

ECCHINSWELL, SYDMONTON AND BISHOPS GREEN PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting held at Ecchinswell Village Hall
14 July 2026, 7:30pm

Chairman: Cllr Stamp

Present: Cllr Shadegg, Cllr Debenham, Cllr Letch

Clerk: Amy White

In attendance: Cllr John Izett

Item 1: 30/26 Apologies

None received. Cllr Monteith and Cllr Sadler were absent.

Cllrs Stamp and Letch both resigned from the council. ESBG PC thanks both for their contribution and wishes them well. Cllr Letch will continue provide planning support and advice.

The council now has 4 members and needs to recruit 3 more.

Item 2: 31/26 Declarations of Interest

None.

Item 3: 32/26 To approve Meeting Minutes of 16 June 2026

The Minutes of the meeting held on 16 June 2026 were approved and signed by the Chairman, Cllr Stamp.

Item 4: 33/26 Actions from Meeting of 16 June 2026

Item	Action	Owner
20/26	Councillors will review the two planning applications in detail and agree a formal response by email before the consultation deadline-	All cllrs
21/26	A P45 needs to be issued for an employee who no longer works for the PC- In action . Investigate whether insurance covers cybersecurity- Actioned - it does not cover it but policies will be created to cover any gaps. Send off all extra required paperwork for intermediate audit by 17 June 2026- Actioned .	Clerk
22/26	Find out who the landowners responsible for cutting back vegetation on roads and write to them- landowners identified .	Clerk
24/26	Amalgamate pot hole and road sign defect report into one document- Not actioned .	Shadegg/ Sadler
25/26	Prices for benches to place at Digweeds- Actioned . Fence panels- to get quote for propping back up- Action no longer required (fences have been propped up).	Clerk Clerk
26/26	Create rota for SIDS and get them put up- not yet actioned. SID locations have been identified and sent off to HCC for confirmation.	Clerk/Letch

	• Cllr Sadler to send information to the Clerk on a new bin that has been placed which is not currently on the Litter Warden's rounds- Action no longer required (bin has been emptied). • Report play area flooring issue at Beech Road play area, Bishops Green to BDBC- Actioned.	Sadler
27/26	Newsletter submission- Actioned - July edition sent (next edition in September)	Clerk

Item 5: 34/26 Public Participation

No one was present.

Item 6: 35/26 Borough and County Councillor Reports

Cllr Izett updated the council on the following:

Rooksfield Development

- Meeting with the Rooksfield developer has not yet been arranged.
- Councillor will contact the developer again to arrange a meeting involving parish council representatives.

Bishops Green

- No significant reports of anti-social behaviour.
- One incident was mentioned approximately a month ago, involving the Community Safety Patrol Officer (CSPO), but no further issues have been reported.

BDBC Local Plan

- BDBC Cabinet has decided it cannot proceed with the Draft Local Plan before the Government's December deadline.
- The Local Plan process will therefore need to restart.
- The principal reason given is that South East Water has been unable to demonstrate that sufficient water infrastructure will be available to support planned housing growth through to 2040.
- Whilst acknowledging the concerns regarding water infrastructure, Cllr Izett expressed the view that proceeding with a Local Plan would have provided greater protection against speculative development and supported neighbourhood planning.
- Without an adopted Local Plan, the borough may be more vulnerable to speculative planning applications.

Local Government Reorganisation

- The proposed North Hampshire unitary authority remains on course for implementation in **May 2028**.
- A Joint Committee has now been established to oversee the transition.
 - Membership comprises:
 - Six Hampshire County Councillors.
 - Six District/Borough Councillors (two each from BDBC, Hart and Rushmoor).
 - The Leader of Hampshire County Council will chair the committee.
- Significant work will be required over the next two years, including integration of staffing, IT systems and council services.

- No decision has yet been made regarding the future headquarters of the new authority.

Number of Councillors

- Current combined representation across the affected councils totals 143 councillors.
- Government proposals reduce this to 85 councillors, although a proposal has been submitted suggesting 88.
- Representation will change from approximately:
 - 1 councillor per 1,983 residents
 - to approximately 1 councillor per 3,337 residents.
- Current borough ward boundaries will form the basis of representation.
- Evingar Ward is expected to have two councillors, while some larger wards may have three.

