

Dear Editor

We took our two small grandsons to the Anson Field to try out the lovely new play equipment. I am pleased to say it all entirely met with their approval. Thanks must go to our Parish Council for carrying out these improvements. However, I was appalled to discover that bottles had been smashed on the new railings, leaving dangerous broken glass scattered within the play area. Partially hidden in the grass, the shards had the potential to badly injure unsuspecting children and adults.

Having already binned cider and lager cans, cigarette packets and other unmentionable items strewn around the youth shelter, I was disheartened, dismayed and disappointed by this unacceptable behaviour of a small minority of our village youth.

If the culprits read this, perhaps they would consider carefully how the consequences of their reckless actions could impact severely on others, particularly small children.

ROS THORNE

Dear Editor

It's so nice to have a new playground for my children to play in but it's such a pity that the surrounding area leaves a lot to be desired! The sports pitches appear to be going downhill again with multiple piles of dog excrement and litter spoiling the surroundings. I would like to make a plea to all those that walk dogs on the sports pitches and ask them to 'scoop up' their mess – if left, it's unsightly, smelly and a health hazard. I'd also like to ask the parents of all the young teenagers that congregate around the shelter and playground to remind their children to use the litter bins provided. Finally, I would like to ask the Parish Council to arrange for regular visits to the sports fields by Dog Wardens, Policemen and Community Support Officers in order to deter what is quite frankly anti-social behaviour.

Name and address supplied

Dear Editor

It is good to see the re-cycling facilities on Howard Cornish Road being used, but why don't the people who leave their waste paper etc. there also decide to re-cycle the plastic bags? These could be re-used, or binned at the supermarket, rather than left untidily entwined round the handles of the Howard Cornish Road bins.

Recently, I collected at least two dozen of them and put them with my own rubbish for collection as they were too wet and dirty to re-cycle.

PUZZLED

Name and address supplied

A415 TRAFFIC LIGHTS

Sadly the trial was not able to be the full period we had hoped for, but understandably to alleviate the problems caused by the flood the lights had to be removed.

At the October Parish Council meeting I learned that:

1. The trial would not be repeated in October as originally hoped.
2. There has been a very limited response (a dozen or so people responded!!) to the OCC Highways.
3. The road sensors activated around the other Marcham roads noted 'no discernible change in traffic flow' over the period before, during and after the trial.
4. Due to the poor response OCC needs a mandate from the village and support from the Parish Council before it can make this a permanent feature. To do this they are proposing a leaflet drop to all households.
5. Apparently it is usual, in this sort of a trial, that if the ambulance/fire/police services don't object within the first few days, you can generally take it that they do not have an objection to the traffic flow system.

PLAGS is focussed on the safety of all users on this bend and each of us understands, only too well, the negative aspects of the trial but the protection that the barrier gave to pedestrians was wonderful. I understood from this month's Parish Council meeting that the speed of vehicles trying to 'beat the lights' would be solved as the permanent traffic lights could be fitted with a camera that would catch vehicles breaking the law. The jams recorded were due to either light failures or drivers jumping the lights and blocking the road. Overall the OCC Highways did a really good job in re-adjusting the position of the lights and I understand that they were reasonably happy with the results with regard to the function of the system.

Not many people contacted the OCC Highways as requested in MADNews and on boards at the lights. Human nature, being what it is, generally means we will only make the effort to complain if we feel strongly about something. I think OCC Highways and the Parish Council should consider the fact that as only a dozen or so people responded (and these were not all negative) this shows few people considered the lights something to complain about. We were also concerned that the trial might cause drivers to use Howard Cornish and other roads as 'rat-runs' – so the sensor results seem very encouraging.

The County are going to the trouble to give us a chance to voice our opinions with this

leaflet drop – please use this opportunity to give them and your Parish Council a mandate. PLAGS have done what we can to highlight the dangers and to ask you to consider the safety OF ALL USERS as a key feature for this road scheme. This is not just about the people living on this section of the road, as either way they have to suffer pollution and noise (in fact it is worse with the lights) – it is about all users: cars, bicycles and pedestrians using this section of road. Our village traffic is about to get much, much worse as Didcot, Wantage and Hanney expand, not to mention the replacement bridge planned for Newbridge that will re-introduce juggernauts back along the A415 and through our village. If lights are not the way forward and with confirmation that the bypass is years away then how can we protect users and our rural village? Why not make your suggestions to OCC Highways or your Parish Council but please remember that speed kills and even a weight limit to exclude heavy lorries (based on narrowness of one of the bends) will not slow cars down. PLAGS would also welcome the chance to discuss issues with you if you would prefer. Email the editor of MADNews with your contact details and I will get back to you.

editor@madnews.co.uk

SALLY TIMBERLAKE

on behalf of PLAGS

HELP WANTED

I am an independent lady in a wheelchair living in Marcham, and am looking for LIVELY PEOPLE to help me.

I need assistance for an average of 3 hours each day (5 visits including early morning and evening). No lifting, good pay and working conditions, days/hours negotiable. A driving licence would be useful. Please ring Stella on 391614 for further details.

MP'S SURGERY WITH ED VAIZEY
5.30-7.00pm, unless stated otherwise

9 Nov	Faringdon , Corn Exchange
23 Nov	Didcot , King Alfred Drive Community Centre
Contact Ed Vaizey by	
Post	The House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
E-mail	vaizeye@parliament.uk
Web	www.vaizey.com
Tel	0207 219 6350

To get your letter included please write to the editor by 20th month latest