

Traffic Management Plan consultation document.

7. TRAFFIC AND TRAVEL

7.1 Traffic management review and plan

Introduction

Traffic management is a major aspect of the Coldean Neighbourhood Plan, as identified in the November 2022 Visions meetings. Thereafter an on-line survey of Traffic and Transport issues was developed and conducted during June and July 2023. The community identified several key issues related to traffic to be addressed within the Neighbourhood Plan to ensure the safety, accessibility, and overall quality of life in the area. These issues have been ranked in descending order of importance based on resident feedback, as follows, with Policies to help to solve these issues listed at the end of this section at paragraph 7.6:

- **Speeding – Issue 1:** Speeding, particularly rat-runs along Hawkhurst Road, Rushlake Road, Coldean Lane, and Park Road, is a significant concern for residents. It poses a serious safety risk and results in regular accidents.
- **Parking – Issue 2:** Parking problems in Coldean include illegal parking, vehicles parked on verges and pavements, and difficulty turning at junctions, especially into small closes. Parking of Commercial vehicles and the need for a better parking permit scheme are also areas of concern.
- **Safe Walking Routes - Issue 3:** Ensuring the safety of school children and pedestrians crossing roads is paramount. Unsafe road crossings and speeding vehicles pose a threat. There are insufficient properly designated road crossings in the area.
- **Too Much Traffic – Issue 4:** Excessive traffic, particularly along Coldean Lane, has negative impacts on safety and quality of life in the area.
- **Road Management – Issue 5:** Issues related to road infrastructure, including the need for improved lighting at the bottom of Coldean Lane, maintenance of roundabouts, potholes, and road markings.
- **Dumped Vehicles/Commercial Vehicles/Camper Vans – Issue 6:** Illegally dumped vehicles and improperly parked commercial vehicles, mobile homes and campervans are a source of concern; especially on disused garage sites or quieter roads.
- **Overgrown Vegetation – Issue 7:** Overgrown vegetation, such as overgrown hedges, trees and weeds in the pavement obstructs visibility at road corners and walking paths.
- **Bus Routes – Issue 8:** Residents have expressed a need for improved and increased bus services in terms of reliability and timeliness. (See Paragraph 7.5 below)
- **Pollution – Issue 9:** Concerns have been raised regarding light, noise, and air pollution in the area arising from vehicles.
- **Cycle Routes – Issue 10:** The lack of cycle-friendly infrastructure was noted.

- **Car Facilities - Issue 11.** The need for public electric vehicle charging points and car-sharing options was raised.
- **Other Resident Comments and Responses:** • Address the need for a better parking permit scheme to deter non-resident parking and the Council to improve enforcement.
- Consider installing a mini roundabout or traffic lights at Bluebell Heights Junction with Coldean Lane for improved road safety.
- Strengthen enforcement against illegally parked cars and consider improved public transport options.
- Address speeding issues with traffic calming measures and increased enforcement.
- Improve visibility at junctions and enhance traffic management.
- Consider properly the impact of new developments on bus routes and traffic.
- Investigate the feasibility of speed bumps on rat run roads.
- Enhance electric vehicle charging infrastructure.
- Improve pedestrian safety with better road crossings and maintenance.
- Address noise and light pollution concerns, especially in residential areas.

The Coldean Neighbourhood Plan aims to address these issues as set out in policies detailed at 7.6, in collaboration with local authorities and relevant stakeholders, ensuring that traffic management solutions enhance the safety and well-being of residents while promoting sustainable transportation options.

9.2 Disability access assessment

The Forum also initiated a Disability Access Assessment to, endorsed in the July 2023 Forum meeting to enhance accessibility within the area. This assessment identified the following improvements:-

- **Dropped Kerbs:** The City Council is actively installing dropped kerbs with ongoing monitoring.
- **Pedestrian Crossing Points:** Apart from Bluebell Heights, the Neighbourhood Area has only one controlled crossing. The Forum believes that a pedestrian crossing is needed at the Hawkhurst Road junction with Beatty Avenue, and also at the Bluebell Heights junction on Coldean Lane
- **Pavements - Wheelchair Access:** Pavements are often obstructed by vehicles and materials, posing a concern for wheelchair users.
- **Disabled Parking Bays:** The creation of disabled parking bays outside Beatty Avenue shops, Coldean Library, New Larchwood Medical Centre and Café are suggested.
- **Access to Open Spaces:** Highfields at Highfields Road is undergoing restoration with council funding. Highfields (Ditchling Road) needs the removal of height restriction barriers for better access for disabled individuals. Access to Coldean Woods (north) and (south) were also recommended for inclusion in the plan, especially regarding public disabled parking.

This Neighbourhood Plan therefore actively addresses and requires multiple aspects of disability access, including dropped kerbs, pedestrian crossings, pavements, disabled parking bays, and access to open spaces.

