

15th May 2023 Minutes – Appendix B

Beech Road Safety Group Report – 15 May 2023

On-Road Footways

Ian Janes of HCC has responded to our comments on his initial design for the on-road footways in the village. He has agreed with almost all of our comments directly relating to the on-road footways. In particular he has agreed to:

- Extending the King's Hill on-road footway (on the north side of the road) eastwards around the sharp Kings Hill bend to terminate at 2 Kings Hill; and
- Extending the Medstead Road on-road footway (on the south side of the road) all the way from 100 Medstead Road up to 2 Kings Hill (i.e. alongside the woodland areas).

Both subject to safety audit. He disagrees with:

- Painting 'walking man' logos in the footway, reiterating that these are not legal as per regulations;
- More 30mph road markings, as these are not legal in streetlit areas;
- Introducing some additional HCC 'pedestrians in road' signs (that he considers to be undesirable, repetitive clutter); and
- Introducing a sign warning of the crossing at the Bushy Leaze Wood entrance (when driving downhill).

We think we need to accept his position on the above points. He also wishes to take out of the scope of work:

- Possible bollards at the bridleway crossing point at 100 Medstead Road. This could be the subject of a future project.
- Tidying up the pavement at the bus shelter. This could be a parish council working party job.
- Repositioning the direction signs at the junction of Medstead Road and the A339. This could be a separate piece of work.
- Moving the 30mph limit signs to the junction of Medstead Road and the A339. This is unlikely to be considered as there is no proven casualty reduction benefit for this formal Traffic Management measure.

Again, we think we need to accept these recommendations. He also reminds us that the SID should not be sited permanently at one position.

The Working Group proposes to respond to Ian Janes accepting all of his comments but with one reservation. Whilst we support his desire to declutter Beech of signs, we believe that drivers need some sort of visual reminder of what the 'white line' represents. Therefore we propose that the parish council's own 'Pedestrian Priority' posters/signs are positioned:

- At the start and end of the on-road footway;
- Where the footway changes from one side of the road to the other; and
- As repeater signs (both directions) at 100 Medstead Road and the Bushy Leaze entrance (along the long central stretch of Medstead Road).

This would mean that a vehicle driving through Beech (in either direction) would see five 'Pedestrian Priority' signs along the 2km on-road footway – which we don't believe is excessive.

The next step will be for Ian Janes to revise his design drawings, then the cost can be finalised.

Off-road footway

An application has been submitted to EHDC's Supporting Communities Fund for £25,000 of capital funding for the off-road footway project. The outcome should be known by the end of May.

EHDC's CIL Team asked us some clarification questions about our bid for Strategic CIL Funds to pay for the off-road footway. The CIL Team advises that they will shortly be issuing guidelines as to precisely what Strategic CIL and Neighbourhood CIL funds may be spent on, backed by legal advice. It's not yet clear what the implications will be for our funding bid.

We are also engaging with HCC on the subject of how VAT on the design & construction of the off-road footway should be accounted for. It is imperative that Beech parish council does not end up paying VAT (up to £75,000) that it cannot legally reclaim from HMRC; that sort of additional cost would be unsustainable.