NPPF Changes

The Government is introducing significant changes to planning decision-making from 31 October.

Key changes include:

- Routine planning applications will increasingly be determined by planning officers rather than elected councillors.
- **Schedule 1 applications** (including householder applications, extensions and minor developments of up to 10 dwellings) will be determined by officers.
- **Schedule 2 applications** (including larger housing developments, outline applications and listed building consent) will also normally be determined by officers unless they meet strict “gateway” criteria relating to significant planning, economic, social or environmental impacts.
- Ward councillors will no longer have the ability to “call in” applications to Planning Committee simply because of local concern.
- Public objections will still be considered but will not automatically result in committee determination.
- Where there is disagreement over whether an application meets the gateway criteria, the Chief Planning Officer’s decision will prevail.
- The councillor expressed concern that these changes significantly reduce democratic oversight of planning decisions and the role of elected members.

Solar Farm Appeal

- A planning appeal has recently approved a solar farm near St Mary Bourne within the National Landscape.
- The Planning Inspector concluded that the national need for renewable energy outweighed the harm to the protected landscape.
- The decision is being raised with Government ministers due to concerns about the precedent it may set.

Item 7: 36/26 Website and IT update

Website: The new website, hosted by Another Managed IT services is now live. The Clerk will have training on how to manage it with the web designer from Webdynamix w/c 03 August. This website spend will be allocated to CIL as it can be justified that the previous website was

no longer fit for purpose, and the increase in the development of the area requires a more dynamic interface and accessibility.

Emails: Full council now has .gov.uk emails to comply with Assertion 10.

Parish logo: Cllr Shadegg proposed a new logo for the parish council to use on its website/communications.

Decision: Council agreed to use the new logo created by Cllr Shadegg:



Item 8: 37/26 Planning

New applications and decisions (*Full responses available on the BDBC planning page*)

- T/00284/26/TCA at Bramley Cottage Ecchinswell Road- no comment
- 26/01081/HSE at 21 White Hill Ecchinswell- no objection

- **Neighbourhood Plan:**

Future NP funding- To decide whether to accept ET planning fee proposal:

The Clerk shared the ET Planning fee proposal for the remainder of the work: £29623.

The Clerk advised this could be allocated to the CIL reserve along with previous NP costs. *The fee proposal from ET planning was agreed; the cost will be spread over a couple of years.*

- **To consider applying for grant funding from BDBC**

The Clerk advised that there is grant funding available for NPs. Cllr Debenham has investigated the application form and will draft an application and send it to BDBC.

Action: Cllr Debenham to apply for grant funding for NP.

Item 9: 38/26 Highways and Rights of Way

Cllr Shadegg shared a Community Funded Initiative proposal with the council in advance, to include new fingerpost signs, highway signs, verge markers and dragons teeth in the parish.

Decision: To take the proposal to HCC (Kevin Hyde) to initiate the application.

Action: Clerk to send CFI proposal to HCC.

Item 10: 39/26 Litter Warden

For a few months, the litter warden has been paid for 11 hours a week of litter picking- 6 at Bishops Green and 5 at Ecchinswell. The litter warden contract states that Bishops Green requires 4 hours per week. Continuing to pay over the contractual amount would take the salary over the grant funding received for 2026/27. The council also pays £40 per month fuel allowance.

Decision: The litter warden will be paid for 11 hours a week until the end of August. This will then revert to the contracted hours of 9 hours per week. This will be reviewed at the end of the financial year.

Action: Clerk to update litter warden contract and send to D McClelland.

Item 11: 40/26 Finance Update

The Q1 report is attached to the end of the Minutes.

The Clerk shared in advance an amended budget, to take into account the larger spend on IT than budgeted, along with a clearer view of grant spend.

Decision: Amended budget approved (see end of Minutes).

