



## **BPC Highways Group Report - October 2023**

**Potholes** are beginning to develop this autumn. Please report any that you notice at:

[Report a pothole | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](https://hants.gov.uk)

Let the highways group know the details, so we can keep tabs.

**Speed Limits – 20mph** we have been assured that local schools and BPC will be consulted over the extent of these limits around local schools

**Boldre Lane** and **Pilley Hill** have been raised with HCC as needing extensive re-surfacing, but our representative on HCC has simply said that Boldre has had its 'fair share' of road work, so can make no promises. It may be that the work should be planned in conjunction with BPC, so that it can be more focussed.

**Encroachment** – please pass on any new cases you have noted with details; we have actioned all the issues raised to date

**Footpaths** – the Highways Group are very pleased that the closure of **F20** (Jordans Lane to Bull Hill) comes to an end on Friday 13 October. The path has been closed since early May, initially for 3 weeks, but this was extended. The path required work on a footbridge.

The work on **F33** (Church Lane to Rodlease Lane) remains listed as 'in progress' by HCC. No response to our contact. **F25** (Hundred Lane to Main Road) has been narrowed by overgrown hedging.

A **Lengthsman** (Mr Paul Tanner) has been appointed; we hope the funding will follow.

A **Highways Strategy** which is reproduced below, will guide the work of the group over the next year.

## **BPC Highways Strategy 2023-24**

BPC recognises the importance of highways and footpaths in the area to the economic and social life of residents and visitors alike.

Responsibility for the provision and maintenance of the assets rests almost entirely with Hampshire County and New Forest District Councils and with landowners. It is important that BPC does not overstate its ability to meet the aspirations of residents; in the main the role of BPC will be to exert pressure on the responsible authorities to fulfil their obligations in an efficient and equitable manner.

### **Areas of Focus**

- Highways - Road layouts and surfaces; signs and markings; drainage; road verges and edges
- Road Usage - Traffic volumes (number and size of vehicles) driver and rider behaviour noise, speed, parking, verge damage, litter.
- Paths/Bridleways Access, stiles, gates, boardwalks, footbridges, undergrowth.

### **Aims:**

1. To optimise the experience of all users equitably– walkers, cyclists, riders and drivers / passengers.
2. To record and consider ‘highways’ issues raised with BPC and respond in a timely fashion .
3. Where appropriate to communicate and pursue requests to HCC and NFDC Representatives and the relevant Local Authority departments.
4. To maintain and develop access to the network of footpaths throughout the BPC area, by encouraging responsible authorities to provide upkeep.

### **Actions:**

During 2023-24 the Highways Group of BPC will seek to develop systems to:

- Record, consider and respond to issues raised by our users
- After consideration and, if consistent with BPC aims, refer issues to the relevant bodies’ representatives and to request responses by specified dates
- Liaise with user groups – Speedwatch, schools, traffic police, cycling groups, ramblers associations and BPC Planning – to identify and, where fitting, support their aspirations

## Targets:

During 2023-24 a number of key issues will be considered:

- Hedge encroachment on key roads:
- Road surface problems – Pilley Hill; Boldre Lane (Ampress End) Warborne Hill; Rope Hill.
- Road edges – blocked ditches, sunken drain covers, and potholed edges pose particular safety problems for pedestrians, cyclists and riders
- Road layouts / signage at problem sites such as Bull Hill
- Traffic Speeds – in particular on Boldre Lane, Pilley Street, Hundred Lane; A337– consideration of priorities for traffic calming measures and / or speed limit reductions and representation to HCC
- Problems caused by increasing use of the small lanes in the area by large, unsuitable vehicles
- Bridleways – improvements to resilience of B6 (By Lymington River) and B13 (Green Lane) , both of which are impassible for much of the year.
- Footpaths – safety and drainage improvements to F33 -already raised with HCC.

The Highways Group will provide a regular summary report to Boldre Parish Council to provide information on progress and challenges identified.

