

HIGHWAYS & TRAFFIC



Traffic and transport

Woodford is located 3 miles west of Thrapston with access to the A14 at Junctions 11 and 12 and the A6 and A45 6 miles to the south.

There are three principle roads which form the only access and egress from the village –

- Thrapston Road
- Mill Road
- Addington Road.

The High Street is the main route through the village.

The Woodford Plan Survey raised a number of concerns with parking, speeding and hazardous areas, and it is these issues that are considered here.

Parking

193 people responded to the questions and they raised problem areas as being – High Street – Rose Terrace – Club Lane as having the highest number of respondents there were a number of other locations mentioned.

The main problem parking is caused by disregard for double yellow lines, parking on footpaths and at junctions.

The biggest concern was causing access problems for the emergency services.

The parking enforcement department at NCC were contacted and a report from them showed parking enforcement visits totalled 3.9 hours in 2013. They have given an undertaking to increase visits and to undertake evening / morning visits.

There are some parking issues outside the school at the start and finish of the school day.

Respondents also requested more parking in various locations which requires funding by the householders or landlords and is not considered here.

Recommendation

1. PC contact NCC parking enforcement and seek an agreed increased amount of visits per year / month.
2. PC to launch- 'Parking responsibly campaign' – 'think emergency vehicles when parking' etc. using posters and Saints Alive and the website. Communication team could make it one of their regular items.

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Highways

A high number of respondents to the survey (82%) considered there were accident risk areas in the village.

The locations giving greatest concern are:

- High Street at the School
- Addington Road – at entrance to Village
- Mill Road Junction
- High Street
- Entrance and Exits to Village – Thrapston Road and Mill Road



Areas in red are locations giving greatest concern

Following a consultation with the liaison officer from NCC Highways (May Gurney WSP) the recommendations contained here are in line with their recommendations.

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The School and High Street

The School is located in the centre of the village on High Street and has parking restriction zig zag lines in front of the entrance.

There is a school warning sign at the south corner of the green on the left hand side of Addington Road heading north. The other sign is in High Street south of Mill Road junction and is slightly obscured by the signs for the Prince of Wales and Chip Shop. The main risk is speeding traffic as it drives through the Green heading North and traffic speeding up as it passes the school heading south on High Street.

The Head Teacher has confirmed it is difficult crossing the High Street when taking the children to the Church and out into the village.



Recommendations

1. Install a new school road sign 50 yards south from the school in the west verge near the phone box.
2. Install SLOW SCHOOL road markings on approach to school.
3. PC to install electronic speed advice sign on High St. and consider purchasing mobile speed warning sign instead of fixed as recommended by NCC (MGWSP) liaison officer.

Considerations

1. PC to consider pedestrian crossing to the school. Electronic speed monitoring sign installed in the right place would help slow traffic.
2. PC to consider changing village green into a roundabout / gyratory which would slow vehicles and accommodate the bus turning hazard.
3. PC to consider 20 mph speed restriction on High Street in vicinity of school through past Mill Road Junction and the Village Green Area.

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Addington Road

The road from Great Addington enters the village on a slight bend and slight incline; there is a Woodford Please Drive Slowly Sign and 30 mph signs on entry to the village.

The risks start at the entrance to Manor House Farm where there are a number of small businesses, butchers and farm shop (proposed tea rooms), stabling for a large number of horses. This creates high levels of traffic movements in and out of the entrance less than 30 yards from the 30 mph restriction signs.

The second risk area is the 'blind' junctions of Church Green and Rectory Lane that join Addington Road a further 20 yards into the village and provide access to a large number of residential properties and the Church.



Recommendation

1. Construct gateway feature with new Woodford sign and create narrowing in road markings to slow traffic.
2. Create 30 mph roundels in road markings on carriageway.
3. Install SLOW road marking signs at approach to the bend into the village at the south end of the Green.

Consideration

1. Install build out give way feature at the 30 mph sign giving priority to vehicles leaving village to slow vehicles entering village.

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Mill Road / High Street Junction

This junction operates as a standard 'Give Way' junction. It would very difficult and expensive to improve the current arrangements

Recommendation

Refresh Give Way road markings at junction when other road markings are installed.

Consideration

PC to seek advice from NCC (MGWSP) to make this junction a mini roundabout .



Mill Road and Thrapston Road

Access and Egress from the village have been identified as risk areas due to speeding.

Recommendation

1. Install new gate way features and 30 mph roundels at Mill Road and Thrapston Road 30 mph sign locations with cross hatched narrowing.
2. New Woodford please drive slowly sign at Mill Road (badly corroded posts).

Consideration

1. Install build out give way feature at the 30 mph sign giving priority to vehicles leaving village to slow vehicles entering village.

