

PROPOSALS FOR HADDENHAM HIGH STREET AT TOP CORNER

You may remember my article on Road Safety last October, when I outlined a proposal to address the issue of inconsiderate parking, which has long been an issue at this location and has been highlighted as the number one priority by parishioners.

When combined with traffic heading up the High Street and emerging traffic from Hop Row, we have a recipe for near misses, at the very least, and occasional bumps. It also makes for difficult crossing by pedestrians.

The main problem is poor visibility for traffic emerging from Hop Row. If vehicles obstruct the sight lines, then traffic going up the High Street needs to slow down accordingly.

The proposal is to realign the kerb and yellow lines on the Spar side of the road to make it parallel to the other side. This will allow us to widen the footpath there, and install traffic bollards on both sides of the road, which will give pedestrians more protection from traffic, while preventing parking on the pavements.

If people then respect the double yellow lines, and do not park there, the sight lines will be greatly improved. Although they cannot be made sufficient for the current speed limit of 30 mph, they would be sufficient for speeds between 20 mph and 30 mph.

It is hoped that the narrowing effect will encourage drivers to slow down when approaching the junction, such that any close encounters at the Hop Row junction will be minimised.

At the January Parish Council meeting, after much debate and deliberation, it was resolved to proceed with the project and an order will be given to Cambridgeshire County Council Highways to finalise the details and implement it.

Clearly, not everyone will be in favour. People may say we haven't had any serious accidents there. However, our feeling is that any near-miss could one day be a real accident, with someone hurt. Any reduction in the number of near-misses is to be welcomed, as this reduces the risk of an accident.

People may also say that it will make no difference to those drivers who currently ignore the double yellow lines and that they will continue to park there as they please. This may be true of some, and their actions will continue to be a nuisance. However, some may be deterred, and again, any reduction is to be welcomed.

Unfortunately, there are no measured statistics at this junction to prove the before and after situations. We are relying on anecdotal evidence and our own collective experiences. However, we have no reason to suppose these are any different to yours.

I am pleased to see this issue is finally being addressed and I hope you will all support our ongoing efforts to make our villages a safer place to live in and drive through.

David Lyon
Chairman
Haddenham Parish Council