Bank reconciliation 20 June 2026:

HSBC Current Account: **£30848.15**

HSBC Business Account: **£256986.82**

TOTAL: **£287834.97**

Recent CIL spend: Noticeboards for Bishops Green and Ecchinswell- **£3101.63**

Website: **£2600**

Neighbourhood Plan: **£4000**

Item 12: 41/26 Matters for discussion or agreement

- To note- New Councillor Training attended by Cllr Shadegg.
- Sustainability and Environment working party volunteers- *Led by Cllr Sadler- move to subsequent meeting*
- BGCA and EVH update- EVH is considering creating an office space. If the PC were to make any financial contribution via CIL, a quote would be required and the applicants invited to present to the council.
- Bus shelter grant funding opportunity- Clerk is in process of applying for funding.
- CIL project list: The spreadsheet of project ideas and those completed was updated and will be added to the website.

Item 13: 42/26 Items to carry forward to subsequent meeting

Policies and procedures. Councillor responsibilities. Bus Shelter funding.

Actions from Meeting of 14 July 2026

Item	Action	Owner
24/26	Amalgamate pothole and road sign defect report into one document- Not actioned.	Shadegg/ Sadler
26/26	Create rota for SIDS and get them put up- not yet actioned.	Clerk
37/26	Cllr Debenham to apply for grant funding for NP.	Cllr Debenham
38/26	Clerk to send CFI proposal to HCC.	Clerk
39/26	Clerk to update litter warden contract and send to D McClelland.	Clerk

Agreed revised budget 26/27

Ecchinswell, Sydmonton and Bishops Green Parish Council budget 2026/27

Income	Budget 2025/2026		Proposed for 2026/2027	Difference from previous year	
Precept	20,873.00		20,806.00	-67.00	%
Litter Grant	5,354.00		7,245.00	1,891.00	
Grass cutting grant	1,144.00		1,143.00	-1.00	
Bank interest	250.00		250.00	0.00	
Allotments	420.00		420.00	0.00	
	28,041.00		29,864.00	1,823.00	
Precept Expenditure	Budget 2025/26	Actual	Proposed for 2026/27	Difference from previous year	Notes
Subscriptions/fees	474.00	562.00	474.00	0.00	
Salary/Wages	11,400.00	17,671.00	12,200.00	800.00	
Employer NI Contribution	270.00			-270.00	NI included in pay

Admin including expenses and courses, bank charge	1,500.00	889.00	1,600.00	100.00	
Litter warden fuel expenses			480.00		Fuel costs are part of precept, salary is not (see grant spend)
Cost of meetings	305.00	214.00	250.00	-55.00	
Website	958.00	306.00	500.00	-458.00	
Email and telephone system	180.00	1,063.00	864.00	684.00	
Accounting system			579.00		Scribe Accounting package
Payroll			200.00		Red76 Tax- payroll
Insurance	500.00	459.00	459.00	-41.00	
Audit	550.00	552.00	552.00	2.00	
Allotments	450.00	319.31	400.00	-50.00	
Village maintenance	3,600.00	2,903.00	1,857.00	-1,743.00	
Village maintenance rubbish removal	180.00	0.00	0.00	-180.00	
War memorial cleaning	100.00	25.00	100.00	0.00	
Annual tree works	1,400.00	0.00	500.00	-900.00	
SID maintenance	100.00	0.00	1,458.00	1,358.00	
Playpark costs	250.00	0.00	0.00	-250.00	
S137	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Chair's allowance	700.00	75.00	200.00	-500.00	Includes £550 to EVH and £75 to Basingstoke Volunteers
NP review costs	300.00	0.00	0.00	-300.00	CIL spend
	23,217.00	25,038.31	22,673.00	-1,803.00	

Grant spend			Proposed for 2026/2027
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Litter Warden			7245
Grass cutting			1143
			8388

Cash in bank 01 April 2026	223049
Of which CIL	208289
Working Reserve 01 April 2026 (cash in bank less CIL)	14760

Precept income 2026	20806
Litter warden and grass cutting grants Income	8388
Allotments (expected)	420
Bank interest	250
Total income 2026/27	29864

Updated expected precept spend	22,673.00
Grant spend	8388
TOTAL EXPECTED SPEND 26/27	31,061.00

Expected EoY balance (excl CIL)	
Working reserve:	14760
PUS income	29864

LESS expected spend	33681
Total: (new working reserve)	<u>10943</u>

Community Funded Initiative Projects

The Community Funded Initiative provides an opportunity for Town and Parish Councils, alongside local community groups, to fund a range of minor traffic management measures that fall outside of the scope of Hampshire County Council's funding priorities. CIL monies are able to be used to carry out the following CFIP. Hampshire Highways will facilitate, deliver and install these projects if fully funded by the PC.

