

# ROADS, PAVEMENTS AND TRAFFIC REPORT

## ROADS

Since Abbey Road and High Street were resurfaced there has been a significant reduction of pothole complaints, however highways maintenance issues do still arise from time to time and these are reported on the West Northamptonshire Council Street Doctor website by the Parish Clerk. However, it is important to reiterate here, that any member of the public can report using the Street Doctor tool and actually the more people who report an issue, the more likely it is to be resolved in a timely fashion:

[www.westnorthants.gov.uk/roads-and-paths/report-potholes-or-highway-problem](http://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/roads-and-paths/report-potholes-or-highway-problem)

## PAVEMENTS

Councillors are aware that there are several maintenance issues with pavements around Syresham and so they carried out a survey of pavement defects. It was found that it is not just potholes and uneven surfaces, but damaged kerbs, adverse severe cambers and narrowing caused by vegetation encroachment that are safety issues which are causing difficulty for pedestrians, and particularly residents who need to use mobility scooters and wheelchairs or pushchairs. This report was discussed with the new Silverstone Ward Councillor who advised the Parish Council that the most effective way to get these defects repaired, is to log each one individually on Street Doctor rather than submit a report to Highways.

Cllr Munsey and Draper have recently met with Mark Morrell (aka Mr Pothole) to seek his advice on what can be reported and how best to get action. The plan of action will be to report the worst issues first individually and gradually keep reporting additional issues as the more serious ones are resolved.

## TRAFFIC

There have been some concerns raised by residents regarding the speed of vehicles travelling through Syresham. Both West Northamptonshire Highways Road Safety Team and the Police Road Safety Team were contacted to ask for their help in checking the speeding situation on Main Road.

They concluded that while some vehicles do speed, the vast majority are travelling at the correct speed and that they therefore did not recommend any further action was necessary. However, it has been noted by the Parish Council that the Vehicle Activated Speed sign on Main Road is faulty and it has been confirmed by Highways that it cannot be repaired. The Parish Council are therefore pressing Highways to install a replacement.

Residents are also concerned about speeding in other areas of the village and the Parish Council have consequently joined the Police Community Speedwatch programme with Cllr Maclver coordinating volunteer residents. There will be further news on this later in the year.

There have also been calls to have a 20mph limit throughout the village, as is happening in many other villages throughout the UK. Such a limit would help reduce the volume of traffic that continues to use the village as a rat run whenever the A43 is congested. Councillor David Cranwell can be

contacted if you consider that this idea should be implemented. Traffic calming measures, such as this, would also form part of the proposed active travel routes scheme (below)

A 50mph speed limit on the section of the B4525 between Whistley Woods and the A43 was agreed by Highways several years ago, but the installation of the road signs was not forthcoming. The Parish Council have been repeatedly pushing Highways to have these installed and finally they are now in place. It is worth mentioning that the section of the B4525, that passes by Middleton Cheney, now has a 30mph speed limit imposed. Let Cllr David Cranwell have your thoughts on a similar limit between Syresham Shooting Ground and Highcross (Syresham)

Also, the bollards at the unlit junction of Main Road and the B4525 have had replacement reflective strips added, to make it easier and safer for vehicles turning onto Main Road from the B4525.

### **ACTIVE TRAVEL ROUTES**

Requests have been received by the Parish Council for support in lobbying principle authorities for active travel routes through Syresham Parish. Initially a request was submitted by Crowfield residents for a path to join Crowfield to the rest of the parish alongside the B4525. Also, the local action group SNATRA have been campaigning for Active Travel Routes to link up Brackley and Towcester and Banbury and the villages in between, including Syresham. Some progress has been made in that West Northamptonshire have recently commissioned the Brackley Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan which Local Councils and stakeholders have been commenting on. During this consultation the Parish Council have supported the Crowfield to High Cross and Brackley to Silverstone sections of the proposals. The plan will need to go through several phases of consideration at West Northamptonshire Council, before it is finally brought to public consultation and the Parish Council will continue to call for the two sections mentioned to be included. HS2 have also agreed to include an active travel route in their designs for the A43 bridge to make sure it is futureproofed for any potential need for a shared use path.

SNATRA have also requested West Northamptonshire Council to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) to National Highways (formerly Highways England) in respect of the funding for the Brackley to Silverstone element of the Active Travel Route. Alternative sources of funding will possibly be required for the Crowfield to High Cross link and the Parish Council would be very interested in ideas from residents for potential sources.