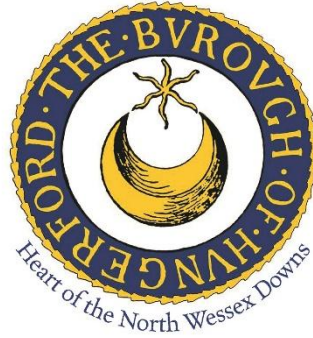


HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

The Mayor
Cllr Helen Simpson
57 Fairview Road
Hungerford
Berkshire
RG17 0BP
Tel: 07920 110380
Cllr.helen.simpson@hungerford-tc.gov.uk



The Town Clerk
Mrs Claire Barnes
The Library
Church Street
Hungerford
Berkshire RG17 0JG
Tel: 01488 686195
townclerk@hungerford-tc.gov.uk
www.hungerford-tc.gov.uk

MINUTES of the **Highways and Transport Committee** meeting held on Monday 27th January 2025 at 7.00pm, in the Library, Hungerford

Present: Cllrs, Keates, Simpson, Fyfe, Reeves, Coulthurst, Cole, Knight, Hudson and Carlson (arrived later).

In attendance: Claire Barnes (Town Clerk), District Councillor Denise Gaines (DG) and several members of the public. John Willmott (Co-opted member of H&T and member of Smarten Up Hungerford)

HT2025001. Apologies for absence – Cllrs Alford, Montgomery, Winser and Armstrong.

HT2025002. Declarations of interest – Cllr Hudson (item 007 – Sanham Green)

HT2025003. Agreement of minutes of meeting held on Monday 25th November 2024

Proposed: Cllr Keates

Seconded: Cllr Simpson

Resolution: Agree minutes of 25th November as a true record. One abstention.

HT2025004. Update on actions from previous meetings, not on this agenda - refer to attached report. Cllr Fyfe added that the Town & Manor are working on netting the Town Hall tower to stop pigeons roosting and will be steam cleaning the front of the building.

HT2025005. Complaint concerning safety of Zebra Crossings – Charnham Street & Bridge Street. Refer to email response from West Berks Council. A member of public expressed their concern over the safety of the crossing in Charnham St and the number of near misses she has experienced as a pedestrian using it. There has only been one accident there which is not enough evidence to upgrade it. There are no warning signs other than the flashing beacons and the road markings. Cllr Hudson advised when a crossing is not used a lot it can be more dangerous to signalise it. Drivers not used to it will drive through. Do we need extra signage?

Proposed: Cllr Simpson

Seconded: Cllr Coulthurst

ACTION: Resolution: DG to put pressure on WBC Highways to consider raising the zebra crossing (with a gentle slope) as it is dangerous and close to a blind corner. HTC will consider putting a SID in place there.

HT2025006. Receive any updates on SIDs, speeding and purchase of equipment – Refer to attached report. Cllr Hudson read through the report and added the request to use an adaptor to charge the SIDS from a lamppost had been turned down by WBC, but he has asked for the decision to be reconsidered.

HT2025007. Propose support of the petition for a 30mph limit through Sanham Green and Hornhill
<https://www.change.org/p/implement-a-30mph-speed-limit-in-sanham-green-hornhill>
Over 200 people have signed the petition. A member of public advised they had incurred £12k of damage to their stationary vehicle. The road has a 60mph limit at present and most of it is not wide enough for two cars to pass and is not safe for pedestrians or dog walkers. There are pot-holes and

damage to the verges and hedging. Cllr Hudson advised WBC are carrying out speed monitoring this week.

ACTION: Cllr Hudson will attend the next speed review panel meeting at WBC with the Mayor.

It was suggested the 30mph request should extend into Priory Road to join up with the 30mph there.

Proposed: Cllr Keates

Seconded: Cllr Simpson

ACTION: **Resolution:** To fully support the 30mph petition. Clerk to sign petition on behalf of HTC.

HT2025008. Safety improvements at The Croft following our site meeting. HTC has just received a revised option 2 plan from WBC and Cllr Hudson has been in touch with WBC as the plan is not one that residents would support due to reduction in parking. WBC are going to review the plan again just looking at removing parking from under the bridge and reducing the speed limit to 20mph. A member of public expressed their concern about anti-social driving taking place at The Croft. Other options to slow vehicles were considered such as a rumble strip, painting the road a different colour and advisory signs for 20mph (with the white circle rather than red) that can go up much quicker than the official speed limit signs.

ACTION: Wait to receive more info from Highways on revised plans for The Croft.

