

Freshford Parish Council

Meeting : 11th March 2019, Memorial Hall, Freshford .

Road Traffic Report

Speedwatch and signage.

In the last few days eighteen 20mph repeater signs have been placed, either on existing poles or on new poles, along the main routes leading into the village. This has been done by B&NES Highways Department as an integral part of the requirements that need to be satisfied (so they say) in order for the Speedwatch programme to be implemented successfully.

Previously I had urged caution as to the necessity of doing this given that we had understood that repeater signs were not required to be placed on each side of the road. It was indeed on that basis that the Parish Council acted to remove some of the superfluous signs in a bid to remove unnecessary signage. The action that we took at that time was understood by the Highways Department and supported by them.

In a bid to clarify things Martin Walker and I are meeting in the village on the 19th March with Stefan Chiffers, Senior Engineer, B&NES Council Highways Department to assess the impact of what has been done and to see if this accumulation of signs can be reduced. The Parish Council has given its support to the Speedwatch programme and wishes to see it succeed but we hope that a reasonable balance can be struck between speed and signage.

The Parish Council should have been consulted on this before any action was taken. My view is that the terms of the Parish Charter have been breached by B&NES Council. The Charter provides:

B&NES Council will consult specific parishes on matters when a planned decision would have a specific and direct or significant impact on the local council or its area or inhabitants. B&NES Council will provide adequate time for a response to be made, appropriate to the issue under discussion and explain why it matters to respond. A longer period of time and more detailed engagement will take place where there is a potential high impact/financial implication for a specific parish or group of parishes.

Can I suggest that we do not make any formal complaint for the time being but first wait and see what can be achieved through discussion with Stefan Chiffers. This item should in any event be placed on the Agenda for our meeting in April.

Bus Stop/ Seat

The Highways Department continues to investigate whether or not it is feasible or desirable to move the bus stop. Stefan Chiffers has been asked to comment on the proposal and he will inspect the site when he is here on the 19th March. Talking to users of the bus service it is apparent that the practice is for the bus to pull in by the shop when

picking up passengers for the service to Trowbridge so it would seem sensible enough for the service into Bath to pick up passengers from directly opposite this point.

Damage to Church Hill property/ signage.

Only this morning Richard Blamey's home was again damaged by a passing vehicle which did not stop. His guttering has now been damaged for the fourth time in as many months. Not unreasonably he is demanding that something be done to stop this happening. He has spoken to Stefan Chiffers who has agreed to meet with him and other concerned residents on the 12th April at his house. It is hoped that a solution can be found which is both acceptable to residents and the Parish Council and is effective in dissuading drivers of large vehicles from using Church Hill/ Dark Lane.

NJS

8th March 2019.