

EAST HAGBOURNE PARISH PLAN

ACTION PLAN ON ROAD SAFETY

10 MAY 2012

The Parish Plan identified road safety as a key concern of residents in the Parish

East Hagbourne Parish Council has been working with the local police on increased monitoring and enforcement of speed limits through the village, and a Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) was recently installed on New Road. Traffic and speeding have been topics of concern for many years, and we recognised from the outset that finding a solution to the concerns raised would not be easy.

Following the April 2011 Annual Parish meeting, the Council formed a Working Group to evaluate the concerns, gather information, and consult with Oxfordshire County Council on possible road improvements. The findings of this investigation were endorsed by the Parish Council and reviewed in a lively discussion at the Annual Parish Meeting on 12 April 2012. This Action Plan incorporates the results of the investigations and the wishes and priorities expressed at the APM. It was adopted by the full Parish Council at its meeting on 10 May 2012.

Further comments are welcome:

- By email to parishplan@easthagbourne.net
- In writing to the Parish Clerk, 30 Blewbury Road, East Hagbourne, DIDCOT, OX11 9LF

The contents of this document are

- A. An evaluation of the problem areas and the agreed actions to improve them
- B. Extract from the Action Plan of the Parish Plan approved at the April 2011 Annual Parish Meeting - items related to safety on roads and footpaths.

A. Evaluation of Problem Areas and Possible Actions

Issue	Possible Option	Likely Cost/Effort	Impact	Status
GENERAL ISSUES				
1. Excessive speed/	(a) Vehicle Activated Sign	£2000 (balance covered by OCC)	Now installed in New Road. Review its impact and consider an additional sign	DONE
Considerate driving				
	(b) Police enforcement	Maintain ongoing contact with police	OCC believe enforcement is the best way to change behaviour	ACTION
	(c) Speed survey	Cost to EHPC, £100 for each locations. Consider Cemetery, Main Road, New Road, Blewbury Road	Scheduled at four locations - to be carried out during term time	IN PROGRESS
	(d) Main Road	Pursue a 20mph speed limit along Main Road from Lower Cross to the School, without introducing speed bumps. The practicalities need to be better understood, and liaison with OCC will be needed.	OCC believe that natural environment is the best limiter of speed. A 20mph limit is possible without speed bumps, but would need signing. Police unlikely to enforce	ACTION
	(e) Village-specific signs	Suggested that the school might prepare some signs	OK to use, provided they are not distracting. Ask OCC for advise first	ACTION
	(f) Speed bump by school	OCC will repaint following recent work	Noted that bump seems less severe after recent work - monitor its effectiveness	ACTION
	(g) Other Roads	Existing speed limits are probably optimum	30mph in place along New Road & Blewbury Road. Bridge at cemetery provides some natural control for vehicles entering the village.	NO ACTION
	(h) Parking	EHPC action in conjunction with police if necessary. Cars must not block the footway: OCC support 'enough room for a pushchair' approach	OCC do not consider parked cars a problem in themselves - provide natural traffic calming. Police say New Road is wide enough for car parking. Problem of narrow roads (Harwood Road) is recognised and widespread.	EVALUATE OPTIONS

Issue	Possible Option	Likely Cost/Effort	Impact	Status
GENERAL ISSUES				
2. Road Signing	(a) Give Way at Lower Cross	STOP sign not appropriate at this location	Sign currently obscured by pole. OCC will reposition the sign	DONE
	(b) Sign at Jubilee Way roundabout, coming from Marsh Bridge	OCC will investigate marking through route more clearly	Would deter HGV from accidentally turning towards East Hagbourne. Sign could be temporary, pending completion of Northern Perimeter Road.	OCC CONSIDER CURRENT SIGNS OK
	(c) Village entry signing	£3500 per location for gates, road patches and speed roundels	OCC say they may lower speed locally, but unlikely to have effect throughout the village. However, they do serve as a highlight and some villages make them a feature	HIGH COST, LOW BENEFIT
	(d) Road surface markings	Markings for narrow road sections	OCC favour no markings on narrow road sections	NO ACTION
	(e) Anti-slip surfaces	OCC responsibility	Noted that surfaces are worn, including at Lower Cross.	MAINTAIN
			Cost of coloured patches is high and durability poor compared with neutral patches.	UNLIKELY
	(f) Visibility	OCC favour cutting back hedges where possible		SEE ITEM 4
		Mirrors are not favoured - possible distraction		DO NOT ACTION
	(g) HGV restrictions	OCC not funding 'environmental' restrictions.	OCC say restrictions difficult to enforce	DO NOT ACTION