HT2025009. Consider changing to sack collections in High Street – We are finding wheelie bins are left on the high street permanently where properties have nowhere to store them off street. WBC has advised a lot of high streets, including Thatcham, have sack collections instead of Wheelie bins. The benefits are keeping wheelie bins off the street and refuse is collected weekly instead of fortnightly. A year's supply of bins liners is provided based on 3 bags per collection. Clear sacks are provided for recycling fortnightly. Potential problems include contamination and sacks being put out early or missed collections. Also, they can't recycle glass. It was questioned whether fines can be issued for leaving bins out. A concern was also raised over the possibility of sacks attracting rats and foxes.

Proposed: Cllr Coulthurst

Seconded: Cllr Fyfe

ACTION: **Resolution:** Take a graded approach, WBC to explore penalties first where appropriate, identify who owns the bins and then look at swapping to sacks where there is no alternative option. DG will follow this up.

HT20250010. Consider support request for installation of an 'armco' to the canal bank – Refer to email correspondence below. It was noted that Sustrans are looking to make the canal towpath wider but there is currently no money available. DG advised that WBC in 5 years' time will be part of a combined authority which could then attract investment.

Proposed: Cllr Simpson

Seconded: Cllr Fyfe

ACTION: **Resolution:** Reply to correspondence giving our support for installation of an armo. The Mayor will speak to the Vicar to see how the church can help with the project.

HT20250011. Consider reduction of streetlighting in Marsh Lane – Cllr Keates to report. It was suggested not all the lights along this rural lane are needed.

ACTION: Defer item to next Full Council.

HT20250012. Agree date of Christmas Light Switch on for 2025 – Suggested dates are Sunday 23rd or Sunday 30th November 2025. The electrical contractors can arrange the installation by 23rd providing the Xmas trees arrive promptly within the first 3 days of November. (Note: There is an Antiques & Collectors Fair in the building on 30th November which finishes at approximately 5.00pm. Sunday, 23rd November is currently available).

Proposed: Cllr Carlson

Seconded: Cllr Coulthurst

Resolution: Agree date for Xmas Light Switch on as 23rd November 2025

HT20250013. Agree the LCRS (Local Council Risk System) assessments for this committee – refer to risk assessments.

Proposed: Cllr Carlson

Seconded: Cllr Simpson

Resolution: Propose acceptance of the LCRS risk assessments for this committee.

HT20250014. Consider obtaining quotes for CCTV for the top (south) end of the high street.

Proposed: Cllr Fyfe

Seconded: Cllr Coulthurst

ACTION: **Resolution:** Propose Clerk obtains quotes for more CCTV in the high street.

HT20250015. Consider request from Bedwyn Trains Passenger Group for support and to write to our MP.

Suggested text. 'Please can you support Bedwyn Trains Passenger Groups and Danny Kruger MP to ensure that any five-car IETs which, as a result of the introduction of the Class 175s on the GWR network, are returned to working out of Paddington are prioritised to reinstating the direct Paddington off-peak service for Bedwyn, Hungerford and Kintbury.'

Proposed: Cllr Keates

Seconded: Cllr Simpson

ACTION: **Resolution:** Clerk to write to MP. Office to arrange presentation of a Mayor's Coin to members of the BTPG.

HT20250016. Concern over effect on Hungerford of potential deprioritising of Marlborough
[Gridlocked traffic in Marlborough 'volatile' amid calls for change - BBC News](#)

It was agreed until this is actually happening there is nothing to be done.

HT20250017. Note: EV chargers in Church Street are now all up and running. Hurray!

HT20250018. Any H&S issues of concern including;

- **Safety of high street footway due to cracked slabs.** Cllrs Keates and Hudson carried out a survey identifying cracked, loose and concrete replacement slabs. Cllr Keates is producing a spreadsheet and Cllr Hudson is importing photos.

ACTION: Survey to be hand delivered to Jon Winstanley at WBC.

- **Complaints from Smarten up Hungerford team (*taken after item HT2026009 as member of SUH was present*)** – John Willmott advised they are observations, rather than complaints. He read through a list of concerns. **The canal bridge fence posts are rotting.** A neighbour may contribute to the repair of these. **The pathway to the Station is in poor condition.** The brickwork has failed due to the overgrown vegetation. Cllr Fyfe advised he took on the task from the Town Centre Steering Group to pursue improvements in this area. He will forward his email from Jon Winstanley to DG. Can a contractor do repairs at cost? Can volunteers help with cutting back the vegetation? **Overgrown trees in river.** The tree owner won't do anything and Canal & River Trust are happy to keep it as it is, as it helps the fish.

ACTION: Cllr Cole to speak to the landowner of the trees about cutting them back.

Poor roundabout planting. John Willmott has written to the sponsor of the roundabout and not had a reply.

ACTION: DG to find out why the money from the sponsor has not improved the roundabout planting.

Cutting back of the vegetation particularly around the stone entrance to Charnham park.

