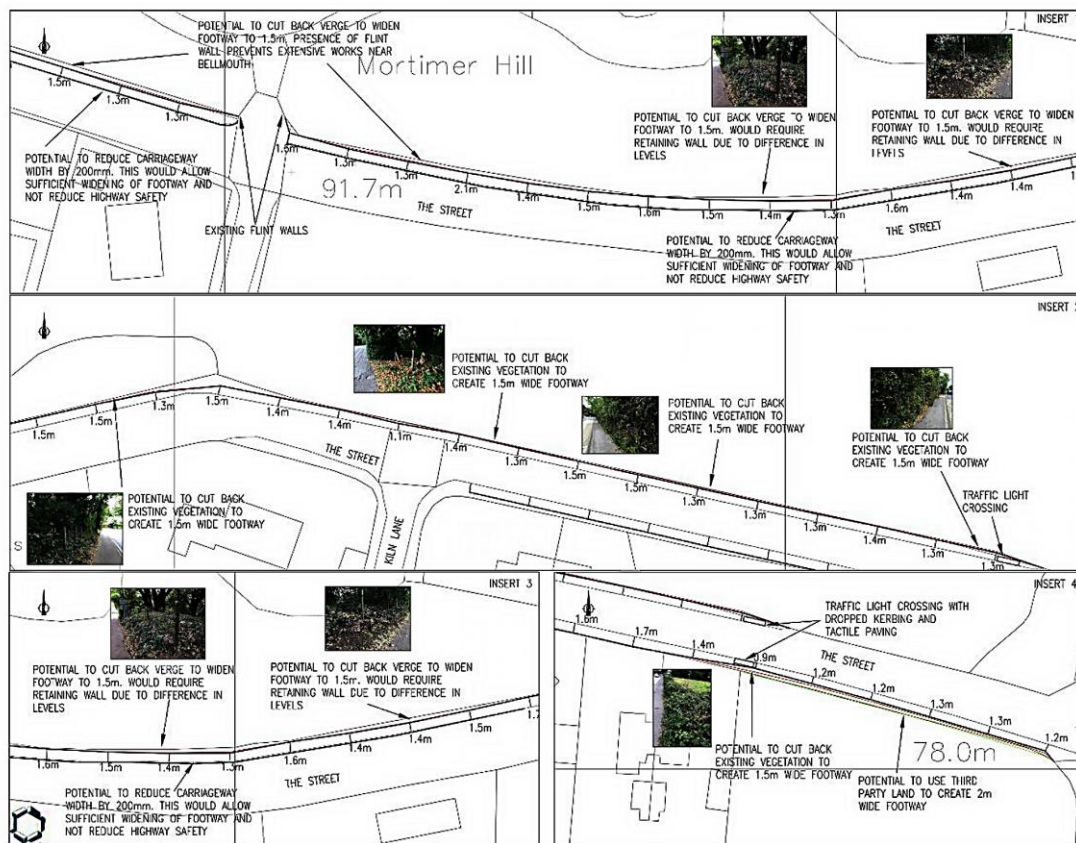


# Widening the pavement between Strawberry Fields and Mortimer Hall

**The proposal:** The pavement between Strawberry Fields and the entrance to Mortimer Hall be widened to at least 1.5m to make it fit for purpose.

**Details:** There have been long-standing complaints about the width of this pavement. It is perceived to be dangerous especially for children and parents walking to St Mary's School.

The pavement is the responsibility of West Berkshire Council (WBC) and they have been asked on numerous occasions to remedy the situation. They have cut back the hedges a couple of times, but of course this does not solve the more fundamental problem that the pavement is not wide enough. The Parish Council have therefore sought expert advice as to how any widening could be achieved and what it would cost. The proposal is shown in the diagram below.



**Costs:** The cost for this project is estimated to be about £35,000 but until detailed surveys are carried out this figure should be treated with caution.

It is assumed that WBC will maintain the new pavement but that the Parish Council will have to pay for regular cutting back of the hedges. This is likely to cost some £2,000 per year which would mean the following increase in council tax for a home in each property band:

Band A	79p	Band E	£1.44
Band B	92p	Band F	£1.70
Band C	£1.05	Band G	£1.97
Band D	£1.18	Band H	£2.36

**Your views:** While any views you give are important, we would particularly like to know:

- Are there other pavements which are narrow/dangerous?
- Is it a good idea for the Parish Council to spend money widening the pavement?
- Is it necessary for the Parish Council to take responsibility for cutting back the hedges?