

Area Board Issue 4245: Speeding traffic at Beckhampton and West Kennett

The Parish Council requests CATG to support its application (Area Board Issue 4245) for works to improve safety and reduce traffic speeds at Beckhampton and West Kennett.

The Parish Council wishes to see the recommendations in the Avebury WHS Transport Strategy for five schemes along the A4 to be implemented in full. At a time of austerity, however, the priorities of the Parish are to focus first on a scheme for Beckhampton and West Kennett. The Parish Council also accepts that it may be necessary to implement works in phases, and that that it will probably be necessary to apply for money through the Substantive Highways Scheme Fund.

The Parish Council is keen to enhance the World Heritage Site for the benefit of Avebury's many visitors, as well as local people; visitors bring economic advantages both to the local community and to the County of Wiltshire. It is also important to reduce negative impacts on local employers, including the racing stables at Beckhampton and the National Trust at West Kennett.

The Parish has earmarked some money for transport schemes and can offer joint funding. Local individuals have also pledged financial contributions if the scheme proceeds and the Parish Council will be approaching local employers who will benefit commercially from improvements.

The Parish's priorities at Beckhampton are to:

1. Implement the whole scheme recommended in the WHS Strategy for Beckhampton. If this is not possible, then to implement it in three phases
2. Phase 1: narrow the carriageway around the roundabout as shown in the WHS Strategy by re-modelling 'splitter islands' on the A4, A361 and A4361 so that they intrude further towards the centre of the roundabout and create a single, circular lane. Reduce the widths of the carriageways of the A4, A361 and A4361 at their junctions with the roundabout to single lanes by widening the 'splitter islands'
3. Phase 2: extend the lengths and widths of the four 'splitter islands' away from the roundabout along the A4, A361 and A4361 as shown in the Strategy
4. Phase 3: complete remaining works in the Strategy.

The Parish's priorities at West Kennett are to:

1. Implement the whole scheme recommended in the WHS Strategy for West Kennett. If this is not possible, then to implement it in three phases
2. Phase 1: narrow the A4 carriageway to 7.3m from C73 (the turning to East Kennett) to Gunsite Road by extending the verge. Reduce the speed limit to 40mph
3. Phase 2: works to lay-by to include parking and new bus stop
4. Phase 3: complete remaining works in the Strategy.

The Parish requests CATG to agree this application as a priority and allocate funding for design and development so that a bid can be made to the Substantive Highways Scheme Fund in 2016.

19 November 2015