

Subject: BRADENSTOKE / LYNEHAM BANKS TRAFFIC UPDATE

Date: Monday, 5 June 2023 at 11:18:21 British Summer Time

From: Bucknell, Allison

To: Elizabeth Martin

CC: Stuart Bernard

Dear Elizabeth (cc'ed to Stuart but please share with all ParishCouncillors)

There has been considerable recent email traffic between Wiltshire Council and a resident of Bradenstoke about his suggestions for an alternative design solution for The Banks, and also a suggestion that the time has come to reopen Clack Hill as 2 way (which does seem to be gaining a little traction in the village).

I enclose an extract from a response from Cllr Caroline Thomas, Cabinet Member for Highways, which I hope will explain the Council's position on this, which is to retain the current arrangement. Stuart has also raised concerns about continued speeding traffic, which I will respond to under separate cover.

I am informed by Officers that the current one-way arrangement on Clack Hill seems to be working well and the traffic passing through the village is negotiating the route and parked cars without major difficulty.

It was very different a year ago when Clack Hill was open to two-way traffic. There was significant congestion, particularly at peak periods as a result of commuting traffic, with reports of road rage and damage to parked cars by through traffic. The introduction of heavy goods vehicle restrictions had improved the situation, but there was still considerable correspondence and complaints from residents about the impact of traffic using the route through the village, and concerns about road safety.

The two-way traffic did seem to be able to pass each other on Clack Hill, but it was in the village, particularly at the Clack Hill/Holloway Junction, where there were considerable difficulties.

In response to the problems, the Council undertook a consultation on a range of options for short-term traffic management measures. At that time, the local preference seemed to be to close Clack Hill to traffic completely, with the second choice being the one-way system. Whilst the road closure did appear attractive in view of the problems being experienced, it was noted that Wiltshire Council does have a statutory duty under the Traffic Management Act 2004, to manage the expeditious movement of traffic on the network, and there would be considerable impacts from diverting traffic on the wider network. The one-way system was subsequently introduced, although it is appreciated that it does have disadvantages for some residents and businesses.

At the time it was acknowledged that there is probably no perfect solution that will meet the various requirements of all residents and road users, but the one-way system was intended to significantly improve the situation in Bradenstoke. The Council has indicated that it would be prepared to make changes to the temporary traffic management where there is support and justification for them, but based on the response to previous consultations there was not a high level of local support for two-way traffic on Clack Hill while the B4069 is temporarily closed. The concern is driver behaviour in Bradenstoke and issues with turning movements at the top of the hill that were witnessed before the one-way was installed and would be likely to return.

As I'm sure you can appreciate, the priority is to reopen the B4069 so that traffic can resume using the main road and to reduce the problems caused by traffic seeking alternative routes on unsuitable local minor roads. It will then be possible to remove most of the existing restrictions including those on Clack Hill.

Regards
Allison

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