

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

TRANSPORT WORKING GROUP MEETING

7 NOVEMBER 2023, 7:00pm, at Binsted Sports Pavilion



1 Present:

Mike Mordecai (Binsted Parish Clerk)
Alison Melvin (Transport WG Chair, Frith End resident)
Dominic Hearne (Councillor, Blacknest resident)
Jason Lock (Councillor, Binsted village resident)
Julian Thompson (SID team volunteer, Frith End resident)
Peter Day (SID team volunteer, Frith End resident)
Alan Melvin (SID team volunteer, Frith End resident)
Ian McArdle (Bucks Horn Oak resident).

Apologies for Absence:

Harvey Bennett, PCSO, Hampshire Constabulary
Jo Weekes (Frith End resident)
Tony de Sousa (Binsted resident)

Introduction by Chair:

There are no “quick fixes” on any of the many traffic issues that blight the parish, and the parish council has no direct authority or powers in this area. However, traffic issues are a high priority for residents across the whole parish. During preparation of Binsted’s Parish Priority Statement, in Summer 2023, it was notable that over half of responses to the survey question ‘*What do you dislike about Binsted parish*’ related to transport. We have much detailed information about residents’ views (see information in Appendix A).

During the past year, BPC has been focusing on securing improvements for known road safety blackspots, in particular to obtain traffic calming measures for A325 junctions and Frith End to Bentley route and its junctions. We are also focusing on building strong relationships, to:

- help secure the funding for the necessary infrastructure investment;
- secure the best possible levels of service from highway authorities and police; and
- engage in liaison panels to discuss traffic planning of major events and projects (from Jalsa Salana and the SSE closures, to the redesign of Bentley station cycle facilities and plans for Farnborough Airport expansion.)

BPC has expanded the capacity of its Transport Working Group (TWG), which now includes more non-councillors than previously. We are also reviewing TWG’s remit and associated communications.

2 Transport Working Group (TWG) - remit and communications

2.1 Review of the Transport Working Group’s remit

It was agreed by all present that the existing remit of the Transport WG covers the necessary content, but could be stated more concisely. The existing TWG remit is described as follows:

- i. *To identify and consult with residents on any traffic issue, including road traffic and safety, noise from roads and aircraft, and encourage low-carbon transport in the parish.*
- ii. *To meet relevant bodies who can provide advice about traffic mitigation opportunities*
- iii. *To consider and cost options for traffic mitigation including speed monitoring devices*
- iv. *To make traffic mitigation recommendations to Council.*

The following, more concise, version of the TWG’s remit was suggested for adoption:

“The TWG’s remit is:

- *to recommend to Binsted Parish Council actions that will increase road safety, reduce nuisance arising from transport of all kinds, and encourage low-carbon transport in the parish; and*
- *to work with volunteers, traffic authorities and other parties to help implement agreed actions.”*

This updated remit will be tabled for adoption by BPC at its December meeting.

2.2 Communication plan

It was agreed that transport issues – and actions being taken to improve them – need greater emphasis in BPC’s communications. As a start, BPC has submitted parish mag article for Dec23/Jan24 on traffic concerns. We also agreed the following additional suggestions to improve Communications about Transport:

- 1) Mike/Alison will arrange a meeting with SDNP to discuss the worsening levels of traffic, speeding and collisions that residents across the parish had registered as their biggest overall concern during preparation of Binsted’s ‘Parish Priority Statement’ (submitted to SDNPA in October 2023) - see analysis of Survey responses in Appendix A below.
- 2) Alison will expand the existing WhatsApp group for Speed Indicator Device (Julian, Pete, Alan, Alison, Dominic, Mike), to provide a single WhatsApp group for whole TWG.
- 3) BPC Comms Working Group will be asked to give greater focus to transport issues in its upcoming revamp of Parish council website and social media (to include encouraging residents to report road problems online by themselves; and making SID data more visible/discoverable). Because Binsted is a dispersed parish – with many separate Facebook groups – there is a need for social media posts need to be better linked / cascaded / co-ordinated.

3 Clarification of roles, responsibilities and contact points

Alison has produced an up-to-date list of contact points in Hampshire Highways & Hampshire Constabulary. This will be circulated to TWG members but will not be shared outside TWG, for data security reasons.