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SCHEMES

1. REPLACEMENT OF FINGERPOST SIGNAGE

PRESENT ISSUE:

There are currently 2 fingerpost signs in the parish that have deteriorated and need to be replaced. Locations include the intersection of Featherbed Lane and Echinswell Road, the other at the Echinswell Road intersection by the Royal Oak. These signs have been reported multiple times to Hampshire Highways over the past 3 years but due to budget constraints, these are deemed a very low priority to replace.



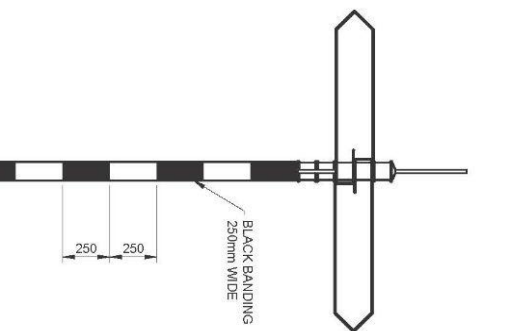
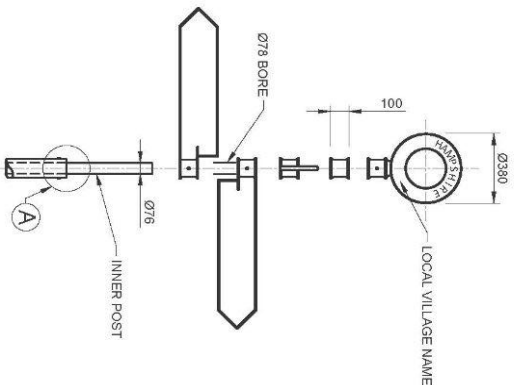
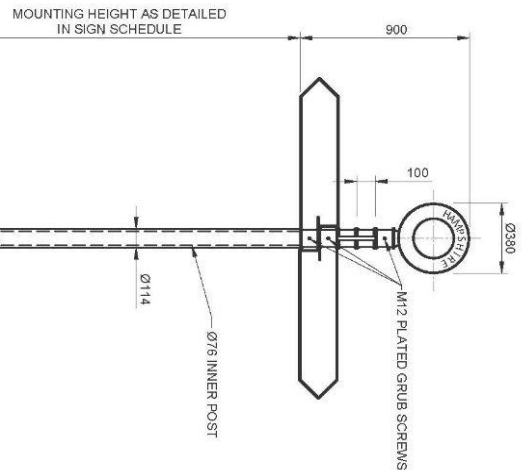
Condition of fingerpost by Royal Oak



Fingerpost at Featherbed Lane

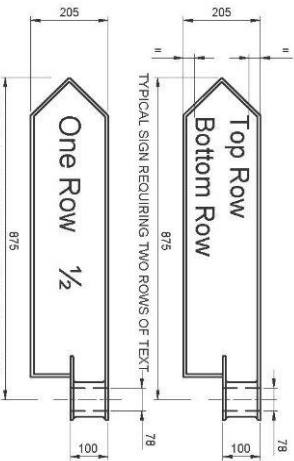
PROPOSED RESOLUTION:

In order to stay compliant with the current HC Highway Construction Standards, the replacement fingerposts would be constructed out of cast aluminium alloy and would receive the traditional black and white striped colour scheme. The current fingerpost by the Royal Oak is made out of an aluminium composite panel with black vinyl lettering applied. This design is susceptible to failure as evident in the photo. I propose replacement of both of these signs. Fingerposts not only assist with wayfinding, they add to the rural aesthetic of the parish, which is an identified value of the PC (our rural setting.)