Issue	Possible Option	Likely Cost/Effort	Impact	Status
GENERAL ISSUES				
3. Pedestrian Crossings	(a) Existing school crossing		Considered very successful	
	(b) New Road	Parish Council consider the most suitable location is near the shop	However, would need to be positioned a few metres towards Didcot to provide suitable departure points	NO ACTION AT PRESENT
	Zebra Crossing	£20000 + pavement costs	Zebra crossing allowed if 85%ile speed is less than 35mph	
	Pelican Crossing	£60000 + pavement costs	Pelican Crossing required if 85%ile speed is greater than 35mph	
		Pavement 38m x 1.5m x £100/m ² = £5700	Great Mead to opposite 106 New Road,	
		Survey needed	Need has to be justified: how many people cross each hour?	SURVEY?

Issue	Possible Option	Likely Cost/Effort	Impact	Status
GENERAL ISSUES				
4. Free passage for pedestrians and vehicles	(a) Keeping pavements clear	EHPC action - ongoing maintenance and residents responsibility:- village-wide approach needed	Pavements should be kept clear of overhanging hedges - EHPC to liaise with property owners	ACTION
		EHPC action	Cut back grass where it is overgrowing tarmac areas	ACTION
	(b) Cut back hedges where necessary for traffic visibility	EHPC identify critical locations and liaise with property owners	Improved visibility and free passage for vehicles	ACTION
	(c) Obstruction of pavements by vehicles	EHPC establish policy		See Item 1(h)
	(d) General pavement considerations	OCC say a good working figure is £100/msq. Pavement should be ideally 1.5-2.0m wide (1.0m acceptable over a short distance)	Costs may be greater if drains etc have to be moved.	

Issue	Possible Option	Likely Cost/Effort	Impact	Status
SPECIFIC LOCATIONS WITHIN THE PARISH				
5. Lower Cross Road Layout	(a) Repairs	OCC will follow up a suitable repair for the anti-slip surface - see item 2(e)	Essential maintenance	ACTION
	(b) Signing	OCC will reposition Give Way sign -see item 2(a)		DONE
		OCC will examine the junction sign coming from Blewbury Road to see if it can be improved		REPLACE?
	(c) Revised Layout		Neither EHPC nor OCC can propose a different road layout that would improve safety.	NO ACTION
	(d) Sight lines	OCC are in favour of improving sight lines where practical		EVALUATE as part of (e)
	(e) Extend pavement on E side of New Road to opposite Higgs Close	30m x 1.5m x £100/msq = £4500 + vegetation clearance etc. OCC say Stewardship fund is only OCC money available at present	Extending pavement would allow safer road crossing opposite Higgs Close. Would require verge clearing opposite Higgs Close.	INVESTIGATE FEASIBILITY
	(f) Pavement extension Higgs Close to Great Mead	60m x 1.5m x £100/msq = £9000	Available width would need to be verified & hedges kept cut back	LOWER PRIORITY
	(g) Pedestrians from Blewbury Road to Main Road	Difficult to improve on existing layout. Ensure tarmac path on centre triangle is maintained		KEEP GRASS TRIMMED

Issue	Possible Option	Likely Cost/Effort	Impact	Status
SPECIFIC LOCATIONS WITHIN THE PARISH				
6. Upper Cross Road Layout	(a) Crossing the road to school lower entrance	The WG and OCC cannot suggest any practical improvements to the current road layout	Pedestrian road markings could decrease vigilance of pedestrians. It is noted that there is a safer route via Shoe Lane and The Croft.	NO ACTION
	(b) Parking		No-parking on yellow school marking should be enforced during school hours (residents and parents).	ACTION
	(b) Other considerations	Ensure tarmac path outside school is kept clear and vegetation does not encroach		ACTION
		Consider need for a street lamp at this location		EVALUATE

