



April  
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# SIGNPOSTS

News and views from Haddenham Safe Walking and Cycling group  
Issue 2

Welcome to our latest issue, which focuses largely on the Parish Council's [Streetscape project](#)<sup>1</sup>. You might already have seen the results of the initial online survey. If not, you can have a look [here](#)<sup>2</sup>. In some ways, the results come as no surprise, with clusters of comments around areas crying out for a redesign like the double roundabout where Churchway meets Woodways or the huge expanse of tarmac at Church End, as well as speeding black spots like Thame Road and Stanbridge Road.

The fact that comments had to be pinned to a particular location on a map did make it more difficult to highlight general changes we might want to see, for instance:

- a lower speed limit across the village,
- the exclusion of through-traffic,
- more dropped kerbs for better access,
- or simply a friendlier driving style.

Whilst interventions in specific areas will help to promote these sorts of principles, it's important that they're spelled out as ambitions.

This is where you come in. The Parish Council will be holding a public consultation on **Thursday 28th April 2022 1pm - 8pm** in the conference room at the village hall, where you'll have a chance to meet the

<sup>1</sup> The project's scope can be found scrolling down the page at [https://www.haddenham-bucks-pc.gov.uk/Planning\\_24293.aspx](https://www.haddenham-bucks-pc.gov.uk/Planning_24293.aspx)

consultants, discuss their initial ideas and add any more issues of your own. There will also be a Streetscape stand at the annual parish meeting at the village hall on **Wednesday 13th April at 7.00pm**.

This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to look at the paths and roads across the village as a whole, so be sure to have your say!

Alan Thawley, Chair, Haddenham Safe Walking and Cycling group (HaddSWAC)



*Be there! Venue for Streetscape consultation in April.*

<sup>2</sup> Read a summary of responses to the on-line survey at [https://www.haddenham-bucks-pc.gov.uk/\\_VirDir/CoreContents/News/Display.aspx?id=47663](https://www.haddenham-bucks-pc.gov.uk/_VirDir/CoreContents/News/Display.aspx?id=47663)

## THE HEART OF THE VILLAGE



A better balance of pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles: that is the laudable aim of the Parish Council in appointing ‘placemakers’ PJA to launch its Streetscape project.

There is no greater challenge that will face the consultants than the area between Fort End and the Banks shopping parade. Between these two popular village centres we have almost constant traffic, a single-file footway on one side of the road only, solid wicket wall on both sides creating an often gas-filled canyon, and vehicles competing for passage through a single-file pinch point.

This is the heart of the village, including as it does the open space with elegant houses at Fort End and the shops and cafes here and at Banks Parade. Opposite the parade is one of Haddenham’s more tasteful housing developments and the civic area with village hall, library and playground. Shortly beyond is the village’s main concentration of schools.

Dare we dream?

This could be an area where people wander at ease, socialising, shopping, waiting for the bus or for the kids to come out of school. Street design and furniture would be agreeable, elegant and as far as possible without restrictive signs. The shape of the area may be a little awkward, but it could serve the purpose and catch the atmosphere of a village market square.

And the cars?

Vehicles would proceed through this high value shared area at little more than walking pace. Through traffic would choose alternative routes, so the limited number of passing drivers would be either villagers, their guests or trade visitors to the village, among whom ordinary neighbourly awareness and consideration would surely prevail.

Alas, dreamers wake up, and reality is hard. But let us hold the vision while PJA set about the awesome task of bringing their creativity and experience to bear on the stern practicalities before them.

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## THE JOURNEY TO SCHOOL



When will our children be able to walk, cycle or scoot to school, safely?"

That seems to be a question more parents are asking, according to the latest Schools' Travel Survey

More than 100 families live outside the village and have children attending at least one of the three schools, with no school bus to relieve a daily car "taxi" service.

Of those living in Haddenham, fifty-nine families have tried cycling and found it too dangerous to continue and 10% of children are driven to school. A big majority of parents supports a 20mph limit to make children's walking and cycling safer (with 79% supporting 20mph throughout the village and 17% supporting 20mph on some roads only).

The consequences? Unhealthy habits are built in our children's early years; our children's growth is affected by their breathing polluted air on their journeys to and from school; and there is always a risk of road accidents.

The latest Schools' Survey — covering all Haddenham schools with a convincing 40% response rate — was in February 2021, identifying a trend from previous surveys towards discontent. Since lockdown there is further pent-up demand for safe walking and cycling to school.

Now we have a once in a lifetime opportunity as individuals to influence the journey to school, through the Parish Council's Streetscape consultation.

Further articles on this subject are planned.

CF/DS

## DRIVING THE HADDENHAM WAY



**Y**ou're in your car. You wait by a parked car or at a traffic-calming build-out for an oncoming vehicle. You may fret. You may be resigned. Point is, you can't do much about it. You have to wait. Why not make the best of a 'bad job' or even - and here's the thing - make the best of a 'good job': give the other driver a wave. What!?! A thank you for delay?! Just that. Or, if you're that other driver, wave yourself. Yes, both wave, conspiratorially even: you're in this together. You are part of a better, friendlier way for Haddenham's roads. And you're making Haddenham safer too!

Think back to your driving instructor or the Highway Code: eye contact makes for good driving. Scientists have proved it! Probably the same lot who proved hitting your head with a hammer hurts.

Now, lots of village drivers *are* friendly; they wave, acknowledge, even lift a finger off the wheel, smile. We could make it the Haddenham Way.

Incidentally a survey HaddSWAC conducted just before Covid shows that about a fifth of vehicles on a rush-hour weekday morning drive through Haddenham without stopping. Chances are they didn't do much looking around either. Never mind waving. They wanted to get from 'A' to 'B'. 'H' probably didn't get a look in. How about if A-to-B drivers used A or B roads? Not Haddenham's ...?

Give a wave. Give a smile.

Get to be HADDENHAM-FRIENDLY!

BA

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Previous issues available at <https://www.villagesociety.org/haddswac.html>