The TWG agreed the following distribution of workload across the expanded TWG:

Binsted Parish Council and its Transport Working Group	
<u>Clerk Mike Mordecai</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact point for HH on road closures / traffic re-routing/ works • Represents BPC on liaison panel for Scottish & Southern Electricity project. • Represent Bentley station in Wey Valley Community Rail Partnership • Contact point for SWT ‘active travel’ forecourt redesign. • Contact point between BPC and Police • Organises Lengthsman’s work schedule • Maintains SID data archive & oversee risk assessments • Maintains collision log (for Bentley – Frith End) • Organises TWG Meetings/Agenda • Oversees community communications (social media and website) & communicates with neighbouring parishes
<u>Transport Working Group</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report road problems online to HH and follow up (currently Alison – need additional volunteer to assist with this). • Write funding bids for traffic calming (inc. speed changes) (Alison) • Write funding bids for speed camera and speedwatch activities (Alison) • Set up and manage new speedwatch (with guns) operations (Dom/Alison) • Represent BPC on Jalsa Salana community panel (Jason) • Monitor and replenish parish’s 11 salt bins (Julian Thompson) • Gather info about ‘Active Travel’ opportunities (LCWIP, cycling etc) (Alison)
<u>SID team</u> Julian Alan Pete Dom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restore missing SID Posts & school signs/20 mph. • Manage rotation of Speed Indicator Device (SID) across parish’s 10 sites. • Analyse and publish SID Data on BPC website.

4 Action for A325/Frith End to Bentley crossroads route

It was agreed that improving the safety of all road users and residents between A325/Frith End junction and Bentley crossroads is the TWG’s current top priority. The main needs identified are summarised overleaf:

Main needs for FrithEnd-Bentley	Physical Traffic Calming measures	Speed	HGV control
Frith End stretch	Buildouts	30 mph (40 mph now)	HGV ban
Blacknest stretch	Under rail bridge The Bend	40 mph (as now)	HGV ban between Ind Est and Bentley crossroads
A325 junction/FE	Not yet defined	-	Signage
Jolly crossroads	Not yet defined	-	Signage
Bentley crossroads	Led by Bentley PC	-	Signage

Five strands of action need to be pursued to achieve the desired A325 & Frith End-Bentley improvements:

- i. Traffic calming measures, from Bordon-Whitehill s106 funding
- ii. Improve maintenance, signage and all other improvements that cannot be s106-funded
- iii. Improve enforcement of speed and HGV restrictions (speed camera and police action)
- iv. Improve provision for active travel (cycles, horses, walking)
- v. Community-led actions (SID & speedwatch, collision log, active problem reporting).

Current status	Investment from s106 W-Bordon	Other funding for physical measures	Speed & HGV enforcement	Community-led actions	Maintenance & liaison
Recent progress	1) Have proven that F. End to Blacknest route qualifies for W-B s106 (to include A325 junctions as well as FE-Bentley)	2) Online reports of broken signs & potholes needing repair 3) EHDC is encouraging BPC to re-bid for Strategic CIL for work Bentley bridge (BPC to co-fund)	4) Bid in progress to EHDC for Average Speed cameras 5) Strong links established with Beech PC 6) Meeting with police has been organised	7) Active SID team 8) Residents reporting collisions to Clerk 9) Contact with police made to reactivate speedwatch. We have an offer of free speed guns from Tony deSouza.	10) Lengthsman has cut vegetation around signs 11) HH has cleaned road signs across parish. 12) BPC now represented on Jalsa Salana & SSEN liaison panels.
Next Actions	1) Get HH to set up traffic counts for s106 2) Get traffic calming costed by HH	3) Feb 2024 EHDC-CIL bid 4) Meet SDNPA 5) Improve signage	6) Complete bid for EHDC camera 7) Contact Ind Estate 8) Wheelie bin stickers	9. SID: fit extra posts; data analysis 10. Report sign damage + HGVs 11. Bird box speed cameras 12. Cared-for village entrance	13. Get broken signs fixed 14. Ongoing liaison meetings 15. Comms meeting (Pip & PC Comms team)