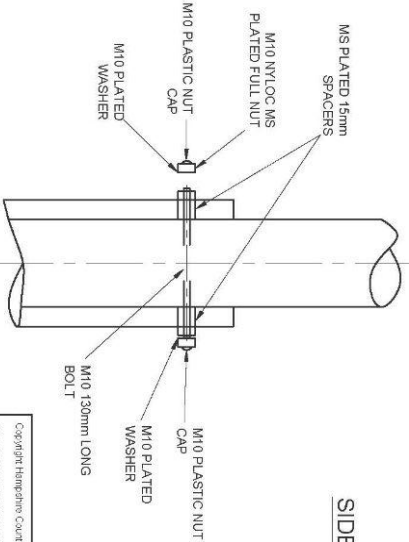


EXPLODED VIEW OF ALUMINIUM ARMS, COLLAR AND FINAL

FRONT ELEVATION



ENLARGED SIGN FACE DETAILS (PLACE NAMES TO BE IN UPPER CASE OVERCASE AS SHOWN)



SIDE ELEVATION

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NOTES

1. ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN MILLIMETRES UNLESS STATED OTHERWISE.
2. ALSO REFER TO THE SCHEME SIGN SCHEDULES.
3. ALL SIGN FACES & POSTS TO BE PAINTED WHITE WITH BLACK LETTERING.
4. POST TO BE PAINTED WITH 250mm WIDE BLACK BANDS AS SHOWN.
5. SIGN ARMS, FINAL, COLLARS AND FINAL MOUNTS ARE TO BE CAST ALUMINIUM ALLOY OR CAST IRON COMPONENTS. POSTS ARE TO MATCH THE EXISTING ON SITE & ARE TO BE EITHER GALVANISED STEEL TUBE OR CAST IRON OR CAST ALUMINIUM.
6. ALL COATINGS ARE TO BE ZINC PHOSPHATE ALKALYD BASED BLACK OR WHITE (e.g. HAMMERITE OR SIMILAR) & ARE TO BE EITHER BY SPRAY OR BRUSH APPLIED WITH A SINGLE COAT OF EACH COLOUR OF PAINT. WHERE EXISTING CAST IRON FINGERS OR POSTS REQUIRE REPAINTING, AN UNDERCOAT OF ZINC PRIMER IS REQUIRED.
7. ALL FIXINGS ARE TO BE CORROSION RESISTANT AND ARE TO BE LEFT IN A CORROSION PROOF STATE BY USE OF GREASE & USING A WATERPROOF CAP. FIXINGS TO BE LEFT IN A TAMPER PROOF STATE BY FILING GRUB SCREWS WITH A DRILLABLE ADHESIVE FILLER OR EQUIVALENT.

NO.	DESCRIPTION	DATE	BY	CHKD	APPD
1.	DESIGNING	14/03/2020	WW	JPR	N.T.S.
2.	ENGINEERING	14/03/2020	WW	CDP	March 2020
3.	CONSTRUCTION	14/03/2020	WW	CDP	March 2020
4.	FINAL	14/03/2020	WW	CDP	March 2020

Hampshire County Council
Hampshire Engineering Services
TALANTON Engineering Project Assistant / DIRECTOR OF UNIVERSAL SERVICES

STANDARD DETAILS

END-MOUNTED TRAFFIC SIGN WITH CIRCULAR FINAL (WITH TRADITIONAL FINGER POST)

