



Monxton Matters

*Editor
Mike Cleugh*

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The Traffic Committee Get Down to Business with Local Authorities - see inside cover



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Traffic Matters – The Minutes of the July 15th meeting with TVBC, HCC, Highways, Police and Conservation

The Monxton Traffic Group (MTG) held a meeting with representatives from Hampshire County Council (HCC), Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC), and the Hampshire Constabulary in the Monxton Village Hall at 0845 hrs on Thursday 15th July 04. The Monxton Parish Council (MPC) was also represented, but Sir George Young MP was unable to attend and sent his apologies. The aim of the meeting was to establish the current position concerning traffic in Monxton, acknowledge that there is a traffic problem, identify the issues, and agree a way forward.

The MTG gave a presentation that outlined the main traffic issues, which included the disproportionate volume of traffic, the excessive speed of some of the traffic, and the size of the haulage vehicles. It was pointed out that some of these vehicles arrived in the village having gone the wrong way, and some were visiting local businesses.

There was photographic evidence and examples of the impact these problems were having on the village, and the meeting agreed that these were issues that needed addressing. Norman Arnell (Ward Councillor) made the point that the gap on the central reservation of the A303 at the end of Sarsons Lane will close for a trial period at some stage in the near future. He pointed out that following similar trials on the A303 in the past; no gap had ever been re-opened.

It was acknowledged that this might have an impact on Monxton with the ever-increasing number of visitors to the Hawk Conservancy. Ray Alborough (TVBC) made the point that the traffic visiting the Hawk Conservatory would be directed by renewed signage to avoid Monxton.

Martin Wiltshire (HCC) explained that the HCC / Parish Partnership was into Phase 2 with the Traffic Calming Trail. This was about to be reassessed and, in conjunction with the MPC, adjustments would be made. He also advised the meeting that a speed survey had been completed in Monxton on the 31 July 2003.

The average results were:

Green Lane - 33-31 mph

High Street - 23-22 mph

Andover Road – 34 -35 mph.

It was agreed that a traffic volume / speed / weight survey would be carried out in the village during the next few weeks and he said that he would investigate the feasibility of carrying out an 'Origin and Destination' Survey (stopping all vehicles passing through the village between 7am and 7pm, and asking drivers where they had come from, and where they were going)

Margo Teasdale (HCC) emphasised that Monxton was a special area rich in cob walls. The village had 35 Listed Building of which 27 had cob walls; this was regarded as an extraordinary high density of such buildings. She emphasised that limited grants were available to repair cob walls from HCC, but not for buildings.

The main problem was soil banking up against the base of the cob walls blocked the airflow, trapping moisture in the walls. She explained the impact traffic could have on them and showed photographs of examples where it had gone wrong. However, there were always going to be cost and maintenance implications for cob walls. She said that in the recent past there had been a dozen collapsed cob walls within a year in the TVBC area. She suggested we make records of all deterioration of properties and pass them on to her.

The meeting carried out a tour of the village to look at the critical points of interest and the current Traffic Calming Trials. The walk round the village gave the members of the MTG the opportunity to point out exactly where their major traffic concerns were focused, what they believed were the best solutions to resolve the problems and to emphasis the urgency they felt was necessary for action to be taken.

Following the tour of the village, the meeting returned to the Village Hall and a final discussion was held. During the discussion, points of clarification were discussed, ideas were suggested, and actions were agreed. The MTG made it quite clear that they wanted to see a 20 mph speed limit enforced in the village.

Monxton Village Hall Forthcoming Events

Cricklade College Mobile Computer Bus Back in September

Classes are to continue every Friday from 10 – 12am, from Friday 17th September. The bus will be outside Monxton Village Hall with Graham Love in the driving seat. There will be various courses available. For further enquiries contact Sharon Corbett (IT Training) at Cricklade College on 360125

Friday 21st August D-day Celebration at 8.00pm dinner with entertainment

Village Hall Weekly Programme

Mondays: Morning	10.30 – 12.30 Arts & Crafts group resumes in September
Evening	7.30-9.30 pm Jujitsu
Tues. Afternoon 2.30-3.30	Badminton
Evening 5.00 -7.00pm	Sonnets Drama group
Wednesday Morning 11.15	Exercise class and circuit training
Evening	Sonnets Drama group
Friday:	Available for social events
Saturday:	Jumble sales, occasional children's parties, social events
Sunday: Mornings	Monthly Church coffee mornings

Rural rat run 'may have tragic results

VILLAGERS are so worried a child may be run over in Monxton they are staging a special meeting with the police and Hampshire County Council.

"Not only are we rapidly witnessing the destruction of such a beautiful Hampshire village, but I and many others fear we will witness an untimely death," said Monxton resident Simon Ranger.

