

Meeting with Witney residents regarding traffic concerns

I met with a number of parents on Farmers Close/Hailey Road last week who contacted me as District Councillor regarding concerns about the safety of the school routes used to Witney Community Primary and Wood Green School, and I've passed this onto Cllr Enright as their County Councillor.

I've attached photos and descriptions, but the main concerns are:

1. Unsafe crossing at western end of Farmers Close - unsighted cars are speeding round the corner and down the hill, where children/families cross.
2. Cars speeding and not stopping at Zebra crossing on Hailey Road (this is a common education/enforcement issue in Witney)
3. Zebra crossing belisha beacon obscured by overgrown hedge, which is also narrowing the footpath and making it unsafe
4. Poor road surfaces and markings, which do not assist traffic calming in lead-up to crossing points, and causing splash puddles for pedestrians and danger to cyclists

Andrew Prosser
Witney Town and West Oxfordshire District Councillor
Witney North

Western end of Farmers Close, close to junction with Hailey Road (B4022)





Farmers Close is used as a cut-through to New Yatt Road to avoid West End. Unsighted cars coming down the hill at speed. Dangerous crossing for children (a busy pedestrian route to Witney Community Primary School and Wood Green School). Hedge obstructing visibility and road is very narrow for vehicles passing.



Looking east back up Farmers Close. Poor road markings/signage. 'Slow' sign going up the road, but no road markings to slow traffic coming down the hill. Dropped kerb crossing is in unsafe location (needs to be further down).



Looking north along Hailey Road/B4022. Hedge overgrown onto path at Hailey Road Zebra crossing – narrow, unsafe. Road surface poor – splash puddle hazard for pedestrians. Belisha beacon is hidden behind hedge on eastern side. Cars speeding and often not stopping at Zebra crossing – needs local enforcement and education. Position of zebra crossing forces pedestrians to use unsafe crossing point on Farmers Close.



Local parents who raised the concerns 21/5/2021. Looking north along Hailey Road. Zebra crossing is north of Taphouse Avenue/Hailey Road junction.