DESIGNER	CHECKED	SCALE	DATE
WW	JPR	JPR	N.T.S.
WW	CDP	CDP	March 2020
DESIGN NUMBER	HCC11/C/185	REV	B

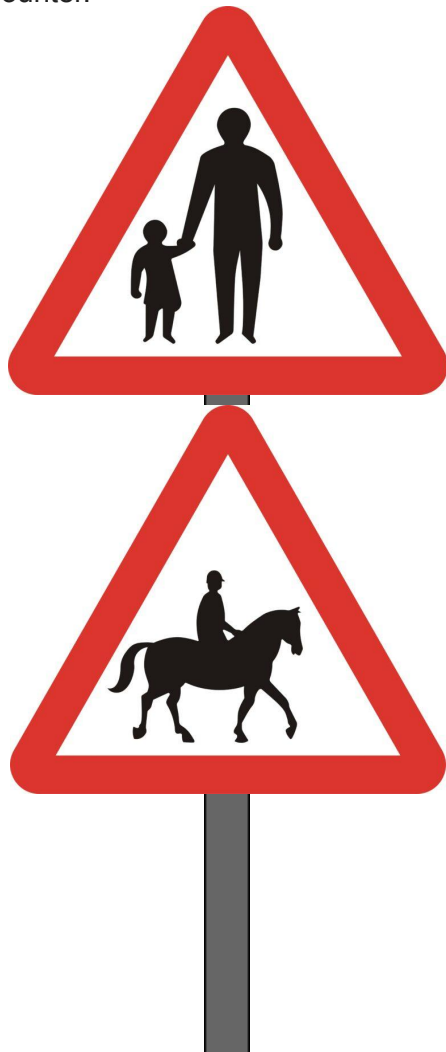
2. IMPLEMENTATION OF ROADWAY USER WARNING SIGNAGE

PRESENT ISSUE:

There are no footpaths along the Ecchinswell Road which causes pedestrians to walk in the road. With the village boasting multiple historic and scenic countryside footpaths within close vicinity of Sydmonton, many pedestrians visit the village and utilise the Ecchinswell Road to reach right of way paths. In addition, horse riders frequently use the Ecchinswell Road to reach Bridleways. The Ecchinswell Road has multiple blind spots and bends, leading to vehicles sometimes having to stop abruptly or swerve to avoid pedestrians and horse riders. Although the speed limit through Ecchinswell is 30MPH there are many instances where speeding occurs.

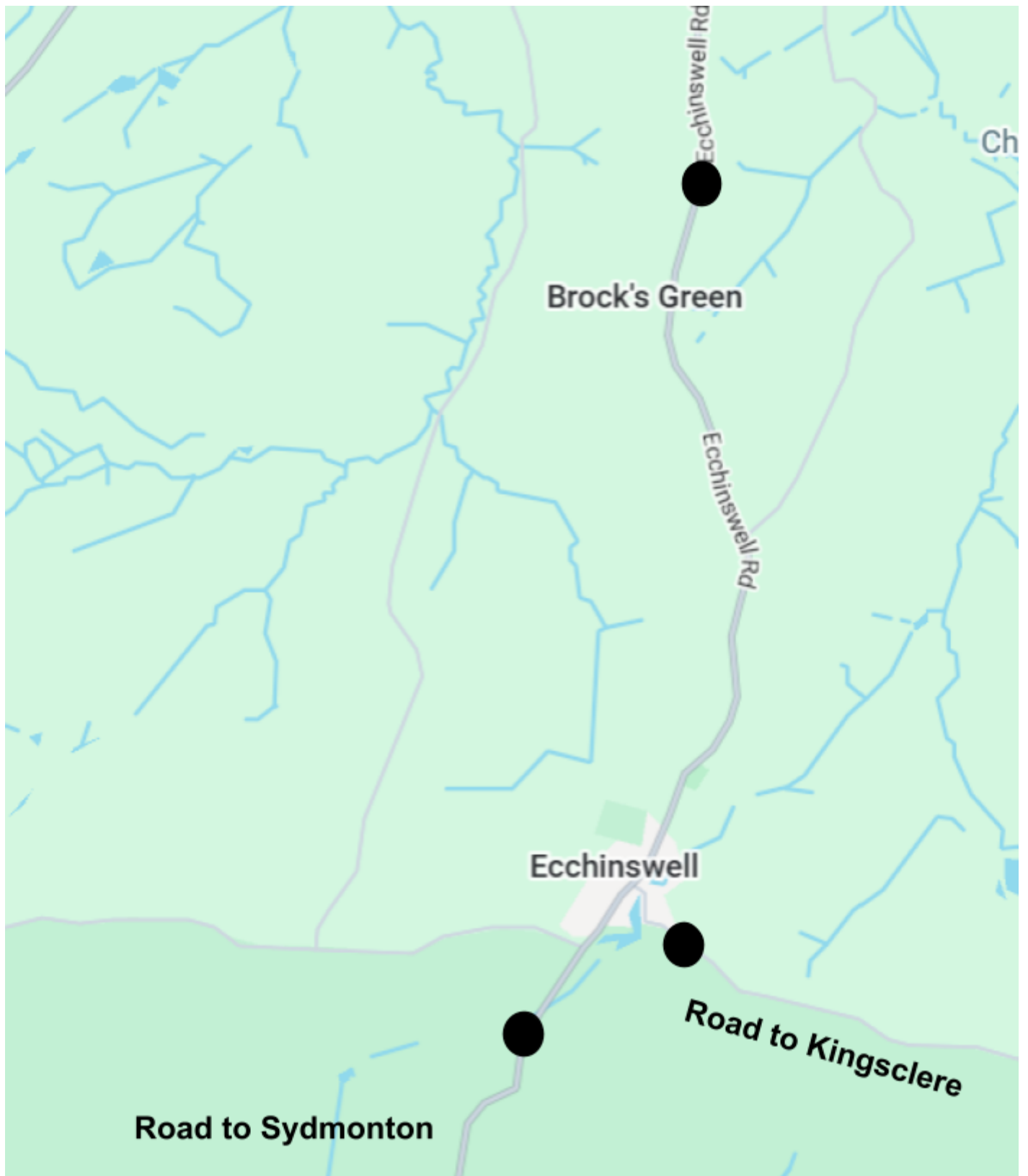
PROPOSED RESOLUTION:

