

# Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Full Council – 12 October 2023

This paper is for DECISION

## Agenda item 20/076 4: Victoria Road Footway (Pavement outside Café and Estate Agent on Victoria Road)

**Motion from Cllr. N. Carter: To Resolve to pay 50% of the cost of reinstating a pavement outside Mortimer Café/David Cliff Estate Agent to improve pedestrians' safety.**

### BACKGROUND

There exists a long-standing hazard caused by cars that park outside the Café/estate agent, in Victoria Road. Whilst the area in question is technically a pavement, being completely level with the road, it appears to motorists as a layby. It is no surprise therefore that cars park on it or use it to drive up onto the adjacent pavement to the east.



The situation poses a significant hazard to pedestrians, particularly the disabled or those with children's prams or buggies.

In a recent example the police stopped to investigate (and ultimately ticket) a car that was parked on the pavement outside an adjacent property. The car was parked about 300mm away from the property's hedge.

The parish council narrowly declined a proposal in 2019 (6 votes to 5) to proceed with a design drawn up by West Berks Council to reinstate a pavement in 2019. The objectors at the time appeared to: fear that cars could still pavement park (by bumping up onto the new curb or accessing pavement via the remaining dropped curb areas), have unspecified concerns about the profile of the proposed pavement; and worry whether the new curb of 90mm above road level, would suffice.

The then objectors' concerns all appear unfounded. The design is drawn by qualified staff at West Berks Council, competent in the field. The act of introducing a curb will deter parking, remove the existing confusion and ultimately render it an offence to bump up onto the new pavement.

At the time of writing the estimated cost is being reviewed to take account of the significant increase in materials and labour costs in the intervening period since the 2019 estimate.

If this proposal is passed, a local district council ward member will discuss and explain the proposal to the two businesses (it was raised with them in 2019) and the work is expected to complete in this financial year i.e. by end March 2024.

## **COSTS**

The initial design cost of £1000, performed by West Berks Council, was paid by the parish council in 2019.

The further costs were estimated as £1838.25 (implementation) + £4500 (substantive work) = £6338.

The current estimate (being worked on at the time of writing) to complete the work is £10,000.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

To agree to pay up to £5000 (+VAT) to reinstate a pavement, for the reasons given, on the understanding that the district councillors arrange to pay a further £5000 via the Members' Bid scheme.

### **Associated Documents**

1. Design and prior council paper from Nov 2019

N Carter 6/10/23