The village is considered one of Hampshire's most picturesque.

But the problem lies in its position. It is used as a 'rat run' by Ministry of Defence workers from the Defence Logistics Organisation.

Monxton roads are also used by visitors to the Hawk Conservancy.

The volume of traffic is not the only problem. The 30mph speed limit is too high according to many villagers.

"There are too many blind spots for the fast vehicles zooming past and it is slowly destroying our 400-year-old cottages," said Mr Ranger.

Mr Ranger says he has already spent £10,000 repairing damage caused to his property by traffic vibrations. The cottages have been built without foundations.

Another problem is lorries.

by **Natasha Lavattiata**

email natasha.lavattiata@andoveradvertiser.co.uk

Sometimes bigger than the cottages, they have to turn round once they realise they have taken the wrong turning.

An ancient chalk wall has been knocked several times.

In advance of the meeting on Thursday, Hampshire County Council says it has been working with the parish council for a couple of years to develop traffic calming measures.

Stage one was completed a year ago and involved more speed limit signs and colour surfacing on the road. Stage two includes pinch-points.

The last speed checks carried out showed the average speed throughout the centre of the village was 22mph. But villagers said motorists slowed down deliberately for the checks.

The county council says it has put up additional signage off the A303 advising of a 12 ton weight limit for lorries.

"We're keen to hear the views of the parish council on how it feels these measures are going and will continue to work with the council to tackle the problems," the council spokesperson concluded.



Congestion: A juggernaut negotiates the village roads. NOP

This article appeared in the July 9th issue of the Andover Advertiser, thanks to the efforts of the Monxton Traffic Group (and in particular Mr Simon Ranger) who are campaigning to reduce the traffic problems caused by motorists and lorry drivers going through our village.

**EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES OF
THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

8th July at 8.00pm

Full edition available on the Monxton Website or from the Parish Clerk

MATTERS ARISING

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Chris Brandwood told the Council that she is still waiting for the Neighbourhood Watch packages. She also advised the Council that there is to be a meeting on 19th July concerning the restructuring of the police force. It is believed this will probably lead to the loss or decrease in rural policing, as the policing will be used in areas where the need is greater.

VILLAGE HALL & LAY-BY PARKING

The decoration of the village hall was discussed. Following an inspection by representatives, Major Dick Hayter and Mr Ian MacGordon from the DLO to assess the time needed to carry out the painting and decorating. An estimator is due to visit the hall.

Mrs Richards told the Council that Mr David Phaure of Sonnets Drama Group has approached the committee and suggested that he will organise for the hall to be decorated as required, in return for one month's free usage.

He would also like to see a 'village hall' sign at the crossroads. His group would then use the village hall more frequently. This will be discussed at the next village hall AGM, but in principle appeared to be a good idea.

The Council agreed that the new parking area for the church and village hall was unacceptable. The area has not been sufficiently levelled prior to seeding and the matting being laid.

This has resulted in an uneven surface making it very difficult for cars (except 4x4's) to get onto the grass. Mrs Richards would like to request the opinion of Hampshire Highways. The Chairman will also speak to Mr Thelwell of Monxton Manor.

HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY
John Lancaster of Community Action

Mr John Lancaster of Community Action addressed the Council on its role in the community. He explained that Test Valley is currently promoting small local schemes for affordable housing and explained that from the last housing survey carried out in 2002, it appeared that only two such dwellings were required. However, both the Chairman and Mr Lancaster agreed that this could be somewhat misleading. Following similar questions asked during research for the VDS, the need appeared to be much greater. Therefore a second survey will be carried out.

Mr Lancaster handed out a new Housing Needs Survey and asked for the Parish council's comments. The Chairman will contact Mr Lancaster once a discussion has taken place. It was agreed that in order to avoid any confusion a covering letter must be sent out with all surveys explaining its purpose and also that an article would be published in Monxton Matters.

Allotments Returned to TVBC

As many in the village will be aware the allotments have been a maintenance problem to the Parish Council for some years. The Chairman has been in negotiation with TVBC who are now responsible for the land and its maintenance. This will save the parishioners **£250-500 per year** which represents some 10% of the annual precept. We are pleased to say that after the considerable clear up after Christmas 2002 and the expensive continuous annual grass cuttings the land was returned in good order. At the AGM Mr Ken Hopkins expressed concern about the state of the fence and the ready access to his land. This will now become the responsibility of the TVBC and will not be at the expense of the Monxton parishioners! This land may now be used for low cost housing and we will shortly be invited to complete another housing needs survey.