Due to budget constraints Hampshire Highways will only implement traffic safety measures if there is a history of injury related collisions and have confirmed there has been no recorded police collision data for the past 5 years. Being a road user in both a driver and pedestrian capacity, I can attest that I've witnessed plenty of near misses with pedestrians and horse riders on the Ecchinswell Road (especially from Peaks Gate Cottage down to Brocks Green.) Installing "Pedestrian in Roadway" and "Accompanied Horses" signs is a resource we can implement in keeping our residents and visitors safe by making drivers aware of potential hazards they may encounter.



Proposed signage arrangement to be considered at the three main roadway entrances into Ecchinswell.

Signs can also to be placed on a yellow backing board to increase Conspicuousity. However, this can be considered garish and for this application doesn't appear necessary.



Proposed Locations of Signs

3. Verge Marker Placement

PRESENT ISSUE:

The Ecchinswell Road between Malthouse Farm and The Old Post Office narrows by default and creates a bottleneck situation at times. Ideally, traffic would slow down and allow the safe passing of oncoming vehicles. Unfortunately due to vehicles passing each other at the same time it is causing verge overrun which is destroying the grass verge, causing deep ruts and causing the tarmac to fail on the carriageway edge.



Verge overrun at this location is causing the the verge to be destroyed, especially during spells of wet weather.



PROPOSED RESOLUTION:

I have reached out to Hampshire Highways requesting installation of verge markers and was informed new requests for street furniture are not being implemented at their expense. The primary purpose of installing flexible rebound verge markers on both sides of the road at this location would assist in preventing any more damage and deterioration to the grass verge and road. Placing verge markers at this location could potentially achieve a secondary purpose as a traffic calming measure by visually narrowing the road. This could encourage vehicles to slow down and allow each other to pass appropriately.



Conceptual Image of Verge Marker arrangement
(NOTE: quantity of bollard and spacing to be determined during scoping process.)

4. Dragons Teeth Road Markings for Traffic Calming

PRESENT ISSUE:

The speed limit on the Ecchinswell Road decreases from 40mph to 30mph at Brocks Green. Unfortunately, speeding through Brocks Green and Ecchinswell continues to be an issue. This leads to unsafe conditions for all road users.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION:

The Parish Council has invested in SID's to be placed and moved on a regular basis along the Ecchinswell Road to serve as a visual traffic calming measure. To supplement this traffic calming measure, "Dragons' Teeth" road markings can be implemented as an effective feature that can visually bring attention to a speed limit reduction upon approach.



Conceptual Image of "Dragons' Teeth" road markings at Brocks Green

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

I am seeking support from other PC members regarding these measures and to begin the application process. Once the application process begins these traffic management schemes can be quoted and if agreed on by the PC, delivered. It is also important to note since the PC would be funding these projects it will be the PC's responsibility to maintain these measures. Since these will be PC assets, and unforeseen damage can occur to pieces of street furniture, it is recommended they are added to insurance.