

GREAT BEDWYN PARISH COUNCIL SAFETY REVIEW. MAY 2024

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On Thursday 9th May 2024, at 11.45pm, the Parish Council undertook a pedestrian walk around the village to make an evaluation of village safety with regards to the adequacy of both street lighting and pavements. All roads in the village were examined as far as the village boundaries.

- On Brown's Lane exit road, this was to the intersection with Wansdyke Road
- On Brook Street, as far as Jockey Green
- On Forest Hill to the Forestry Housing
- On Church Street to the intersection with Crofton Road.

In terms of both lighting and pavements, we made an assessment as either being:

- **Satisfactory** (no improvement needed)
- **Adequate** (improvement may be required but requires inputs from residents and assessment)
- **Deficient** (improvement required in conjunction with consultation from residents)

Overall, the village pavements were considered to be adequate although areas were noted.

Adequate.

- At the lower end of Forest Hill, the banks are encroaching on the pavement causing a narrowing.
- On Church St, there are pavements, but in some sections, they are damaged with uneven sections.
- There are no pavements on Farm Lane, but due to its narrowness, pavements are not really an option. Speedbumps to discourage speeding might be a suitable alternative.

Deficient.

- There is no pavement on Browns Lane between the Three Tuns Public House and Castle Road. Due to the steepness of the bank and the narrowness of the road, an alternative route across the playing fields may be an option if there is a demand for it.
- There is no pavement on Brook Street to Jockey Green. Combined with inadequate street lighting, this appears to be the most dangerous section of the village and should be addressed. There may be a possibility to restore a footpath on top of the raised bank, but this would need to be in conjunction with the flood prevention work being carried out.
- Back Lane has no pavement, but as it is an unincorporated road, the ability of the PC to carry out work is severely limited.

In terms of lighting, again the village overall was deemed to be adequate with a few areas of concern to call out.

Adequate.

- The top end of the High Street needs to be reviewed.
- Sections of Spaines need to be reviewed, specifically around the cul-de-sacs.

Deficient:

- Brook Street is again inadequate. The street lights are spaced very far apart, and in some cases partially hampered by vegetation. Combined with the lack of footpath and being beyond the 20mph zone, this is considered to be the area of the village most in need of review.
- Also noted was the bridle way between Farm Lane and Brown's Lane. Although there are no cars, it is in near darkness and the PC may consider timed lighting options, pending feedback.

This assessment was carried out trying to balance the safety concerns of villagers, balanced out with light pollution, cost and energy consumption and as such is a subjective assessment. We would keenly encourage any parishioners who have pressing concerns on anything raised or not raised in the above summary to get in touch with the PC via either email or the suggestion box in the Old School Surgery.