5	<p>Updates and Standing Agenda Items</p> <p>An overview was given of the following current activities of BPC and SID team, as listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Outcome of October meeting with Hampshire Highways on s106 funding (Alison noted this had been a positive meeting, the next action will be to organise traffic count wires and cost up the traffic calming measures.) ii. Outcome of bids to EHDC and SDNP Strategic CIL (Alison noted the SDNP bid outcome still unknown. BPC has been asked to resubmit its 2023 bid to EHDC focusing solely on Bentley station underpass.) iii. Status of bid to EHDC for Traffic camera (Alison is taking this forward.) iv. Actions from October SID team meeting (Alan & Julian have located missing post plates and will fit new posts; Pete is finessing SID data analysis for publication on BPC website.) v. Active travel - update about Bentley station's forecourt redesign project (Mike seeking details) vi. Updates on Bentley station Community Rail Partnership (Mike noted opportunities to improve station appearance through noticeboards etc, and to repurpose two disused rooms if suitable community purpose can be identified.) vii. Forward planning for South East Electricity traffic diversions (Mike and Alison to attend Teams meeting on 14 November) viii. Engagement in forward planning for Jalsa Salana 2024 (Jason attended recent meeting, which was focused on the Autumn sports events. Meetings will become more frequent closer to JS 2024.) ix. Review of community-generated collisions log (Mike will summarise collisions reported by residents and circulate to TWG.) x. Status of road issues reported online to Highways (Alison has reported a range of issues, per Appendix B) xi. Local collaboration with Bentley PC, Bucks Horn Oak, Beech (Alison & Mike are continuing these extremely useful collaborations and thanked Ian McArdle for representing BHO at this meeting.) xii. Status of Farnborough Airport expansion planning application (Alison provided paper on this to BPC's 14 Nov council meeting) xiii. Haskins / Birdworld planning application (Public consultation session is being held at Haskins on 10 November; and Haskins team will attend BPC council meeting on 14 November.) <p>Post-meeting update: No police representative was available at this meeting, but PCSO Harvey Bennett and Sargeant Mark O'Hanlon attended BPC's 14 November council meeting and provided a useful update on local police matters.</p>
6	<p>A.O.B.</p> <p>Ian McArdle shared historic vehicle count data from various points on A325, to help assess traffic growth.</p>
7	<p>Date of next meeting: Thursday 18 or Tuesday 22 January, 7pm at Binsted Sports Pavilion</p>

Appendix A: Responses to Parish Survey, Summer 2023

Binsted's vision for the future...

What three key changes would we like to see in our Parish over the next 15 years? (The changes should relate to the priorities set out below. We are also asked to comment on when we think these changes should happen over the 15 year period.) (100 word limit)

Our response:

The parish straddles EHDC and SDNP, and we need much closer collaboration between BPC, EHDC, SDNP, HCC and other key stakeholders' (e.g. landowners, Alice Holt).

Without greater alignment of associated policies and plans, little progress can be made on our "big issues", namely:

1. Urgent need to resolve rapidly worsening road traffic issues; and to improve safe, non-car travel options (segregated cycle routes to station and schools);
2. Housing and local infrastructure that attracts younger families, and provide opportunities for older residents to downsize yet stay within the parish;
3. Support biodiversity; and protect and promote access to cherished rural landscapes.

101 words

Infrastructure	Our response:
<p>Active travel priorities, roads / parking, community buildings needs, waste / water infrastructure, broadband, renewable energy</p> <p>100 word limit</p>	<p>By far the biggest concern is the alarming growth in traffic, speeding and accidents on A325, Frith End and Blacknest Roads, primarily caused by Whitehill/Bordon expansion.</p> <p>Regular diversions off bordering A-roads force traffic through local roads manifestly unsuited to the traffic volumes and vehicle types.</p> <p>Cycling in this environment is unsafe, including A325/Shipwrights Way crossing.</p> <p>There is a woeful lack of bus services.</p> <p>Worsening access to GP and pharmacy services is also a key concern, with the lack of public transport making it difficult for non-drivers and the elderly to access medical care.</p> <p>Water supply and sewage capacity are issues.</p> <p>100 words</p>

Excerpt from our Long Version of the Report: Transport Infrastructure:

Over half of responses to the survey question 'What do you dislike about Binsted parish' related to transport:

Traffic, Roads, RoW and Public Transport	70
Representation issues	12
Planning policy, enforcement & infrastructure	20
Local facilities (lack of shop, teenager activities, family events, cricket overdominance)	12
Other (miscellaneous)	16
<i>Total responses</i>	130

Respondents across the parish expressed serious concern about road condition, traffic speeds and volumes, specific safety blackspots, and issues relating to public transport, cycling and horse riding (Table 2):

