</b>	1,145	925	724	402	239
<b>% Total Vehicles Speeding</b>	3.6%	3.0%	2.4%	1.8%	1.7%

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It is now indicated that the speed camera signage will be erected in the week commencing 18<sup>th</sup> November. As yet we have not started to send out police letters (maximum 40 per month / cost £28) it is proposed that we see if there is a further reduction based on the signage, then look to send letters. Also, to reduce the set speed level for camera recording from 40mph to 35mph.