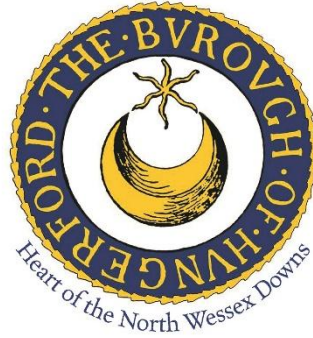


HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

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DRAFT MINUTES of the **Highways and Transport Committee** meeting held on Monday 26th January 2026 at 7.00pm, in the Library, Hungerford

Present: Cllrs, Keates, Hudson, Reeves, Simpson, Cole, Carlson, Mulholland, Day, Winsor, Alford & Hall. Also in attendance: Town Clerk, Cllr Armstrong, representative from Smarten Up Hungerford (SUH) and a member of public.

Agenda items listed in order of discussion at Council meeting.

HT2026001. Apologies for absence – Cllr Fyfe

HT2026002. Declarations of interest – Cllr Keates (Smarten Up Hungerford)

HT2026003. Agreement of minutes of meeting held on Monday 24th November 2025

Proposed: Cllr Keates

Seconded: Cllr Reeves

Resolution: Minutes agreed as a true representation of the meeting held on 24th November 2025, all in favour.

HT2026004. Update on actions from previous meetings

ACTION: Cllr Keates will take photos of the gulleys with our maintenance man and forward to TC.

ACTION: We are waiting for West Berks Council (WBC) to supply and install a new cycle shelter in Church St Car Park, FOC.

ACTION: WBC have yet to move the welcome sign to beyond Lancaster Park but have agreed to.

ACTION: Some trimming back at the Triangle Field has taken place. Two trees need felling and we are seeking a quote to trim the bushes hanging over the road.

ACTION: Cllr Hudson to obtain permission from WBC to place a SID in the high street.

ACTION: P Joseph will ask Town & Manor if the SID on the Common can be used elsewhere over the winter when the cattle are not present.

Other actions are complete.

HT2026009. Update from Smarten Up Hungerford (SUH) and consideration of purchase of an additional concrete planter. *(This item was discussed early due to representatives from SUH being present).* Cllr Keates advised that there is more work for SUH since we purchased the concrete planters last year. These are placed in key locations along the high street footway to stop vehicles parking on the york stone paving. SUH explained they now have a proper structure detailing what they do. From an organisational perspective they will sit under HTC and will be covered under HTC risk assessments and insurance with invoices coming directly to HTC rather than to SUH individual members. The group are looking to recruit more members and now have a landing site on the HTC website. Their new hi-vis jackets display a QR code linking through to the website containing info on how to volunteer and donate. Thanks were expressed to the Chamber of Commerce for previously supporting SUH. SUH have volunteers to help with the Britain in Bloom 2026 entry. A piece of land near the Kennet bridge could be used as a site for a memorial to John Willmott.

Contractors vehicles are being parked on the York stone outside the 3 Swans and SUH would like a fourth concrete planter to be purchased and placed at the location. There is some funding available in the budget to cover this.

Proposed: Cllr Simpson

Seconded: Cllr Cole

Resolution: Purchase a fourth concrete planter at a cost of £939 (this would be moveable by forklift). One abstention. Rest in favour.

HT2026005. Discuss concerns raised over speeding and safety in the high street and Smitham Bridge Road

Cllr Keates advised that both Gareth Dowding and Cheryl Evans from WBC were invited to attend but declined. Cllr Hudson thanked Cllr Mulholland for summarising the large Government post brief on 20mph speed limits and zones and wished to highlight three key issues for discussion: Firstly, is the high street safer with a 20mph compared to 30mph. There is little doubt it is if the traffic goes slower. Secondly, is there enforcement? How much traffic is going over 30mph? The SID data from traffic coming down the high street shows that 5% of the traffic is going over 30mph. 20% are speeding after midnight. There are not many accidents, and traffic is fairly well behaved. If the limit was reduced to 20mph what would the enforcement be then? 22mph is the average speed. We could put in some physical measures to reduced speed and look at taking out the traffic lights as a green light can cause traffic to speed up.

Thirdly, do we want it and is it value for money in terms of road safety and environment? Signs and repeaters could cost a minimum of £10k and physical measures similar. 20mph is becoming more commonplace. *Printouts of the SID data collected from the high street were available to view and can also be found on our website* [Traffic report powered by DataCollect](#)

Cllr Armstrong queried when the data set was run. Cllr Hudson confirmed it was run from 1/3/2024 to 22/3/2024 which is sufficient for speed data which can be collected over a period of two weeks. In terms of accidents, three years of data would be required.

Cllr Armstrong incurred £80k of damage to her wall when it was hit by a lorry turning at the Atherton roundabout. She said we have come very close to a death happening and it is inexcusable to have a debate. We should just get on with it. It was pointed out the lorry hitting the wall was not a speed incident. It was suggested that proper traffic calming would have slowed down the vehicle that hit Snippets. Another incident involved a driver falling asleep at the wheel.

