# Spaxton Parish Council

Road Sign and Roadside Management Project

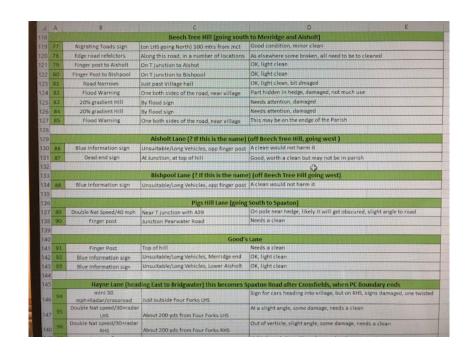
#### Defining the Issue

- Many of our road signs were dirty and out of position
- The more we looked, the greater the damage to the signs became clear
- A big factor in this was the hedge cutting
- Clearly, having sub optimal road signage is an accident risk



#### Collecting the Evidence

- We asked the Council if they had a record of the highway signs, they did not
- So decided we would record all the road sign in the Parish, and placed them on a map
- This meant walking, cycling and driving around all our roads – and quite a few times as we kept finding others!
- We developed an asset register



A extract from our Asset Register which we will also use to document actions at each sign

## Collecting the Evidence (2)

- We repeated the exercise to check that our prediction of signs being obscured by hedge growth was valid
- Here is one of the examples spot the sign on the left hand side





#### Making the Case

- We wrote to the Council, copied to the lead Councillor for Highways and our Local Councillor, setting out what we had found
- We suggested that we might benefit from a site visit, which has taken place; the Council and Highways have been very positive
- We explained that our approach could be developed as a 'Public-Volunteer Partnership'
- We suggested the PC would pay for the training of a local contractor and for an annual clean
- We looked to Somerset Council to provide replacements for badly damaged ones, which we would fit, we looked for help in sign post movement

## Making this a Community Project

- The Council does not have lots of spare cash, nor does the Parish Council
- But the Community does have a desire for things to improve, it has volunteers who want to assist
- We can bridge the gap to help the council meet legal requirements and build a better community
- We are exploring using both local contractors in our village and providing the legal permissions,
  PPE and equipment to local people



#### Next steps

- We put the training in place for those cleaning signs
- We have applied for a Section 171 Licence, which covers work on the Highway
- We will explore a more integrated hedge cutting programme, with different methods around signs
- We will consider moving some signs to a more appropriate position at the Highway edge
- We will look to run hedge laying competitions, and work with charities to enhance fauna diversity in the hedges
- We record all this in our Asset register