ACTION: Cllr Simpson will speak with her contact to see if it is Charnham Park's responsibility. Other issues with overhanging vegetation over highways should be reported to WBC on their website 'Report a Problem.'

- **Accident blackspot on A338/Hungerford Newtown** - Cllr Cole advised there are three problems. The first the permissive path which he thinks is being restored. The second is the accident blackspot at the crossroads and lastly lack of footpath with pedestrians walking in the road.

ACTION: Cllr Cole and the town clerk are meeting with WBC on Wednesday for a site visit to the verge along the A338 to see if it is possible to extend the footpath.

It was noted these are possible infrastructure improvements that could attract CIL money.

ACTION: Office to report the icy footbridge in the high street to WBC.

Meeting closed at 9.00pm

HT2025004 Outcome of Actions – Update from Clerk

1. I have yet to write to NWN about Network Rail and the pigeon proofing.
2. AF has circulated his power point about dangers of A338/Hungerford Newtown road.
3. Funding requests to support SIDs - I think we were going to wait until after Christmas?
4. We have yet to revisit the Volker costs provided for streetlighting.
5. 4 more SID batteries have been ordered and received. Permission is needed from WBC before we order an adaptor.
6. Richard is investigating moving a SID to Church St.
7. Improvements to The Croft are on this agenda.
8. I have written to WBC requesting the costs of implementing the parking charges. (Rec'd and circulated)
9. Photos of the litter areas at the station have been taken along with photos of the dilapidated shed. GWR are in receipt of these as part of a possible application for a CCIF bid to smarten up the area.
10. I have written to WBC about converting the bay outside Dods to a loading bay and coach drop off point. They replied: *The bay outside No 5 High Street has a single yellow line restriction which prohibits WAITING between 9am and 6pm Monday to Saturday. The 'No Waiting' restriction still allows 'loading/unloading' to take place and also the standard exemptions in any Traffic Order allow vehicles to stop for as long as is necessary to allow passengers to get in/out of a vehicle. The current restriction wouldn't allow coaches to wait for a long period until any tourists are gathered up, but in it's current form it does provide a site for coaches to drop off/pick up. There should be a single yellow line in place – the cobbled surface is terrible for keeping the road marking paint in good condition so if it's worn and needs repainting please report it on our 'Report a Problem' page on our website. If you want the restriction to more formally be made into a Loading Bay let me know and I can include it in a future parking scheme, but that may not be possible until the latter part of next year – at the earliest. **SHALL I REQUEST THIS?***
11. I requested the data usage from Wiltshire Council but have not yet received it. (since rec'd and circulated)
12. A request for a no left turn at the Plume was submitted – Gareth Dowding has replied 'We will investigate as to whether a restricted movement junction will help to prevent vehicle strikes at this junction and get back to yourselves accordingly.'
13. CCTV is on this agenda
14. I have written to REME about a FOTT ceremony and wait their reply.

15. Volunteers for marshalls will be advertised at the Town meeting. This takes place on Wed 19th March. Please note your diaries.
16. I wrote to Jadecliff and obtained a discount for the smaller/spindly Xmas trees
17. Jerry and I carried out a site visit to Marsh Lane to view the streetlights. It is on the agenda.
18. I have written to WBC requesting the verge is scraped away to make a footway along the A338.
19. I need to check if a letter has gone to the care home.
20. I have written to WBC about Charnham Park being changed to an urban clearway – Gareth has passed it across to the part of the Team that deals with such requests and has asked them to assess it for priority and then place it appropriately on the “To do list

Speed Indicator Devices (SID) Update: January 2025

Signs are operating well overall and are effective at reducing speeds. It surprising how consistent the reductions are when we leave the signs in place.

There are now 4 HTC SIDs and the T & M have two on the Common.

We have some new longer lasting batteries that are working well.

Have a new sign which has been located on Charnham Lane, for traffic coming from Marlborough.

There is currently a SID on each main road approach to Hungerford....something we recommended to West Berks about 15 years ago!

The Town and Manor have added another sign to the Common, so they now have 2 full time signs there. While initially for the cattle, they wish to try and slow traffic throughout the year. This means the Town Council do not have that extra sign during winter, but quite understand the T & M wish to slow traffic all year.

Updated results are on the latest spreadsheet attached as a pdf

To summarise the sites:

- 1) A4 westbound from Newbury opposite Dobbies.

749	23/10/2024	15/11/2024	36	90	27	37	44	73.9	36	29	19
-----	------------	------------	----	----	----	----	----	------	----	----	----

Highest speed over the time was 90 mph, the average 27mph. The average speed entering the town is 36 and 27mph past the sign. A 19% reduction and a very effective sign in the gateway to Hungerford.

