



Update for New Mill

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County Councillor
Nick Hollinghurst

Speeding, Parking, Safety, Crossings and Lights! Again!

New Mill has been under pressure for some time now - extra houses, loss of some parking spaces and increase in traffic and traffic speeds on the Icknield Way.

Behind the scenes the County Council has been slowly chipping away at the problems - but like everything connected with our poorly run local councils, it really is slow!

However, Dacorum has let us down on the extra parking provision promised for Sutton Close.

Longbridge Close

Longbridge Close should have been completely resurfaced last year. Part of the road was too bad for simple surface treatment, so it had to be left out until deeper repairs could be done. Then the contractor let us down with equipment breakdowns and other delays.

Well, now that contractor is no longer being used by the county council.

The work was completed before Christmas and the job done properly. I'm sorry for the delay but I think the residents now have a better quality of roadway surfacing for that section of the Close than originally planned. And with repairs to the sub-surface of the road it should last longer.

Extra Parking

Let Down by Dacorum Borough Council

Parking Scheme Cancelled - then Reinstated

Back in June 2011 Dacorum councillors were asked to suggest places where extra parking could be put in - the so-called Verge Hardening Scheme. The Liberal Democrat councillors in Tring put up 17 suggestions for Tring. 5 were accepted for New Mill.

Over the 5 years the ones that were completed were: **Gannel** - extra 6 spaces; **Elm Tree Walk** - 6 new spaces; and, this autumn, **Eight Acres** - 6 extra spaces at the Dundale Rd end.

Unfortunately there is still no news on **Sutton Close** - 7 extra spaces on the green. Also the **Wingrave Road** proposal - 4 spaces on the verge - was cancelled as being too difficult and too expensive.

County council budgets are tight, so I'm having to leave it to DBC to deliver on Sutton Close.

Hertfordshire County Council

However, I am talking to county council engineers about **off-road parking on the verge at Wingrave Road**. This will involve moving some signs and cutting back a hedge quite hard, so it will have to wait until the next financial year. But it may well be possible.

Implemented so far

- verge hardening on the west side of Grove Road from the Scout Hut down the hill for "half-on/half-off" parking
- grasscrete off-road parking for 3 cars on Grove Road nearer the school
- two stretches of grass tarmaced over nearer the former pub to give off-road parking for 2 cars
- resurfaced pavements along part of the northeast side of Grove Road

Extra Parking (continued)

Still to come

- part of the east side of Wingrave Road with a marked “half-on/half-off” parking bay that also protects the pavement for wheelchairs and buggies. NB The effect will be that motorists do not **have** to park on the pavement if they don't want to - Wingrave Road is wide enough at that point for on-road parking, despite the buses. But if they **do** choose to park partly on the pavement, then they must leave enough room for pedestrians, as will be indicated by a white line.

Speeding, Safety, Crossings, Icknield Way

Crossing

We are making slow progress towards the installation of a light controlled crossing between Longbridge Road and Chapel Meadow. Some preliminary work should be carried out there this spring.

At my request HCC has now drawn up plans for

- better visibility looking from Chapel Meadow towards the roundabout, currently very poor for both pedestrians and drivers. DBC has been asked to cut back the hedge on the south side near the roundabout. Not only does this block the view eastwards but the trees and shrubs are obscuring a street light and a junction warning sign. Should we ask for all of those trees and shrubs to be removed completely?
- the 30 mph speed restriction on the Icknield Way is to be moved west to start at the far end of the football club to give drivers more time to slow down as they approach New Mill.

Speed

A Speed Indication Device (SID) was installed facing the westbound traffic as it approaches Longbridge Close. There is a second pre-installed socket opposite Icknield Green and now the SID has been moved up there, to face eastbound traffic approaching the New Road junction. Moving the SID like this keeps drivers alert in the 30 mph area and will protect the crossing site.

Flooding Prevention

A lot of work has now been carried out on the Icknield Way drainage by Dundale Wood which should reduce the flooding there. A ditch on the north side has been cleared, roots removed from pipework and channels cut through the roadside bank to let water drain off. In particular, deep below the grassy area in the northwest corner of the crossroads, an old blocked up soakaway has been replaced with a new one with a far larger capacity.



Safer Bridges

Last year an investigation into the feasibility of traffic lights on the two canal bridges recommended lights on the bridge at New Mill. However the cost will exceed £65,000. But of course repairs after accidents are also costly!

We have now had a commitment that this scheme will proceed, but as HCC has lost over £50 million in government funding this year, it will have to be put back to 2017/18.

The first step will be an extension of the 30 mph speed limit from Bulborne Court over the bridge to the entrance to the DBC vehicle store. A “smart” light control system will cut traffic waiting times.

Yours sincerely,

County Councillor Nick Hollinghurst