

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	B	C	D	E
118			Beech Tree Hill [going south to Merridge and Aisholt]		
119	77	Migrating Toads sign	(on LHS going North) 100 mtrs from Inct	Good condition, minor clean	
120	78	Edge road reflectors	Along this road, in a number of locations	As elsewhere some broken, all need to be cleaned	
121	79	Finger post to Aisholt	On T junction to Aisholt	OK, light clean	
122	80	Finger Post to Bishpool	On T junction to Bishpool	OK, light clean	
123	81	Road Narrows	Just past Village hall	OK, light clean, bit damaged	
124	82	Flood Warning	One both sides of the road, near village	Part hidden in hedge, damaged, not much use	
125	83	20% gradient Hill	By flood sign	Needs attention, damaged	
126	84	20% gradient Hill	By flood sign	Needs attention, damaged	
127	85	Flood Warning	One both sides of the road, near village	This may be on the edge of the Parish	
128					
129			Aisholt Lane (? if this is the name) (off Beech Tree Hill, going west)		
130	86	Blue Information sign	Unsuitable/Long Vehicles, opp finger post	A clean would not harm it	
131	87	Dead end sign	At Junction, at top of hill	Good, worth a clean but may not be in parish	
132					
133			Bishpool Lane (? if this is the name) (off Beech Tree Hill going west)		
134	88	Blue Information sign	Unsuitable/Long Vehicles, opp finger post	A clean would not harm it	
135					
136			Pigs Hill Lane [going South to Spaxton]		
137	89	Double Nat Speed/40 mph	Near T junction with A39	On pole near hedge, likely it will get obscured, slight angle to road	
138	90	Finger post	Junction Pearwater Road	Needs a clean	
139					
140			Good's Lane		
141	91	Finger Post	Top of hill	Needs a clean	
142	92	Blue Information sign	Unsuitable/Long Vehicles, Merridge end	OK, light clean	
143	93	Blue Information sign	Unsuitable/Long Vehicles, Lower Aisholt	OK, light clean	
144					
145			Hayne Lane (heading East to Bridgwater) this becomes Spaxton Road after Crossfields, when PC boundary ends		
146	94	mini 30 mph+Radar/crossroad	Just outside Four Forks LHS	Sign for cars heading into village, but on RHS, signs damaged, one twisted	
147	95	Double Nat speed/30+radar LHS	About 200 yds from Four Forks LHS	At a slight angle, some damage, needs a clean	
148	96	Double Nat speed/30+radar RHS	About 200 yds from Four Forks RHS	Out of verticle, slight angle, some damage, needs a clean	

*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

