

# Agenda Item: 8 – 1<sup>st</sup> September - Full Council

## Milborne Port Parish Council Meeting – 1 September 2020

### Document for Councillors regarding Considerations for Parking Improvement on the A30

**Author: Cllr Tim Carty**

#### Timeline

Milborne Port Parish Council has been in discussions with Somerset Highways regarding the possibility of modifying the parking restrictions on the A30. Following discussions and some feedback from residents, we are now in a position to consider the various possible ways forward, decide upon our preferred option, and make a request to Somerset Highways to consider this. If approved by Somerset Highways, either as is or in modified form, the proposals would then be opened to public consultation for a period of 30 days. Following this, and having amended the proposal for any valid areas of public concern, Highways would then take the proposals forward to a work order which would then be executed in due course.

#### OPTIONS AND REQUIRED ACTION

There are broadly **three options** discussed with Highways:

1. Do nothing
2. Introduce additional, or extend existing parking restrictions along the A30 at locations where the current allowed parking is viewed as generating specific safety concerns. This would be either side of the A30 at the junctions with: East Street; North/South Street; Bathwell Lane; Rosemary Street; Gainsborough; and Goathill. It would also cover the bend in the A30 to the west of the Bathwell Lane junction; and the bend at Gauntlet Cottage near the Rosemary Street junction.
3. Introduce parking restrictions on both sides of the whole of the A30 between the East Street junction and the Crackmore Garage, excluding the existing parking on the south side of the A30 outside the butcher's and newsagent, and north of the A30 to the west of the Tippling Philosopher.

**Action:** Councillors are asked to consider which of these three is preferred.

#### Additional items

There are a series of supplementary proposals to be considered, which have again been discussed with and in some cases suggested by Somerset Highways. In no particular order these are:

- a) implementation of parking restrictions along the east side of North Street as far as the school junction. This is a "C" road and hence viewed as more important in the hierarchy than the other roads adjoining the A30. It is recommended by Highways. This is in response to long standing concerns regarding the safety of the eastern pavement. Residents have introduced a sign with an informal request not to park on the eastern pavement.

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- b) implementation of parking restrictions along the west side of Gainsborough, potentially as far as the junction with Manor Road. This is a "D" road and hence viewed as less important in the hierarchy than North Street. Highways recommend a watching brief on this for the time being.
- c) the removal of the disabled parking bay opposite the old surgery at the top of South Street and running double yellows down as far as the dropped kerbs. This is in response to a request by a resident (see below). The suggested solution was put forward by Somerset Highways.
- d) the introduction of a disabled parking slot opposite the chemist.
- e) the introduction of three time-limited parking slots outside the butcher and newsagents allowing parking for one hour only per vehicle between 9am and 6pm. Parking would be restricted at the dropped kerb. This was a suggestion by Somerset Highways.

Finally, unconnected with parking, there is the possibility of our seeking improvements to the pedestrian crossing of the Gainsborough/A30 junction. A dropped kerb might be a candidate for a grant under the Small Improvement Scheme and would likely cost between £1,500 and £2,000. Putting in place an island to reduce the level of road to be crossed at one go, and potentially sharpening the angle of the north side of the junction would be (very) significantly more expensive. This was in response to a request by a resident (see below).

**Action:** Councillors are asked to consider whether points (a) through (e) should be included in any request to Highways for improvements.

### Steps Thus Far

In response to long standing general concerns regarding parking and safety on the A30 and numerous specific requests regarding the parking outside Gauntlet Cottage, the Council set up a Parking Working Group to see what improvements might be made.

#### (i) Public observations

We have received a specific request from a resident regarding the disabled parking bay at the top of South Street. This sits to the north of the dropped kerb which facilitates crossing of South Street for the less able, but cars frequently park across the dropped kerb. Gary Warren (SCC Highways) noted the disabled status of the parking bay was advisory only, so any resident could park in it.

We have received a separate request with regard to the junction at Gainsborough, expressing concern regarding surface water flooding in the area (being addressed separately) and the speed of cars entering Gainsborough from the north (it is hoped that the new crossing at Crackmore Garage supported by councillor Wallace, will mitigate this a little).

The Parish Council has received a great many comments with regard to the parking in the road outside of Gauntlet Cottage, and we have been advised by the Police, by Somerset Highways and by Sarah Dyke that there have been numerous observations made to those other bodies as well. Councillors should be careful to note that there is an ongoing discussion with regard to enforcement action at Gauntlet Cottage, and it is possible that, even should a request be put forward and accepted by Somerset

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Highways, it may not be possible to implement until that matter is resolved. This is a legal matter outside to the Parish Council's orbit, and if it is applicable, we should let the process play out.

