

## **Maintenance Request - Staplegrove Parish Council**

### **Recovery of full width of footway adjacent to A358 Staplegrove Road**

A 70 metres length of the footway on the north side of A358 trunk road east of Westerkirk Gate bus stop has reduced in width in recent years and can become impassable during the growing season due to the sideways growth of the hedge adjacent the footway. Each year the Parish Council requests the cutting of this hedge and the accompanying growth beneath but it often takes many weeks before this can be carried out. The path can become very dangerous with pedestrians forced into the road and it is no longer useable for prams and mobility scooters etc. Those that try are at a significant Health and Safety risk of going over the kerb and falling into the road. Staplegrove Road is extremely busy with all types of traffic including heavy goods vehicles travelling at or above the permitted 30mph speed limit. The footway connects Staplegrove village with its much used village hall. It also provides access to the only pedestrian crossing over Staplegrove Road for those parents and children coming from the Cresswell Avenue and Greenway Road area and going to the Primary School.

A survey shows that the original tarmacked footway was 1.500m wide reducing to 1.170m where most confined by the adjacent hedge at the east end. However, the available tarmac for walking on has now been much reduced throughout its length, to about 50% in the worst case. (Please see the attached details). This is due to the road and footway being in a shallow cutting at this point and soil from this verge has been washed down over time to cover and obstruct a significant width of the path. The adjacent ground is covered with stinging nettles and brambles up to the hedge line. The covering soil needs to be dug out to uncover the original width of the footway and ideally some form of mini retaining wall (perhaps half paving slabs laid on the slope?) erected to prevent further future encroachment.

The adjacent hedge is very mature, particularly at the eastern end and it rises to some 5.0m above the footway. While it does to some extent stabilise the cutting it is suggested that it should be cut down to a height of say 2.5m, with the growth on the footway side trimmed hard back to restrict future growth. The adjacent field is, I believed, own by an Investment bank which is unlikely to object to any work being done.

An application for this work was originally submitted in October 2014 and the available usable width of the footway has reduced even more in the intervening period.

The Parish and its residents would be very appreciative if the work could be carried out in the very near future.

M. N. Clark. Chairman, Staplegrove Parish Council.

July 2017.