

260407 – Item 16 - Highways Update

1. Correspondence on A382 Flooding and Drainage Issues

An email was sent to Flood Risk Management, DCC Neighbourhood Highways Officer, the County and District Councillor, and the Environment Agency attaching the Parish Council's letter resolved at min no. 51/2026 regarding:

- recent flooding on the A382
- drainage and safety concerns
- request for information on the proposed 6 week road closure and concerns about timing and community impact

Responses Received

Environment Agency

- Acknowledged receipt and forwarded the letter internally for awareness.
- Confirmed that all points raised fall under Devon County Council Highways.
- Invited MPC to contact them directly if specific EA-related questions arise.

Highways Officer – Full Response

“Thank you for your letter.

From a highway and public rights of way perspective, we are currently working towards cleaning the ditch opposite the sewage works, as well trimming the trees along the ditch.

As well ensuring all the highway drainage is working sufficiently.

I am in contact with SWW for them to look at the stream on their land, for them to action works which would help the overall situation.”

2. Clerk's Meeting with the Highways Officer (18 March)

Update on Speed Checks

- Speed data from Docombe and Ford Street shared with MPC.
- DCC does not consider Pound Street to have a speeding issue.
- Working Group to explore why community perception differs and what actions MPC can take to address concerns.

A382 Update

- Closure required to stabilise the wall at the sewage works.
- Originally planned for May (6 weeks); now proposed for summer holidays, risking overlap with Carnival Week.
- Three teams involved: Engineering, Highways, and South West Water.
- Coordination into a single closure is being attempted but may not be achievable.
- Belief that the river requires dredging; SWW are being pressed to act as it is on their land.
- Wall damaged by gritter will be repaired by the private landowner (DCC has already compensated). Works could be managed under traffic lights, depending on contractor approach. MPC may wish to encourage the landowner to complete their repairs during any closure.

B3212 Update

- Works progressing well and the road remains on schedule to reopen 5 May.
- Significant tree removal observed during site visit.

Other Highways Matters

- No contact from Sands on the vehicle-tracking survey.
- No contact from Cllr Keeling on 20mph scheme costings.
- Highways Officer intends to attend the APM.
- Station Road and Ford Street are on the list for drain cleaning.

3. Highways Working Group Meeting (23 March)

Community Speedwatch Update (Emily)

- 15 volunteers trained and 9 sites have been approved.

Recent Speedwatch Data

- Two checks completed over one weekend.
- Station Road: 133 vehicles recorded (Saturday morning), 2 speeding.
- Ford Street: 70 vehicles recorded (Sunday midday), 1 speeding.
- Only able to monitor vehicles leaving Moretonhampstead; Emily believes more speeding would be detected if they could monitor vehicles entering the town.

Observations

- Ford Street: vehicles approaching the zebra crossing too fast and sometimes failing to stop.
- Narrow road and vehicles often mount the pavement.
- Drivers may not exceed the limit but are travelling too fast for conditions.
- Parish Council should focus on driver attitude and perception of speed, not just enforcement.

WG Discussion

- Continue supporting Speedwatch and encourage reporting of accidents/near misses to strengthen the case for 20mph.
- Noted that DCC traffic survey results were 4–5 mph lower than readings from the new estate survey.
- Focus areas:
 - 20mph awareness
 - Work with the school on sign design
 - Encourage public reporting
- Request for Speedwatch to collect more general speed data for MPC and Highways.
- VAS funding: MPC has £2,500 budgeted for 2026/27 and intends to budget £2,500 for 2027/28.
- Suggestions to supplement funding include crowdfunding, quizzes/fundraising and applying for grants.

Other WG Items

- Traffic consultation discussed (attached).
- Public toilets discussed (separate agenda item).

Recommendations

It is recommended that Moretonhampstead Parish Council:

1. Writes to Devon County Council Highways expressing concern about the proposed six-week closure of the A382, specifically:

- the length of the closure and its cumulative impact following the prolonged B3212 closure

- the effect on local businesses, visitor numbers and tourism
- the risk of significant disruption during Carnival Week
- the wider impact on residents, including access to services and increased journey times

2. Requests a site visit with the lead engineer responsible for the works so that MPC can fully understand:

- the scope and necessity of the stabilisation works
- the sequencing of the three teams involved

3. Asks Highways to reconsider the timing of the works, seeking to avoid:

- Carnival Week
- school exam periods
- other peak-impact times for the community

4. Requests that Highways explore mitigation options, including:

- whether weekend and/or night-time openings of the road are feasible
- whether the landowner's wall repairs can be coordinated within the same closure to avoid future disruption