

WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL**Highways Works and Programmes****1. Background**

1.1 Swindon Borough Council is the Highways Authority. The Parish Council has a number of highways related powers including the

- Power to repair and maintain public footpaths and bridleways
- Power to light roads and public places
- Power to provide parking places
- Power to provide traffic signs

Additionally, the Parish Council can part contribute to Highways improvement schemes or use the General Power of Competence.

1.2 To date, the Parish Council has had a small number of schemes supported and executed by Swindon Borough Council. These include railings at Park Springs residential setting, dropped kerbs to Mannington Lane and yellow lining at Welton Road.

1.3 The Parish Council has a number of projects or schemes that have been highlighted by Parish Councillors. As Swindon Borough Council is the Highways Authority and the asset owner of the public pavement/highway, the Parish Council could only undertake work that has been granted permission from Swindon Borough Council. Historically Swindon Borough Council has both approved and commissioned local work however at the current time, it has not yet determined whether it has the resources to respond to any further requests from the Parish Council. To proceed with outstanding requests, a different approach may be required. It is also worth noting that the Parish Council has not set aside any funding/budget specifically for highways-related works.

1.4 In some instances, such as dropped kerbs, and pavement renewal/improvement, it is potentially possible for the Parish Council to secure permission for the works proposed and to then commission directly with an approved highways contractor. For other works such as double yellow lines, the Parish Council would still need Swindon Borough Council to agree to take on the work to issue a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO).

2. Detail; Identified Proposals*Condition of pavements:*

2.1 A resident in Toothill who is dependent on a mobility scooter has highlighted the poor condition of pavements from Toothill to Grange Park and to the West Swindon District Centre. Pavements often have ruts and ridges, uneven

camber, plus, a lack of dropped kerbs to assist safe travel across roads. Pavement condition complaints to the Parish Council are reported to Swindon Borough Council. Occasionally minor repairs are undertaken by Swindon Borough Council. The Parish Council has received similar complaints about pavement condition on the routes from Shaw Ridge Linear Park to Shaw Village Centre. Examples are below:



- 2.2. If the Parish Council were to consider funding pavement improvements, subject to permissions etc. estimated costs to construct a new footway using standard bituminous materials typically costs approximately £172 per metre with kerbing/edgings costing approximately £80 per metre. A form of repair work may be less.

Dropped Kerb Requests:

- 2.3 West Swindon Parish Council has submitted requests for dropped kerbs at the following locations; Birdcombe Road, Langstone Way, Pearl Road to Middleleaze Drive. If the Parish Council were to consider funding these directly, the cost for installation is estimated to be in the region of £700 to £900 per kerb. There may also be additional surveying costs.

Double Yellow Lines:

- 2.4 A review of the effectiveness of the Rivenhall Road double yellow lines has been requested alongside extending the scheme to create double yellow lines on Ravenglass Road T junction to Langstone Way.
- 2.5 A request has also been received to include double yellow lines at Heronbridge Close.

- 2.6 If the Parish Council were to fund future Traffic Regulation Schemes, the costs could be in the region of £5,000 per scheme if the Parish Council is to cover the costs of formulating the proposals, the consultation, and the progression of the associated legal traffic orders. The cost of the yellow lines and associated road signs account for a much smaller proportion of the total scheme.

Footway Signage:

- 2.7 A number of Parish Councillors have observed that many of the footway markings and finger post signs across West Swindon are either obsolete (missing posts), in poor condition or no longer useful. Swindon Borough Council Highways Team has given permission for the Parish Council to remove any redundant/broken posts at a cost to the Parish Council. Replacement signs may cost between £150 to £400 depending on the type of replacement.

Street Lighting:

- 2.8 The Parish Council has had a long standing request to support the installation of an additional street light by the footpath known as the 'Old Wootton Bassett Road' adjacent to Toothill roundabout/Stokesay Drive. This request has been submitted to Swindon Borough Council. Provision of a standard street lighting column including service connection costs up to £2,675. Costs may be higher depending on ducting and the distance of the closest electricity source which can cost up to £80 per metre.

3. Recommendations:

- 3.1 That Councillors note this report and consider the best approach to highlight the highways issues in West Swindon. A letter detailing the outstanding proposals can be sent to Swindon Borough Council.
- 3.2. That the Committee considers whether it wishes to propose a budget for Highways related works in the current and future year's budgets.
- 3.3. That the Committee identifies any projects that it wishes to instruct for action by the Parish Council.

Paula Harrison
Parish Manager