### (ii) Actions

Clive Laughton, Ted Watts, Tim Carty and Tom Campbell, with Nathalie Hetherington (Deputy Clerk) in attendance, met with Somerset Highways' Gary Warren on 19 February 2020 regarding parking concerns on the A30 in Milborne Port. The Covid-19 lockdown delayed the follow up on this meeting. On 17 August 2020 Tom Campbell and Tim Carty, with Nathalie Hetherington (Deputy Clerk) in attendance, again met with Gary Warren, and the above request is largely the output of that meeting.

### (iii) Consultation

Tim Carty has spoken with Mansur Lawal at the chemists, and Wayne Pullen at the butcher's, and they are in favour of points (d) and (e) respectively.

### Historical Observations

**The 2010 Parish Plan** made the following observations regarding the A30:

"The village straddles the busy A30 and there is a continuing concern about vehicle speeding and safety. However, a proposed safety scheme which would have introduced safer pavements and a prioritized traffic flow in the High Street was rejected as a result of a large petition circa 2005. Recent measurements have shown that the speed limits are routinely exceeded on the eastern approach to the village and Sansome's Hill.

The focus group meeting held on the 27th March re-stated the concern about speeding on the east and west approaches to the village on the A30. Street Parking in the High Street does reduce speeding and enforces a self-regulating prioritization in the vicinity of the shops. The footfall outside this area is light so that accidents are thankfully infrequent. Studies have shown that drivers of vehicles adjust their speed according to the perceived danger, roadside parking and very narrow pavements give rise to the sense of danger and speeds are therefore moderate in the High Street. In other areas of the village this is not the case.

Complaints have been received from residents concerning noise levels. This complaint is linked to the general dissatisfaction about the level of speeding at the eastern entrance to the village and the problems that occur when two large lorries meet between the top of Sansome's Hill and the high pavement in the High Street. Frequent damage to vehicles and the street side has occurred because of large commercial vehicles being unable to pass. No quantitative data concerning noise levels has been obtained."

Key issues from the 2010 Parish Plan Questionnaire that affected the High Street:

- More village centre parking required.
- Reduced High Street congestion desired.
- Reduced speeding in High Street and minor roads needed.

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- Concern over narrow pavements.
- Reduction in traffic noise in High Street.

And, separately:

- Pedestrians should take priority in the High Street without directing trade away from the shops.

**The Initial Results of the 2017 Parish Survey** included the following:

- 90% of respondents viewed the High Street as the Centre of the Village
- 71% of respondents used the High Street at least once a week
- 76% accessed the High Street on foot
- 51% did not feel safe walking around Milborne Port
- 58% were using the newsagent at least once a week
- 42% were using the butchers at least once a week
- 41% were using the chemist at least once a month

In prioritising possible improvements to the village centre the following responses were given (out of five possible priorities):

- 32% had more parking as highest or second highest priority
- 33% prioritised making it easier to drive through the centre
- 47% prioritised better public transport
- 44% prioritised wider footpaths
- 65% prioritised safer walking and cycling

### **Comment**

There are competing considerations regarding the desire to have the A30 as safe and as functional as possible for all users. Slower speeds will tend to make the A30 safer.

