

HIGHWAYS WORKING PARTY 2014 - 2015 - Cllr Stephen Hirst

Last year I likened the work of the Highways Working Party to painting the Forth Bridge, the job is never complete. This year has been a prime example.

This year has been a most difficult year to achieve satisfaction, mostly due to the fact that the County Council retendered the Highways Contract and the new Contractor has taken an inordinate time to work up to an acceptable level of performance.

We have not managed to achieve any new parking spaces this year although I can report that the Long Stay Car Park is now almost 80% full on a daily basis during the week.

The Feoffees have reduced the first hour parking charge to 50p in the Chipping Car Park and Cotswold District Council have introduced a £2 all day charge for the West Street Car Park. As well as this reduction CDC have introduced a £50 per annum season ticket that allows parking in the West Street and Brewery Lane Car Parks from 8am to 10am and from 4pm to 6pm and Saturdays and Sundays. For weekend parking this means that this season ticket allows parking from 4pm on Friday afternoon right through until 10am on Monday morning.

Following these amendments there is a noticeable increase in parking in the West Street Car Park.

Pothole Repairs take a long time to carry out as do other minor pavement works, this would appear to be as a result of the bedding in of the new Contractor and it hoped that improvements in repair time can improve. Major resurfacing work has been carried out from the Market Place to the Hospital as well as in Charlton Road.

The Traffic Order to reorganise parking in the Market Place has still not occurred and therefore we still await the new Traffic Orders that will improve parking in the Market Place and Church Street. We have been advised that mid- year 2015 is now the target date for completion. This has taken too long to implement.

We have a number of streets in and around the Town where there are parking problems, new traffic orders are very expensive and therefore we cannot complete these in a speedy manner.

The volunteer Speedwatch team continue to operate in the speeding 'hotspots' of the town and they are to be thanked for their activity to regulate traffic speed as part of the town's efforts to eliminate road traffic accidents.

On the whole though, not a satisfactory level of achievement during 2014-2015, we should plan for a more successful 2015 - 2016.