Yatton Parish Council

Yatton High Street Pedestrian Safety Improvements:

Consultation Approved Response.

Yatton Parish Council is pleased to have an opportunity to comment on the proposed Yatton High Street Pedestrian Safety Improvements. The Parish Council has been involved in this initiative since its inception and the plans result, in the main, from suggestions and requests made by them at Steering Group meetings and through the Neighbourhood Plan process. In this regard we are particularly grateful to former a Yatton resident for his expertise in this area and for his suggestions. We hope that when the scheme comes to fruition, prominent credit will be given to Yatton Parish Council for its part in it.

Notwithstanding this, we are disappointed not to have been fully involved in the proposed changes on Stowey Road. We realise that these were initially an emergency response to the pandemic and could not be delayed, but it would have been preferable when developing this towards a more permanent arrangement to have had more Parish Council involvement.

Overall, Yatton Parish Council enthusiastically welcomes the plans, recognising that in many places along the High Street it is dangerous to walk or cycle. Increasing safety and perceptions of safety are therefore vitally important goals.

We would like to make some observations and suggestions as follows:

**General Point**

* We would like to see the 20mph speed limit extended to more of Yatton or, ideally, all of the residential parts of Yatton and Claverham.

**Raised Table Pedestrian Crossings**

* Will the raised crossings be safe for passengers in buses?
* Is there a danger that the raised pedestrian crossings will generate unacceptable increases in noise nuisance for residents living along the High Street? Many HGVs use the High Street, some of them empty: these make a lot of noise just going over surface irregularities.

**Stowey Road**

* Yatton Parish Council were not consulted on the changes to Stowey Road and do not wish to see restrictions on vehicle movement along there.

**Signage Near Nurseries**

* There are two children’s nurseries within the area covered by the proposed changes: Happy Hours (at the junction of Wemberham Lane and the High Street) and Stonecroft (about half-way between the Butcher’s Arms and Rock Road). Please could consideration be given to placing “Children Crossing” signs at these locations.

**Street Lights**

* Some street lights are changing from part-night to all-night operation. We see that this is beneficial near pedestrian crossings so would like to suggest that this change in hours of operation only be applied there. Also, any all-night lights should be appropriately shaded so as not to cause either increased light pollution or a nuisance to residents living nearby.

**Area Near the Butcher’s Arms**

* The footway on the western side of the High Street narrows to about 30cm just north of the Butcher’s Arms. Pedestrians wishing to continue north are obliged to cross; pedestrians wishing to access the Butcher’s Arms or the shops and businesses just south of it, coming from the Co-op supermarket car park, are also obliged to cross. Furthermore, Stonecroft Nursery is located here, so a new pedestrian crossing in that area would be a very useful safety improvement.
* The narrow footway continues north of the Butcher’s Arms to Causeway House. This house has been struck repeatedly by large vehicles. As well as being distressing for the occupants, there is the potential for debris to fall on pedestrians. We would like to suggest that the footway on the western side of the High Street from just north of the Butcher’s Arms to just north of Causeway House be made impassable to pedestrians, perhaps by placing bollards, because it is too narrow to be safely negotiated. A wooden telegraph pole or similar, placed at the apex of the small triangular area of footway where Causeway House comes closest to the road, would serve to protect the cottage and also to deter pedestrians.