Planning Matters (Abridged version)

Item	Ref/Description	Parish Council	TVBC	Comments
1	TVN.05969/5 Erection of woodland workshop and installation of septic tank, Monxton Nurseries	MPC has written with objections to the Planning Inspectorate		Application rejected by TVBC on grounds, no functional need for a building on the site
2	TRE.CA00587/89 Pollard willow tree, Glebe Cottage, Monxton	Agreed		Carried out
3	TVN.09123 Retention of access and gates – land adjacent to Dingley Dell, Chalkpit Lane, Monxton	Letter of approval sent to TVBC		
4	TVN.07241/3 Erection of storage building and provision of manege, part of OS Parcel 4400, Broad Lane, Monxton	Letter of approval subject to conditions (removal of all excess vehicles from site) sent to TVBC		
5	TVN.09011/1 Erection of 2 storey extension to provide sitting room and dining room with 2 bedrooms and bathroom over, provision of new vehicular access and erection of front wall (amended scheme) High Trees, Monxton	Letter of approval sent to TVBC		
6	TRE.CA.00587/92 Fell Ash Tree(T1) Lodwick, High street, Monxton	Letter of approval sent to TVBC		
7	TRE.CA.00587/93 Fell 1 Fletcheri, White Gables, Monxton	Letter of approval sent to TVBC		

Traffic Calming Group - Extract from Minutes of the MPC meeting of the 8/7/04

Mr Simon Ranger and Richard Williams attended the MPC meeting, Mr Ranger advised the council that the group had organised a meeting for Thursday 15th July at 08.45 with representatives from HCC, TVBC, Traffic Management, Highways, Planning Enforcement and Norman Arnell. Sir George Young is unable to make the meeting but has requested to be kept informed. The meeting will include a slide presentation highlighting many photos of recent incidents within the village and the main points of discussion will be the volume, speed and size of the traffic passing through the village.

The aim of the meeting is to put the village in a better position in fighting these issue and to ascertain who is responsible for which area and to 'stop the buck' being passed from department to department. Over the last few days a second traffic survey has been carried out on Green Lane and the results will be published in due course. Mr Granger also advised that the group had spoken to Andover Advertiser expressing the villager's concerns over this matter and that an article may appear shortly. At this stage the group wish to take the harmonious approach and hope that a positive outcome can be made this way. There will be a meeting on Wednesday 14th in the evening to run through the presentation and strategy. At this point, Manor Farm was mentioned. It appeared that Mr Diplock has withdrawn the retrospective planning application regarding storage and usage.

Mr Williams then told the committee that the group wants a route map solution and a positive outcome from the meeting with an acceptance of responsibility. Mr Ranger advised that the volume of traffic concerns both HCC and the Conservation Department and the damage they cause to many buildings especially Grade II listed properties.

Monxton Parish Council Minutes (Abridged version)

MANOR FARM, ABBOTTS ANN ROAD

The Chairman told the council she had spoken to Mr Munday, Enforcement Officer of TVBC who had confirmed that Mr Diplock had withdrawn the retrospective planning application. Mike Cleugh advised the council that he had spoken to Madeline Winter, Head of Planning at TVBC concerning this matter who had confirmed that she was aware of the concerns this issue caused the village.

Mike Cleugh requested that the Council obtains confirmation in writing as to exactly what Manor Farm is legally allowed to do on its premises, as this clarification would be relevant to the meeting on the 15th July. Mr Colbourne asked if Abbots Ann's council have complained about this issue and was advised that this was the case.

VDS UPDATE

It was agreed by the Council that all members should have had a copy for their final approval before the VDS went to print. This was noted in the minutes of 20th November 2003 and 22nd January 2004. Mrs Richards said that she had requested two design guidelines be added to the 'Settlement Plan' section and this had not been done. She explained that these could be extremely important for future planning applications. Mrs Richards is going to speak to Mr David Bibby of TVBC to see if these guidelines could be added as an addendum.

Mr Cleugh requested that the Chairman contact Mrs Leslie to obtain an electronic version of the VDS statement, as he needs to post it onto the Monxton Web site for interested parties to download.

MATTERS BROUGHT BEFORE THE MEETING BY PARISH COUNCILLORS

The Council had received a letter from Mr Robin Aisher requesting their endorsements to his letter concerning the TVBC Local Plan Enquiry in opposition to the extension of the DLO site. The Council agreed with his comments and the Chairman will reply to the Local Plan Enquiry office.

The allotment area at Sunnybank has now been handed back to TVBC. This has been under discussion for a long time. The area was no longer in demand for allotments and was costing the Parish council money on maintenance.

Mrs Richards mentioned that it might be a good idea to have an additional member on the Council (to cover for absence). She will get the relevant forms and the matter will be discussed at the next meeting.