Issue Category	Count	Total
Condition of roads, speed & traffic volumes	57	57
Blackspots - Frith End & Blacknest to Bentley Stn	28	50
Blackspots - in Binsted village	8	
Blackspots - A325 at Bucks Horn Oak	4	
Blackspots - Rowledge incl. A325/Fullers Rd	4	
Blackspots - Hen & Chicken on A31	3	
Blackspots - Other	3	
Subtotal – safety blackspots		
Cycling & Horse Riding	30	30
Public Transport - general	19	65
Public Transport - buses	40	
Public Transport - rail	6	
Subtotal – public transport		
Total comments on Transport issues	202	

Danger has been caused by major local town expansions (Bordon and Alton) having failed to make adequate strategic plans for associated road traffic increases and having provided no public transport or active travel routes to Bentley station or other key destinations (schools, sports fields, churches, local towns, etc.) Particular problems arise from increased Bordon traffic along A325 and, most acutely, along Frith End and Blacknest to Bentley station. (Bordon and Whitehill are not served by any rail connections; Bentley station is the nearest.) Rat-running via small rural roads, HGVs, rural industrial estates and excessive speed are further concerns.

Public Transport: Bentley station is much valued, but local bus services are atrocious. There is no bus service to Bentley station. Bus services on A31 (Guildford–Winchester) and A325 (Basingstoke – Bordon) have been reduced; Binsted village has only 2 buses/week: buses to Alton College/schools are inadequate and not joined-up; and many parts of the parish have no bus provision at all.

Active Travel: cycling (and riding) is high risk on roads of all types, with no segregated cycle lanes, poor road surfaces, heavy speeding traffic and bridleways that don't link to key destinations. The combination of poor public transport and a complete absence of safe cycle routes creates big problems for young people, older people and those on low wages.

<p>How did BPC develop its Parish Priority Statement responses?</p> <p>Give details of public consultation and engagement used in the preparation of the PPS</p>	<p>BPC developed a parish survey with questions/subject areas, developed by its PPS Working Group, who attended the SDNP Parish Workshops and absorbed the findings of previous planning exercises (such as the 'Village Character' statement.)</p> <p>Our survey, open for two months, encouraged participation from those working in the parish as well as residents, and offered a prize draw to stimulate response rates.</p> <p>The survey was advertised via online channels, noticeboards, events, parish magazine, door-to-door distribution of hard copies and fliers to local businesses, shops, schools, other community hubs and districts showing lower response rates.</p> <p>We received 150 responses, 19.7% of 760 households, providing our primary evidence source to develop the PPS. Our PPSWG provided council members with survey analysis and iterations of the draft PPS, as well as obtaining feedback from parishioners (online and events) and those with backgrounds in areas such as planning and architecture, for final council sign-off in October. 151 words</p>
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Appendix B: Current Status of Reported Road incidents – and links to submit online reports

Incident reference & report date	Item	HCC Response	Current status
# 21595121 Jan 2022	Collision damaged Frith End bridge parapet	After long delay, eventually bridge was rebuilt in Spring 2023.	Problem resolved.
# 21602094 - 5 March 2022	Blacknest Road bend: Hazard Warning Chevron sign demolished	One side of sign re-installed in early December 2022	HCC closed the incident thinking that job was complete – it wasn't (see below).
# 21602097 reported on 5 March 2022	Blacknest Road bend: 40mph sign demolished by same crash as chevron above.		Problem still outstanding.
# 21632761, logged on 05 December 2022	Blacknest Road bend: Hazard Warning Chevron sign northbound still missing – <i>“HH has at last re-planted a replacement hazard chevron at Suicide corner in replacement of the one that was destroyed some years ago, which had chevrons on both sides. but they have only erected half of the sign! The one heading North (the most important one) has not been installed.”</i>	HH advised: <i>“the posts in the ground and HCC’s notes suggested to the works team that the chevrons were only ever meant to be one-sided.”</i> We were asked if we had any photographs of the double-sided signs? Uploaded to HCC incident report a screenshot from Google Earth (dating back to c. 2016) and also photos of the smashed-up signs, taken in the summer.	Problem still outstanding. HCC repair squad closed the incident without further contact. Updated enquiry 1/11/2023, submitting further photos
# 21685321 – 2/8/2023	Request to cut dead ash tree branches (ash dieback overhanging the Blacknest Road), on verge by Blacknest Golf course		Problem still outstanding.
# 21685322 – 2/8/2023	Reported oak with large dead branches, overhanging the Blacknest Road, near golf course	Email received 9/8/2023: <i>“Your enquiry has been initially assessed, and we now need to undertake further investigations into the problem. We endeavour to undertake these investigations within two weeks, but this can be dependant upon weather conditions.”</i>	Problem still outstanding.
# 21685324 – 2/8/2023	Request to check safety of telegraph pole leaning over Blacknest Road		Problem still outstanding.
# 21685325 – 2/8/2023	Request to check road markings and clean signs at junction in Bentley where the collision was at weekend (Main Rd/River Rd junction.)	Email received on 8/8/2023: “Subject: No Maintenance Work Required - Enquiry 21685325: Thank you for reporting this issue to us, which we have inspected. Our inspection has shown that the issue you have reported does not require action at this time.”	Problem still outstanding. Updated enquiry 1/11/2023, submitting further photos
# 21695468 re-submitted on 17	Church Street Binsted, adjacent to Binsted Village Hall. Speed sign demolished by HGV when A31	No further advice beyond initial report acknowledgment on	Problem still outstanding.