- 2) A4 Cotterell Close eastbound out of town

749	10/07/2023	24/07/2023	24	70	16	26	31	21.2	24	25	-4
-----	------------	------------	----	----	----	----	----	------	----	----	----

We have not had one here for sometime. It did not seem to have much effect, but that is in part as drivers are leaving the town and accelerating away.

- 3) A4 westbound by BMW garage.

15/05/2023	24/07/2023	27	98	21	29	34	35.1	27	28	-4
------------	------------	----	----	----	----	----	------	----	----	----

Highest speed is 98mph and the average at 29mph. A small increase from 27mph to 28mph, but due to traffic accelerating out of the town. Any reduction would be a win.

This site has been a bit troublesome with downloading data.

It uses the solar panel which is not working properly, so we are using batteries.

4) A4 eastbound on Charnham St by Charnham Lane

21804	29/11/2024	17/01/2025	31	67	26	31	37	51.9	31	27	13
-------	------------	------------	----	----	----	----	----	------	----	----	----

The new SID has been placed here with traffic approaching from Strongrove Hill. The maximum speed is 67mph, with an average of 31mph on approach and 27mph at the sign. There is a 13% reduction in speed and a real success.

5) A338 Salisbury Rd Southbound.

19577	24/06/2024	15/07/2024	30	57	26	31	37	59.0	30	28	7
-------	------------	------------	----	----	----	----	----	------	----	----	---

Maximum speed is 57mph, average speed 26mph. Speed on approach reduces from 30mph to 28 mph at the sign. This is a 7% reduction and an achievement given the wide road and that drivers are leaving the town.

6) A338 Salisbury Rd Northbound...approach to Priory Rd roundabout

19577	15/11/2024	17/01/2025	30	60	26	29	34	40.4	30	27	10
-------	------------	------------	----	----	----	----	----	------	----	----	----

The latest data shows it's an important site to slow drivers approaching the roundabout at Priory Rd (accident location) and the High St. The speed reduction has improved to 10%, and given the down gradient this is a major success.

7) Common at the Kintbury gate

751	21/04/2024	27/06/2024	29	70	21	31	37	53.3	29	28	3
-----	------------	------------	----	----	----	----	----	------	----	----	---

This is Town & Manor's SID and we have had it at the Kintbury gate since April.

Max speed was 70mph, the average 31mph. There is a reduction from 29mph to 28mph, which is at least something. There is now a new SID there permanently which is not allowing access of data currently.

8) Common, Park Street eastbound towards Kintbury

751	15/11/2024	17/01/2025	30	60	26	29	34	40.4	30	27	10
-----	------------	------------	----	----	----	----	----	------	----	----	----

A maximum speed of 60mph. The average is below 30 at 26mph at the sign. There is a 10% reduction in speed, which suggests a real positive effect with vehicles leaving Hungerford.

We are looking at several updates and recommendations:

- Repair of the A4 Charnham St BMW sign. There is a problem with the solar panel.
- Purchase a converter that allows charging via a street lamp. Claire obtained a quote for this which is £180. NB we also need approval from West Berks street lighting to use (as we do for our Christmas lights).
- Need to find a suitable location on Church Street so we can check out speeds there as well.
- We no longer have the extra SID from the T & M during winter. But suggest we keep the SID on the town approaches and use the A4 Charnham St one as a rotational sign.

ARMCO

I am a member of the Kennet and Avon Canal Trust who has travelled to Hungerford by canal boat (and I am also a town councillor and so have some idea of how town council committees work), but I am contacting you in a purely personal capacity.

I was interested and pleased to see Objective O in the Hungerford Town Plan regarding improving the approaches to the town by ... canal. I should like to discuss the 230 metre stretch of canal starting at Hungerford Town Bridge (A338) and running westwards until the Hungerford Lock (lock 74). The towpath is on the south side of the canal and this is the site of the visitor moorings. Currently the canal bank is grass/weeds and visitors have to hammer mooring pins into the bank; this is very noisy when people are doing it and the ground is not actually very pleasant for hammering in pins anyway. I suggest that this section could be improved, both for boaters' use and probably aesthetically, by installing "armco" (picture below). This would have to be done in conjunction with the Canal and River Trust; probably money would need to be found from a grant; there would need to be checks that there were no water voles on this stretch (implausible, given proximity to houses and people using mooring pins) and it would have to be installed so that there was still enough room to turn the "Rose of Hungerford" trip boat (incidentally re p.45 of the Plan; this is not really a narrow boat).

I don't know whether improving this part of the wharf is a priority for Hungerford Town Council, nor how easy it would be to work with CRT, but this seems to be the sort of thing that would fit nicely within your plan. Having visited Hungerford several times on a canal boat, it has seemed a shame to me that this short section of the towpath isn't arranged to be a better mooring spot.