The Chairman advised the Council that she had received a letter from Mr Kieron Beattie inviting the Council to look around Monxton Nurseries. The Parish clerk will reply to the letter and advise him that Mr Cleugh will accept his invitation.

PLANNING ENFORCEMENT

Having recently attended a Planning Enforcement training session Mr Cleugh gave a short presentation to the Council (a copy of this presentation is on file, should anyone wish to see it). This presentation deals with the issues of TVBC enforcing actions against people who do not adhere to planning restrictions or simply build without any planning permission.

DATE OF THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The meeting will be held on Thursday 9th September 2004 at 8.00 pm.

FIGHT THE RISING COST OF FUEL OIL – NOW!

The sharp rise in the price of domestic heating fuel oil over the last three months means that belonging to a fuel buying group is now even more important in an effort to keep your heating bills as low as possible. The average house in Monxton will use between 3500 to 4500 litres of heating oil in a year, and a price check on three domestic oil suppliers in the middle week of May showed that the price for a single oil supply delivery, for someone not in a fuel club would have been between 22.5p and 22.75p per litre. If that is multiplied by, say, 4000 litres the cost comes to £900 plus 5% tax, making a total cost of £945. Where as, if that person had belonged to the Monxton Fuel Club, the price would have been 10% cheaper, making a saving of £94.50.

We currently have 26 houses in the fuel club and I am inviting other residents of the village to join the buying group and thereby make a worthwhile saving on their fuel bill over the coming year. The prices I have quoted are for individual and small multiple drops, but if we can arrange bulk deliveries with as many as 20 houses having a delivery on the same day, from one tanker, the savings can be even greater.

Some people have left the village and others have now moved in, it is therefore necessary to bring the Fuel Club records up to date, to enable the contract for the supply oil to members of the Fuel Club to be put out to tender again, so as to achieve the best possible price. Below is a form asking the present members of the Fuel Club whether they wish to continue as a member of the club and whether they would like their delivery to be part of a whole tanker delivery, so as to obtain the best possible price.

So if you are already a member of the Fuel Club please complete part one of the form and return it to me at the address below. If you are not a member of the Fuel Club but would like to join please complete part two of the form and return it to me at the address below. **If you are not already a member of the Fuel Club and would like to join, please contact David Hodgson, at Lamorna, Chalkpit Lane to obtain a membership form. Telephone 01264 710405 or go to <http://www.monxton.org.uk>**

PART 1. I am a member of the Monxton Fuel Club and I confirm that I wish to* / I do not wish to* continue as a member of the Club.

I do * / I do not * wish to have my oil delivery as part of a one tanker load bulk delivery. * *Please delete as necessary.*

NAME	Telephone no.
Signed	

PART 2. I am not a member of the Monxton Fuel Club and I wish to join the Club.

NAME

ADDRESS

Telephone No.

Tank Size	Litres.	Estimated annual usage	Litres.
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Location of tank e.g. Side of House / Back Garden / Front Garden.

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I do * / I do not * wish to have my oil delivery as part of a one tanker load bulk delivery. * *Please delete as necessary.*

Signed

HUTCHENS COTTAGE

Hutchens Cottage is built at right angles to the village street so it is not immediately obvious to anyone driving through Monxton. It faces its own courtyard and former barns, for it is really a Georgian farmhouse rather than a cottage. To the east of the house, its land used to run up to Chalkpit Lane, while on the west the present Portway occupies part of the old farmyard. An early photograph shows cows there, and the late Mrs Lock remembered that several farmers from far afield used to keep their horses there for the night before the Weyhill Fair.

Like all the old village houses, Hutchens Cottage belonged to King's College so the people who held it are known from the late 17th century. The first member of the Hutchens family there was Roger Hutchens, who had been a butcher at Barn Cottage for several years before taking over the farm in 1752. Three generations of the family were to live there and farm their land in the great fields; at the time of the Enclosure Act they had 80 acres in the parish. The last Farmer Hutchens was Thomas, grandson of Roger. He and his wife died before the end of the 19th century, but their three daughters all remained in the farmhouse and in 1921 they bought the freehold for £800. The Miss Hutchens are still remembered for their unfailing kindness to villagers and for their support for the parish church.

After the death of the last Miss Hutchens in 1952, the farmhouse was sold. When Sir Richard and Lady Boughey were living there in the early 1960s, they restored the internal accommodation so that it was once again a single dwelling. In 1978 it was bought by Robert and Judy Crick, who added a small conservatory in 1986. The garden, which they have developed so beautifully, is enjoyed by many people every summer when it is one of the Monxton Gardens that are open to the public.

D.K.C.

