

HUGHENDEN VALLEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

LIST OF CONCERNS AND LOCATIONS IN

HUGHENDEN VALLEY, BRYANTS BOTTOM AND CRYERS HILL ROAD

THAT REQUIRE URGENT ATTENTION EITHER BY HPC OR BUCKS COUNCIL

1.	CRYERS HILL ROAD a) North side of Cryers Hill where the footpath is encroached upon by overhanging trees and shrubs virtually the whole length of the hill from the surgery upwards. There should be greater visibility and safety for children walking to and from school. Also, residents experience great danger and difficulty in exiting their drives because their vision is impaired by overgrown hedgerows on the upper part of the hill as traffic speeds up and down the road.
b)	The back footpath that runs from the house ' <i>Magnolias</i> ' up the hill requires attention..
2.	CRYERS HILL ROUND-ABOUT <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Since April 2023 the grass verge surrounding the round-about has not been cut and is badly overgrown and looks unsightly.
3.	VALLEY ROAD – A4128 (50 & 40 mph) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The footpath from the roundabout is unkempt with weeds growing between the pavement and kerb that need removing. The weeds have now been cut back by the Bucks LAT.• The footpath to Church Farm and the entrance to Hughenden Park and St Michael & All Angels Church is encroached and severely narrowed by overgrown weeds and grass etc. rendering it impassable by pram or wheelchair and very unpleasant for those on foot. This is the responsibility of Buckinghamshire Council and the condition of the footpath along this key route into the town centre and beyond is an utter disgrace requiring urgent action to ensure it meets minimum standards for safe passage by pedestrians and all other users. This has now been carried out by the Bucks LAT• The tree canopy requires close attention/scrutiny because many branches are old and could pose a danger if they fell on pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles travelling beneath.• The High Wycombe town entry sign on Valley Road is obscured by vegetation and is defaced by graffiti.• Some of the central road studs are missing and need replacing.• Importantly, this stretch of the A4128 suffers from huge puddles forming in wet weather that are potentially dangerous when drivers swerve to avoid them in the face of oncoming traffic. The drains need unblocking in the vicinity.

4.	<p>COOMBE LANE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The footpath towards the upper section of the hill has been encroached by falling earth and debris from the bank that runs alongside it. This is especially hazardous for those on foot because the remaining footpath is very close to passing traffic, including the huge Country Supplies' HGVs, which, when fully laden and close to the kerb, are extremely intimidating.
5.	<p>BURNHAM ROAD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weeds growing in the gutter and pavement need removing.
6.	<p>VALLEY ROAD (MID)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The boundary Hawthorn hedge that lies near the wide steel gate that leads into Matt Hopkins meadow and the first of four terraced cottages called "<i>Clarine</i>" needs to be cut back because it encroaches the footpath. Also, the nearby 30mph speed limit sign is obscured by the overgrown Hawthorn hedge that needs to be cut back. This is important because there is no longer a repeater 30mph sign on the opposite side of the road. The Laurel hedge that is part of the boundary of the cottage "<i>Clarine</i>" is overgrown and has narrowed the footpath considerably by encroachment. The owner/householder of the property needs to cut it back.
7.	<p>VALLEY ROAD (NORTH) / ORCHARD CLOSE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The hedge at no 1 Orchard Close grows along the footpath on Valley Road. The property line is a fence about 75 centimetres inside the present hedge line. This hedge needs to be severely reduced because it encroaches and narrows the footpath considerably, Most importantly, the footpath is used by parents taking young children, some pushing buggies, to the nearby Hughenden Primary School, and clients of the Special Needs Centre frequently walk along this footpath on their way to the Village Store & Coffee Shop. It is vital that the footpath is wide enough for a Carer to hold the hands of some of their clients with Autism who tend to wander.
8.	<p>BUS SHELTER (HPC) – Near the Cryers Hill round-about</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Parish Council owns the bus shelter on Valley Road near the bottom of Cryers Hill that has had graffiti painted on a large section of the back wall. This has been the case for 9+ months and no action has been taken at this prominent site.
9.	<p>BRYANTS BOTTOM AND NORTH DEAN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Since April 2023, no grass verges have been cut in Bryants Bottom and North Dean or at the bottom of Cryers Hill. This has resulted in these areas becoming very overgrown, footpaths being significantly encroached by vegetation and these areas becoming virtually impassable to pedestrians.
10.	<p>HIGHWAY VISUAL SPLAYS (HPC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many highway signs are obscured by overhanging vegetation and dirt. Previously the Parish Council instructed contractors annually to undertake clearing the vegetation away and cleaning the signs, but these tasks are not being undertaken.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Parish Council is also required to remove graffiti from highway signs. There is graffiti on several signs within the parish and at the bottom of Cryers Hill and near Hopkins Yard on Valley Road.
11.	<p>PROPER MANAGEMENT OF CHARITY EVENT SIGNS & FLY POSTING (HPC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Parish Council is responsible for granting a license for the erection of charity event signage (HPC has a resolved policy) and the Parish Council is also responsible for ensuring that signs which have not been granted a license, or have expired are removed from the highway. This service is not being undertaken and large charity event signs have been installed at the junction of Warrendene Road with Valley Road near <i>The Harrow</i> and at the bottom of Cryers Hill. Signs have been littering the highway in these areas months after the advertised event. The signs pose an H&S risk at these busy junctions, and at the verge near <i>The Harrow</i> often restrict highway visibility. The Parish Council needs to instruct ground maintenance contractors accordingly.
	<p>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</p>
11.	<p>URBAN GRASS VERGE CUTTING (HPC)</p> <p>The Parish Council is responsible for urban grass verge cutting within 30 mph areas and some 40 mph zones. In April 2023, the Parish Council appointed a new grounds maintenance contractor who appears to be cutting the grass verges according to the plans back in 2016, not the current plans. After 2017, the grass verge cutting plans changed and the current contractor is either not aware of this or is not complying with the requirement.</p> <p>This is evidenced by the fact that since April 2023, no grass verges have been cut in Bryants Bottom, North Dean (or at the bottom of Cryers Hill. <i>(Please see comments at 9 above)</i>). The current contractor seems to believe that these areas are outside his remit. This is not the case as urban devolved services are not restricted to 30 mph areas when prior agreement to cut in some 40 mph areas has been obtained from the Local Area Technician (BC).</p> <p>The negative impact of the Parish Council grounds maintenance contractor in effect changing the grass verge cutting regime and extent has been significant. In Bryants Bottom the south village entry gate is obscured by overgrown vegetation. An area both in front and behind the village entry gate needs to be cut regularly to ensure that road users can see the 30mph zone and slow accordingly. The same is true at North Dean. All village entry points in Hughenden Valley Ward need to be well maintained to act as a visual stimulus to approaching traffic to slow when entering a 30-mph area.</p> <p>The wide grass verge (30 mph) opposite <i>The Gate Pub</i> in Bryants Bottom needs to be cut regularly as is the case with the wide grass verge on Warrendene Road (40 mph) otherwise the long grass obscures driver visibility and pedestrians are forced onto the road within the village when they could safely walk on the grass verge. This verge was cut by the Parish Council between 2017 – 2023. Again, the current contractor/Council is not implementing the updated grass verge management plans and have instead defaulted to the 2016 map.</p>