

Freshford Parish Council

9 September 2024

Highways & Traffic Report

A36 Closure

Activity over the last two months has concentrated on liaison with National Highways, raising concerns from residents.

The achievements so far:

- Marshalls in place at Midford Lane/Church Lane, although concerns raised via email and in person as to how effective they are.
- Improved signage and barriers on the A36 at Midford Lane.
- Branch Lane appears to be running smoothly albeit with higher volumes of traffic.
- NH agreed to extend the marshalls for four weeks rather than two, at our request.
- The 94 bus continues to function, although its timetable is often delayed after 4 pm.

Remaining concerns:

- Crowe Hill and Lower Stoke experiencing 200% increase in traffic flows before the return of schools.
- Some parents walking from Limpley Stoke with children for Freshford School are now resorting to car, as Crowe Hill is deemed unsafe.
- There appears to be no credible plan from Wiltshire Council Highways to address these issues.
- Need to remove the signage (or grey it out) indicating a left turn to Bath at Branch Lane junction.

Next meeting with National Highways planned for October.

Centurion Bus/Ralph Allen School

There has been little progress on this issue since the July meeting. BANES Passenger Transport has agreed to speak to the School to understand the feedback/concerns from the parents. We think it is 12 students affected.

The public meeting on Monday organised by Cllr Gourley looked at routes by which the students could walk back to the village. Pipehouse Lane was suggested, perhaps making it No Entry from the A36. Access for the residents is of course a priority.

I asked Centurion the option of smaller bus, which is not an option for cost reasons. The width of the bus would be roughly the same as a 53-seater coach.

At the meeting, I asked Parking Enforcement about the practicality of double yellow Lines at the Dark Lane/New Road/Freshford Lane intersection. Their view was that parents stopping briefly on a double yellow line to drop off children is not illegal. So the option of a TRO is not worth pursuing.

TRO Parking Proposal from BANES

The double proposal published by BANES, and to some residents, was a complete shock to me.

I did ask them to visit to draft some proposals, which were reviewed and amended. This was based the second most popular demand from the Parish Transport meeting in April 2023.

The Parish Council conducted a consultation exercise and decided not to proceed with the proposals. At no point did I send any approval email to BANES for a TRO to be issued. I have made it clear the opposition of the Parish Council to the proposals and have had an acknowledgement from Parking Enforcement and trust that will be the end of the matter.

Julian Carpenter

7 September 2024