Disabled Access to Open Spaces

- a). Highfields at Highfields road. Currently Coldean Independents' Group have council funding for restoration of the steps, handrail and a new bench.
- b). Highfields (Ditchling Road entrance). All access points along the northern perimeter of the developed area of Coldean are elevated above street level and the car park on Ditchling Road is at a lower level than Highfields and is enclosed, in part, by an earth bund. We recommend the height restriction barrier should be removed as it prevents access for some vehicles used by disabled people. This is now included as **an aim** of the Neighbourhood Plan and will involve agreement by the South Downs National Park Authority
- c). Coldean Woods (north). Measures contained in the Bluebell Heights plans or S106 agreement do not include any provision for public disabled parking for access to the woods and Stanmer Park. **Aim:** This is now suggested in this Plan.
- d). Coldean Woods (south). Parking in Park Road Shops/Coldean Lane is an issue that was raised in our November 2022 "Vision" meetings. A designated disabled parking bay would be appropriate. **Policy :** This is now included in this Plan.

7.3 Further Traffic Management issues

Having regard to the Climate Emergency, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has advised that carbon emissions must reduce globally by at least 45% by 2030 from 2010 levels. There is a chance the worst effects of climate change can be avoided by keeping warming below 1.5 degrees and to achieve this the United Kingdom, including Coldean, must be carbon neutral (net-zero) by 2050 or earlier. Recognising the significant implications of climate change on Sussex communities, Brighton & Hove Council declared a climate and biodiversity emergency in December 2018, which made a commitment as a city to become carbon neutral by 2030. Initiatives such as 'Trip Reduction Strategies', 'Shared Mobility', 'Electrification' and 'Public Transport & Walking and Cycling Improvements' are key to supporting this. This traffic management plan aims to decarbonise traffic where possible. Interventions which are a combination of these would offer even greater carbon saving: electric car club vehicles, sustainable travel enhancements achieved by vehicle capacity reduction, targeted travel planning alongside new public transport and cycling interventions and linking public transport enhancements with improved electric vehicle / bike facilities. Brighton & Hove Council's Carbon Neutral 2030 plan can be accessed in full on the BHCC website.

For example to help mitigate the issue of rat run roads and safety concerns through residential streets, the use of bollards to close of certain road entrances could help - with a focus on creating a comprehensive accessible and coherent cycle and pedestrian network that connects Coldean with other residential areas, schools, genomic hubs, open space, transport interchanges, etc.

Supporting 'green lanes' to increase active travel from Coldean into Brighton. This will help reduce pollution, improve air quality and support Brighton & Hove Council's Carbon Neutral 2030 plan.

7.4 Cycling Routes

Accessible Developments . These Policies encourage walking and cycling and reduce reliance on cars; any proposals for new developments must provide for safe pedestrian and cycle connections to nearby services, facilities and bus stops. Within Coldean, pedestrian and cycle routes should be provided to enhance access to the City centre and connect into the wider green infrastructure network where possible.

Provision of Cycle / Walkways. Where possible, new residential, commercial and retail developments will be required to provide cycle facilities for residents, employees and customers, to include safe, convenient, and secure cycle parking and off-road cycle-walkways which connect into the city cycle network. All proposals must demonstrate that the proposed routes and facilities will not affect the integrity of Coldean.

7.5 Buses

The general dissatisfaction with levels of bus provision within the Neighbourhood Area in the survey have been noted. Insufficient and often full buses, with many buses cancelled; and University Bus provision also ceasing in 2023 are a problem. Whilst Brighton & Hove buses are not run by the Council, but are third party providers, the Policy of the Forum is to work with the Bus Providers to improve and increase services in the Area. There is currently a national shortage of Bus Drivers.

See Issue 8 at Para 7.6 below.

7.6 Policies

Traffic and Travel Policies:

- Speeding (Issue 1):
 - Implement traffic calming measures, such as speed bumps or road narrowing, in high-risk areas.
 - Increase enforcement of speed limits with additional speed cameras and police or other patrols.
 - Conduct public awareness campaigns addressing the dangers of speeding.
- Parking (Issue 2):
 - Establish a parking permit scheme to deter non-resident parking.
 - Enhance enforcement of parking regulations to address illegal parking and verge/pavement parking.
 - Explore options for additional parking facilities and dedicated spaces for commercial vehicles.
 - Improve visibility at junctions through regular maintenance of verges and proper road markings.
- Safe Walking Routes (Issue 3):
 - Establish pedestrian crossings at high-risk areas, including Bluebell Heights, Coldean Lane, and Hawkhurst Rd near Beatty Avenue Shops.
 - Enhance signage and lighting at pedestrian crossings and school zones.
 - Promote safe walking routes and educate school children about road safety.