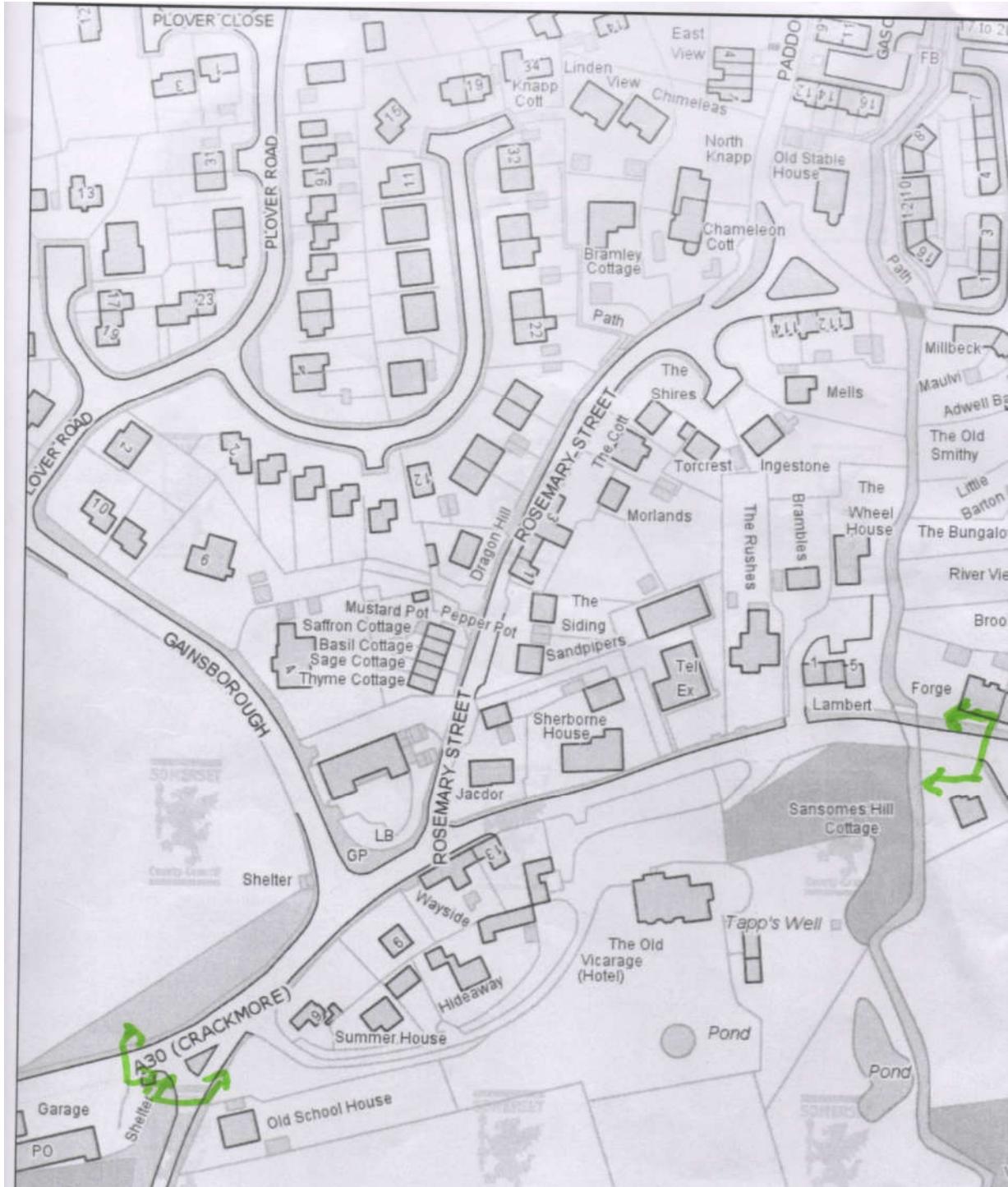
These can be most easily achieved by allowing the parking of cars, as is clearly the case along the High Street, where they effectively cause a contraflow. This location is not perfect, but it is largely flat with relatively good line of sight towards oncoming vehicles at either end of the areas where parking is allowed. Parking at these points also facilitates our local businesses.

Where parking occurs close to junctions, or at other locations where line of sight is poor, especially at bends, the reverse is true. Speeding does not help, but the requirement of traffic to enter into oncoming traffic due to parked cars increases the risk of a traffic accident, or that a vehicle will have to move onto the pavement and cause injury to pedestrians.

