

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: 8th October 2024



Cllr Craig Chapman

Bibury Parish Council – Highways

REPORT

1. Issues Reported / Actions

1.1) **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'.

Enquiry Number: 11466009 logged online on 28th August 2024

Reported by: Cllr Craig Chapman

STATUS – GCC Highways indicate that this will be actioned in early November (reference Gill Portlock 30 September) 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.

1.2) **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. Outstanding.

1.3) **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. 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 (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 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, will be discussed at the new meeting on Over-Tourism scheduled for Monday 21st 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 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-instantiate / propose a solution. Action – Cllrs Brian Skarda and Craig Chapman to maintain contact / follow up.

1.6) **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: At the September Parish Council Meeting it was indicated that plans are on hold, indefinitely.

Other

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

The following email has been received from Gill Portlock (GCC - Local Highways Manager) regarding the coach bays by the Swan Bridge:

‘Please can you confirm you are happy with me erecting rebound posts instead of wooden posts in the interim. I need to replace the damaged posts asap to protect the pedestrians and the wall from the reversing coaches. As I explained to you the cost and the frequency these posts seem to be getting damaged, I think the rebound ones will be the better choice. Once it has been decided what is happening about the bays and coaches, we can discuss if the wooden posts need to be reinstated.’

I discussed with Gill and whilst she acknowledges that this is an interim solution, until a decision is made regarding the coach bays, there are Health and Safety considerations which need to be addressed.

NOTE – A report on the damage caused to the Rack Isle wall by an out-of-control Range Rover (which was witnessed causing the damage and photographed after) was notified to the police and the National Trust. It was subsequently confirmed by a contact at the National Trust that they were contacted by the driver, who was co-operating with the repair needed / costs.

2.2) **Over-tourism and Parking Meeting**

A meeting is scheduled for Monday 21st October (by Cllr Dom Morris) bringing together the key stakeholders to address the issue of over-tourism and parking. Invitees are:

- Craig Chapman / Brian Skarda / Mark Honeyball (Bibury PC / Parking Working Group)

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- Cllr Dom Morris (Conservative County Councillor - Cabinet Member for Highways and Flood)
- Cllr David Gray (Conservative County Councillor - Cabinet Member for Environment, Economy and Planning)
- Cllr Lisa Spivey (County Councillor for South Cerney – Liberal Group Leader)
- Jason Humm (GCC – Director of Transport and Highways)
- Gillian Portlock (GCC - Local Highways Manager)
- Cllr Tony Dale (Liberal Cabinet Member for the Economy and Council Transformation)
- 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)
- Cllr Stephan Davies (Conservative - Leader GCC)
- Jack Payne (GCC Political Researcher for Cabinet and Conservative Group)

Key areas of discussion relate to:

- **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.**

2.3) Community / ANPR Camera

I provided an initial report on the operation of an ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) camera on the B4425 coming into Arlington (from The Pike) in Village Life (September) to indicate it had been operational since June 2024 and a reduction in speeding offences has been noted as indicated below:

	June	July	August
Total Vehicles	31,714	30,542	29,569
Speeding Incidents	1,145	925	724
% Total Vehicles Speeding	3.6%	3.0%	2.4%

Whilst this represents a continuing improvement it is disappointing that the ‘Speed Camera’ signage which was due to be installed in September 2024 is now scheduled for installation in mid-December 2024. At present it is assumed that the known / visible presence of the camera is resulting in a reduction in speeding offences, whilst the signage (and police follow-up) is expected to result in a further reduction. The data generated is quite extensive to include details of vehicles that are untaxed and without a valid MOT for police follow-up.

2.4) Ablington Manor Working Group / Actions

A summary from the meeting of Thursday 26th September:

- Work will continue on stripping out the Manor and this is rather slow

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- Scaffolding will be going up on the Manor shortly. This is quite a major activity and will either involve multiple deliveries over a period of time or potentially all the scaffolding arriving in a more concentrated set of deliveries
- Also imminent is the delivery and set up of around 10 portacabins to provide the site accommodation. These will be installed in the newly created car parking area rather than close to Orchard House which has been the original plan
- Hoardings will also shortly be installed to shield the parking area - these will be painted in Westgreen (construction company) green
- There will be more staff arriving to work on site but this will not be major step up.

Other points discussed included the fact that there is more lorry/commercial traffic coming through Ablington than that accounted for by the Manor. This may be because commercial traffic is avoiding Bibury because of congestion and weight limits on the bridge. It may also be that some of this traffic is in contravention of access restrictions and the weight limits on the Ablington bridge. Westgreen will be installing additional cameras in order the traffic can be better monitored.

On the actions outstanding from our previous meeting:

- There is no further clarity on the weight limit of the Ablington bridge - I agreed to follow up on this with the relevant authorities
- The possibility of moving the menage entrance in order that it less of an inconvenience for Dido Royden is still under discussion with Fosters and others
- The possibility of distributing spoil and excavation material elsewhere on the Manor grounds is still under consideration and depends, in part, on landscaping plans.

Generally, it was felt that the first few weeks had gone well with minimal disruption there were compliments on the friendly and polite staff who are working on site.