

Planning & Highways Report August 2024

M3 JUNCTION 9 Improvements “Gets the Green Light”

National Highways has now received permission to change the junction so that it has free-flowing links between the M3 and the A34 in both directions. Hopefully, a change of government will not lead to its cancellation. The scheme proposals will also see the junction widened and two new bridges built on the gyratory, allowing the M3 to increase from 3 lanes to 4 as it passes through the junction.

The southbound slip will also be extended onto the M3 so traffic has more time to join the motorway and improve the safety of the junction with upgraded signs and gantries. Walker, cyclists and horse-riders will also benefit from the scheme with non-motorised routes connecting Kings Worthy and Winnall and Long Walk and Easton Lane. The Parish Council will continue to liaise with the National Highways Project Team throughout the project and intend to create a website link for parishioners to raise issues and ask questions about the project.

HGV Signage

The Parish Council will shortly be installing signage along Lovedon Lane detailing how to report HGVs parking overnight or travelling to Ecogen outside of the permitted hours. Hopefully this will help to reduce the incidences of illegal parking etc. Naturally the normal agricultural traffic such as the milk tanker and grain lorries do not need to be reported.

Speed Watch Project

The P&H Committee are exploring the idea of creating a “Speed Watch Project” to monitor and report on speeding vehicles across the parish.

We are looking for volunteers to join councillors on this team. Full training will be given by Hampshire Police. The team will use equipment a specifically designed to monitor and record the details of speeding vehicles which can be used by the police to act against drivers who breach speed limits. If you would like to become a member of this team, please email the parish clerk at clerk@kingsworthy-pc.org.uk

Hedges next to footpaths

Can we remind all parishioners who have hedges bordering footpaths or round junctions to ensure that this years’ new growth is not reducing the width of the footpath or restricting sight lines. Could we ask that you trim your hedges or at least ensure that any nettles or brambles are cut back. It is a legal requirement to ensure that you do not disturb any nesting birds, so please ensure that the hedge is checked before cutting commences.

Speeding within the Parish

It’s almost a year since we received our latest licence from HCC Safer Roads to operate of Speed Indicator Sign. Since then, the Parish has monitored more than 250,000 vehicle movements. To better understand the results, we have undertaken a high-level analysis using the criteria of “speed limit plus 10%” as being legal. This is widely used by UK Police forces as the point at which penalties are imposed. The initial results show that 16% of all movements monitored were illegal!

The worst three areas are all along the Springvale Road which had the following results:

1. By railway arch – 37% exceed the criteria
2. At the bottom of Nations Hill – 29% exceed the criteria
3. Elan Court – 17% exceed the criteria

We have now started the deeper to analysis to enable us to identify the “worst time of day” and the “worst day” for offending.

If you are planning an event or would like to use the Park for your business, e.g. exercise and fitness classes, please do contact the Parish Clerk (clerk@kingsworthy-pc.org.uk or phone 01962 884150) to confirm safety.