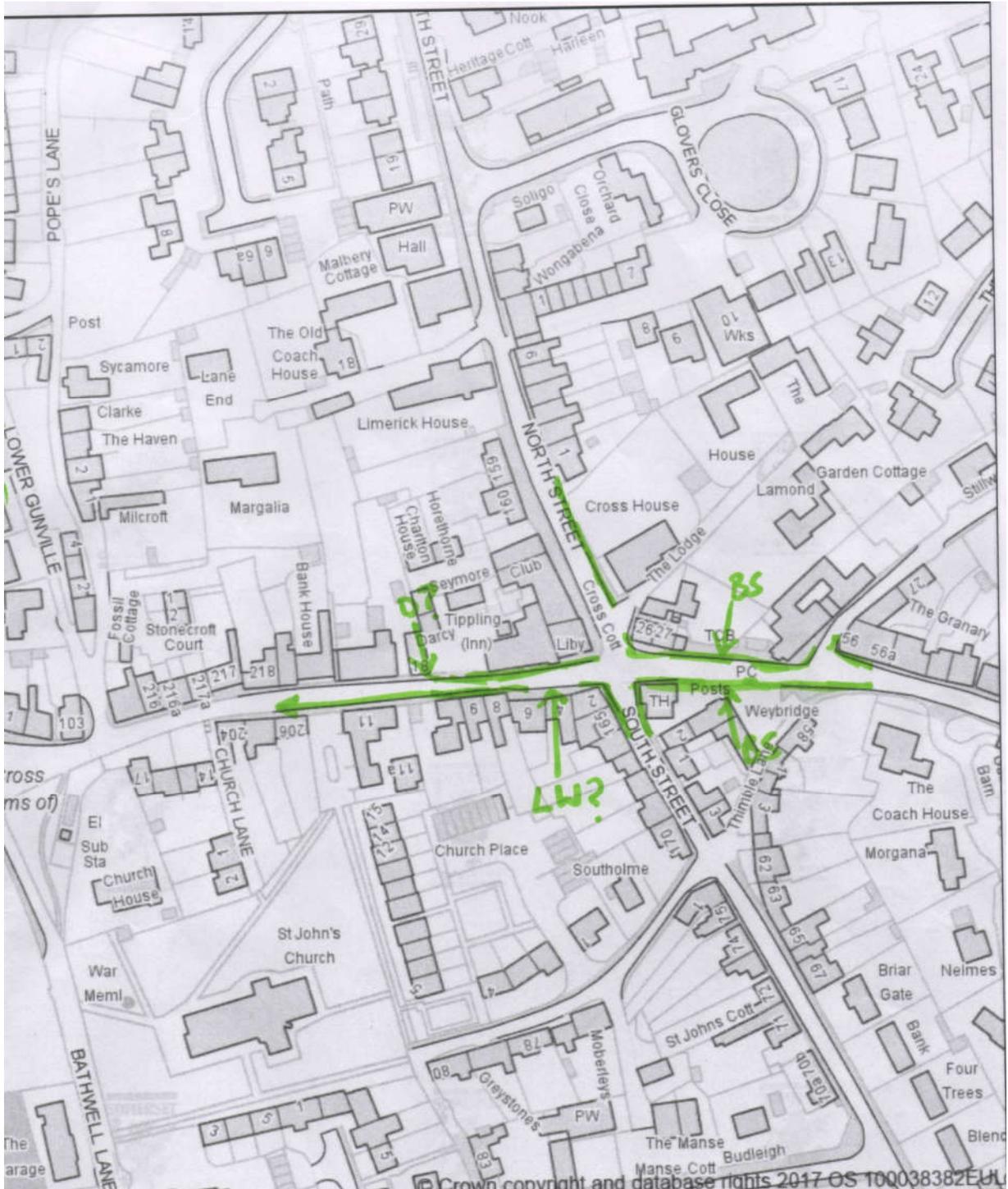
Councillors will need to consider whether the imposition of further parking restrictions is justified, mostly in locations where parking does not currently occur, but where, if it does, safety is potentially compromised, and irritation and fear regularly caused.

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The maps below show the annotations made by Gary Warren during the site meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2020.



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### Officer Overview:

The Clerk's office has received a number of complaints with regards concerns over parking on the A30, in particular the area near to Gauntlet Cottage. In this area there has been reported:

- An accident resulting in damage to a parked car
- Damage stock of a local business due to the action of braking hard to avoid a further accident.

Further evidence in this area includes the many verbal and email complaints have been made to the District Council, the County Council. The Police have also been in receipt of complaint regarding parking on the A30.

With this in mind the Planning and Environment Committee have been very proactive and have investigated parking concerns on the A30, detailed in the report above.

### Officer Recommendation:

The Council submit an immediate request for yellow lines to be installed in the area of concern at Gauntlet Cottage to mitigate risk with County Highways.

### Future Actions:

The Council begin investigations to review parking concerns within the Parish and include further areas of the A30 to ensure all potential areas of the Parish are considered and full community consultation takes place to ensure risks are mitigated. (Target time frame 9 months)

- Objectives
- Consultation Plan: Questionnaire, Online Survey, Public Consultation Meetings
- Report on the findings
- Data
- Meet with Somerset County Council Highways Department to discuss consultation outcomes
- Action Plan Parking Consideration improvements
- Present to the Community and Council
- Seek resolution for the project

Completion deadline: May 2021

Simon Pritchard  
Parish Clerk  
Milborne Port Parish Council