October 2023, of incident originally logged as #7182405 on 17 August 2023.	was closed to HGVs during resurfacing. Map board (Binsted PC property) and Fingerpost also damaged.	17/10/2023: <i>"Thank you for your enquiry. Your enquiry will now be triaged by Hampshire Highways and prioritised according to our safety criteria."</i>	Updated enquiry 1/11/2023, submitting further photos
# 21691890 - 20/9/2023	Binsted Road at River Hill Carriageway "pothole" over considerable length of road edge, due to traffic overrunning carriageway due to traffic lights during construction of wall	Status updated on 19/10/2023: <i>"The enquiry has been inspected and does require action. Defects of this nature are added to our contractor's work programme and are normally processed within two months, but could take longer depending on the severity of the issue, availability of resource and severe weather events."</i>	
# 21698061 - 1/11/2023	Blacknest Road chevron demolished by recent collision on bend		
# 21698062 - 1/11/2023	Blacknest Road on verge outside Bentley Hall – bollard demolished by old collision		
# 21698064 - 1/11/2023	Blacknest Road on verge just after Bentley Hall – four invisible bollards		
# 21698065 - 1/11/2023	Blacknest Road on verge just outside Bentley Hall – missing sign – we think it was a 'Bend' warning sign		
# 21698066 - 1/11/2023	Blacknest Road on verge, northbound, approaching Isington Road turn – missing sign – could have been 'Bend' or 'Junction' warning sign		
# 21698067 - 1/11/2023	Frith End northbound outside Evesons, missing sign – thought to be speed repeater.		
# 21698069 - 1/11/2023	Blacknest Road – middle section between farm and Industrial estate SID post missing speed limit repeater.		

How to report road and Rights of Way problems.

There are separate online reporting links for potholes, signs and Rights of Way issues: All give you the option of uploading photos - attaching photos is essential for getting results.

We need to understand the scoring mechanism used to triage road problems, so that incident reports which present safety concerns don't fester in a long maintenance queue.

[Report a pothole | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](#) – asks if it's deeper than a tennisball or bigger than a dinner plate!

[Report a road problem | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](#) – the best way to report bent signs and where lettering has rubbed off the roadsurface

[Report a tree or hedge problem | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](#) -for reporting unsafe trees on verges, as well as any fallen trees

[Problems on rights of way | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](#) – dodgy stiles, excessive mud, fallen trees, etc.

All of these links are also on our parish council website, under the "Emergencies" tab.

Appendix C: Collision Log for Frith End and Blacknest

Data to follow (Mike Mordecai to action).

Appendix D: Salt bins

Salt levels to be checked – Julian Thomson has kindly agreed to action. Alison to send details to Julian.

BINSTED PARISH COUNCIL: SALT BINS
Binsted Pavilion Car Park
Isington Lane – opposite Miller’s House Cottage
Station Road/Weybank
School Lane, Rowledge
Dockenfield Road/Street (opposite Boundary Road junction)
Wheatley Lane - Opposite Wheatley House
Wheatley Lane - Half way down the hill, above Hoggatts Cottage
Wheatley Lane - bottom of hill, below Hoggatts
South Hay – junction of Isington Road/ Stubbs Farm Lane
Wyck - at the X roads by the Parish Council notice board
Mill Court Lane – T junction opposite The Lodge

If any bins need refilling, anyone can request this online via [Request a salt bin refill | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](https://www.hants.gov.uk). Last year the Highways team acted fast to refill bins.

There’s a list of the bins on parish council website - [Salt Bins – Binsted Parish Council](#) – we need to send Mary updated info to publish.