- Too Much Traffic (Issue 4):
 - Explore traffic management measures to reduce congestion on Coldean Lane.
 - Encourage alternative transportation options, such as increased bus services, carpooling, and public transit.
 - Investigate the feasibility of a car-sharing scheme.
- Road Management (Issue 5):
 - Upgrade road infrastructure, including repairing potholes and maintaining roundabouts.
 - Improve lighting at key intersections and high-traffic areas while considering light overspill and ecological impact.
 - Regularly assess and repaint road markings.
- Dumped Vehicles/Commercial Vehicles/Camper Vans (Issue 6):
 - Strengthen enforcement of regulations against illegally dumped vehicles.
 - Identify suitable locations for commercial vehicle and camper van parking.
 - Explore options for designated parking areas for these vehicles.
- Overgrown Vegetation (Issue 7):
 - Regularly trim and maintain overgrown vegetation, especially at road corners and pedestrian pathways.
- Bus Routes (Issue 8):
 - Collaborate with relevant authorities to enhance bus services, including improving reliability and frequency.
- Pollution (Issue 9):
 - Investigate ways to mitigate light and noise pollution, particularly in residential areas.
 - Promote environmentally friendly transportation options, such as electric vehicle charging points and car-sharing.
- Cycle Routes (Issue 10):
 - Develop safe and accessible cycle routes.
 - Promote cycling as a sustainable transportation option.
- Car Facilities (Issue 11):
 - Install electric vehicle charging points at strategic locations.
 - Explore the feasibility of implementing a car-sharing program.

Additional Traffic Management Policies:

- HGV and SORN Vehicles: New By-Laws.
 - Prohibit HGV vehicles from parking in the Coldean Area.
 - Prohibit vehicles on Statutory Off-Road Notification (SORN) from parking on public roads in the Coldean Area.
- New Development Requirements:
 - New developments must include car parking spaces based on the latest BHCC and/or National Standards.
 - Improve energy infrastructure to support more private energy input/sale into the grid, enabling additional private and public EV charging points.

- Junction Safety:
 - Study the feasibility of safer junctions, potentially involving small roundabouts, traffic lights, filter lanes, and widening Coldean Lane to avoid bottlenecks.
- Bluebell Heights Parking:
 - No parking by cars/vehicles attached to Bluebell Heights should park outside its curtilage.
 - Support the creation of a different parking zone for Bluebell Heights, considering the limited provided parking spaces.
- Endorsement and extension of City Plan Policies:
 - Endorse and align with Brighton & Hove Council’s City Plan policies, including CP9, CP13, CP18, DM34, DM35, DM36, detailed in Para 7.7 below.
- Sustainable Transport Development:
 - Support sustainable transport development proposals that enhance walking, cycling, and public transport within Coldean.
- Residential Streets:
 - Support proposals for residential streets that include traffic calming, shared space treatments, and temporary use for social activities.
- Car Parking Proposals:
 - Support proposals for well-located cycle and short-term parking spaces to meet local business needs.
 - Support new off-street car parking to reduce on-street parking and congestion if it does not detrimentally impact amenity.
- Accessibility for All:
 - Support proposals that improve the accessibility of Coldean for all sectors of society, including the elderly and disabled.

7.7 Brighton & Hove City Council Transport Policies

This Plan adopts and extends the following Policies :

CP9 Sustainable Transport

The Council, and the Forum, will work with...communities to provide an integrated, safe and sustainable transport system that will accommodate new development; support the city’s role as a sub-regional service and employment hub; and improve accessibility. It will promote and provide measures that will help to manage and improve mobility and lead to a transfer of people and freight onto sustainable forms of transport to reduce the impact of traffic and congestion, increase physical activity and therefore improve people’s health, safety and quality of life.

CP13 Public Streets and Spaces

The quality, legibility and accessibility of the city’s public urban realm will be improved in a comprehensive manner...Such improvements will be required to produce attractive and adaptable streets and public spaces that enrich people’s quality of life and provide for the needs of all users.

DM33 Safe, Sustainable and Active Travel

The Council will promote and provide for the use of sustainable transport and active travel by prioritising walking, cycling and public transport in the city. This will support the objectives, projects and programmes set out in the Local Transport Plan and other strategy and policy documents. New developments should be designed in a way that is safe and accessible for all users, and encourages the greatest possible use of sustainable and active forms of travel.

DM34 Transport Interchanges

The development of purpose-built interchanges including park and ride facilities, coach stations and parking, lorry parking or freight consolidation centres will be supported where proposals meet certain criteria, including that there is no unacceptable impact on the local and strategic road network and its capacity to safely and efficiently accommodate the movement generated or attracted by the development.

DM35 Travel Plans and Transport Assessments

Transport Statements, Transport Assessments, Construction and Environmental Management Plans and Travel Plans are required to support planning applications for all developments that are likely to generate significant amounts of movement/travel in line with the NPPF or any subsequent national or locally derived standards and guidance. All development proposals should include and execute appropriate measures to ensure that journeys by private car are minimised and to make the greatest possible use of sustainable travel in order to deliver the objectives for sustainable transport set out in Policy CP9 of the City Plan Part One.

DM36 Parking and Servicing

Provision of parking, including 'blue badge' holder and cycle parking, in new developments should follow the standards in SPD14 'Parking Standards for New Development'.

For residential units, provision of on-plot/ off street car parking spaces should be in accordance with the following table:

Number of Bedrooms	Number of parking spaces
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1	2
2	2
3	3
4+	4