Issue	Possible Option	Likely Cost/Effort	Impact	Status
SPECIFIC LOCATIONS WITHIN THE PARISH				
7. Pavement, Manor Farm Lane to the Embankment	(a) Manor Farm Lane to opposite Lych Gate	60m x 1.5m x £100/msq = £9000	Evaluated in three sections to allow different options to be considered. Minimum width of 1.5m available throughout the whole length	COSTLY - OPINIONS DIVIDED ON DESIRABILITY
Note that distances and costs are very approximate	(b) Lych Gate to field gate	50m x 1.5m x £100/msq = £7500	Hedge would not need to be moved	
	(c) field gate to embankment	60m x 1.5m x £100msq = £9000		
		Additional cost for retaining wall and changes to steps/railings £2000??		
Review alternative approaches				ACTION

B. Extracts from East Hagbourne Parish Plan April 2011

4.3 Road Safety

Category: Strategic/Transport

Monitoring: Parish Council to review progress each year through the Annual Parish Meeting, and in conjunction with steering groups at monthly Parish Council meetings.

Note: Safety concerns related to footpaths and road pavements are addressed in Section 4.4, Footpaths

Action	How it will be tackled	Priority	Timing	Responsibility (Lead and partners)	Resource implications
1. Prepare a plan to address concerns raised on traffic including: – Main Road – New Road especially near the shop/PO – Lower Cross junction	Form a small Working Group on Road Safety of Parish Council and other members to further develop workable plans	High	1 month	Parish Council lead, liaison with OCC and Police	-
2. Develop a plan and present to the full Parish Council for approval	– Review existing information, and generate more or different data as needed – develop proposals, categorising into those we can do ourselves, those requiring OCC help and those which are longer term	High	6 months	Working group, liaison with OCC and Police	Mainly people power, but some further data gathering may be needed
3. Arrange consultation with the whole community on the conclusions and suggested priorities.	Written/electronic communication to the whole community. Open meeting to solicit comment and agreement for the plans	High	3 months	Parish Council, include partners as appropriate	Moderate
4. Approach the relevant authorities to agree plans, and schedule any expenditure	Refine plan on the basis of public consultation, set up meeting with partners, agree practicalities and schedule implementation	High	6 months	Parish Council lead, OCC, involve District/county Councillors as needed	Moderate
5. Implement plans	Identify what PC can do alone, what needs support, schedule accordingly.	High	Varies	Parish Council, OCC and other partners	Significant

4.4 Footpaths

Category: Community/Service Providers: Environment

Monitoring: Parish Council to review progress each year through the Annual Parish Meeting, and in conjunction with steering groups at monthly Parish Council meetings.

Note: Where concerns are related to safety, they will be handled by the Working Group on Road Safety (see Section 4.3)

Items related to pedestrian safety:

Action	How it will be tackled	Priority	Timing	Responsibility (Lead and partners)	Resource implications
3. Ensure roadside pavements are kept clear	Ensure hedges are cut back effectively and regularly. Tackle inconsiderate parking	Medium	Ongoing	Parish Council, local residents	Low
4. Evaluate and implement a new footpath along south side of Main Road from the school to the Sustrans route	Project looks feasible in principle. More detailed study is needed to define methods, cost and funding sources.	High	18 months	Parish Council, landowner, OCC, Sustrans	Medium. Capital cost could be significant. Seek contributions from OCC, Parish Council
5. Improve safety of road crossing from school to Upper Cross	Explore effective ways of alerting motorists to the likely presence of pedestrians and slowing traffic	High	1 year	Parish Council WG on Road Safety, OCC	Moderate. Likely solutions to involve road marking or signing
6. Improve safety for pedestrians at Lower Cross and Great Mead/New Road	Discussion with OCC on effective measures, neighbours on hedge cutting and with Police on enforcement if needed.	High	2 years	Parish Council WG on Road Safety, OCC, Police, neighbours	Unclear, could be significant if road changes or pedestrian crossing recommended