It was noted that drivers are speeding in the evening and we need enforcement to lower the speed and mitigate the risk. Incidents seem to be happening primarily at the top (south end) of the high street. The mayor emphasized the importance of public safety. The three incidents mentioned weren't speed specific. HGVs bring pollution to the high street. She suggested other physical measures should be put in place to reduce speed and deter large vehicles. Also, the white railings should be altered to redirect children to a safer place to cross.

Cllr Hudson advised it is best to have a 'cushion' which is a shallow raised platform that emergency vehicles, being wider can straddle.

Cllr Reeves asked if a 20mph would achieve its objectives. The data presented is using pre-pandemic figures. A pilot area in Oxon where a 30mph was reduced to a 20mph, resulted in only a 4mph reduction in speed. Whilst numbers of fatalities dropped the numbers of killed or seriously injured rose, so it is difficult to get a clear picture. Most accidents are caused by excessive speeding or driving without due care and attention.

A WBC public consultation about 20mph limits in Hungerford will take place in the spring. It was suggested we should hold our view until then.

Cllr Armstrong is more concerned about improving the safety of the high street and less so about a 20mph. She suggested we should reinstate the gated area by Atherton as it was historically.

Other suggestions were to raise the Atherton roundabout or turn it into a T junction with stop signs. It was argued that when the roundabout was previously raised it was more dangerous with drivers using the wrong side of it.

Cllr Cole believes a 20mph will not work on its own. If you hit the raised platform at Kintbury at 30mph, you only do it once. He would like to see platforms to physically slow down drivers and to discourage heavy vehicles but suggested we should wait and not decide tonight.

Cllr Hudson advised the high street is an A road and can't inconvenience emergency vehicles, so speed cushions are particularly effective. The roundabout will be slowing traffic and should be

kept. He recommended a zebra crossing instead of the puffin and speed cushions in between with a 20mph. This would help with sustainable modes of transport encouraging walking and cycling. Cars, parking and pulling out would be helped by a slower speed and cars would not feel the need to overtake cyclists.

Cllr Carlson commented that if we are looking for a 20mph limit it should extend up to the Priory Road roundabout where there have been accidents. He asked how we get WBC on board. Do we need something definitive?

Cllr Mulholland agrees 20mph is good for safety and the environment and agrees with physical features, but 20mph should not be limited to the high street as speeding occurs in side roads such as Smitham Bridge Road. Cllr Hall added that the 20mph should extend to areas such as Priory Avenue and The Croft and should include cobblestone and pinch-points to help reduce speed.

ACTION: Ask WBC why the roundabout at Atherton is now flat.
After further discussion the following proposals were agreed:

Proposed: Cllr Mulholland

Seconded: Cllr Simpson

Resolution: We are all interested in improving the safety of the high street.

Proposed: Cllr Cole

Seconded: Cllr Keates

ACTION: **Resolution:** Write to WBC advising we have had a discussion and wish to view the scope of the 20mph survey. We look forward to responding to their consultation.

HT2026006. Discuss options for improving the safety of the slippery footways in the high street
Cllr Keates suggested putting some sharp sand down to stop the slime. Alternatively, the streetcleaner thinks Veolia could jet wash. Cllr Cole has spoken to a conservation officer. They wouldn't look to replace York stone. The solution would be to wash it twice a year.

Proposed: Cllr Keates

Seconded: Cllr Simpson

ACTION: **Resolution:** Cllr Keates will conduct a trial using salt to kill the algae.

HT2026007. Lampposts – Consider replacement of non-LED lanterns with LED lights
The spreadsheet circulated details how in the long run this will save money. See extract below. It was noted two of the non-LED lanterns have since been replaced.

Proposed: Cllr Simpson

Seconded: Cllr Cole

ACTION: **Resolution:** Appoint Volker to replace all non-LED lanterns with LED lights as per their quotation of £268.78 per lights x 21.

HT2026008. Agree the LCRS risk assessments for this committee

Proposed: Cllr Carlson

Seconded: Cllr Winsor

ACTION: **Resolution:** Agree LCRS risk assessments subject to amendments to note the taking over of the lamppost maintenance and 2 further dog bins from April 2026.

HT2026009. Update from Smarten Up Hungerford and consideration of purchase of an additional concrete planter. (*this item was taken first due to public present – refer above*)

HT20260010. Any H&S issues of Concern –

ACTION: The mayor will report the return of the pothole by John O Gaunt pub, to Jon Winstanley (WBC).

ACTION: During her meeting with Sovereign tomorrow, the mayor will chase up a response about the Church Way hedge.

Meeting closed at 8.55pm

Recommendation

Replace all non-LED lanterns with NEW LED.

Cost - New lantern & Isolator including electric test	£268.78	23	£6,181.94
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Benefits

Avoids lamp replacement every 3 years. Saving over £2,400 every 3 years.

Reduce annual CO2 savings helping HPC's green targets

Reduce annual energy savings drop from 58 watts to 18 watts (nearly 70% saving on 23 lanterns)

If lantern replaced at / before next electrical test is due. The new lantern replacement would automatically include an electric test. Therefore, combine with lamp replacement savings £2,411 + £1,498.94 = £3,910.

These two thirds of the cost in say year one is fully repaid (off set) when lamps would require their next replacement in year 4

Savings from reduce risk of emergency callouts due old lanterns damage - canopy open / hanging

Savings from reduce faults of old faults lanterns