

Village Centre Improvements Completed

Apart from some minor corrective work the original programme of village centre improvements are now complete. A final piece of work will be to install some additional bollards outside the Cheshire Building Society to try to stop cars and vans parking on the pavements. The improvements have involved a great deal of work for some members of the Parish Council and some inconvenience for businesses operating in the village. However, we believe the final result is worth it and will encourage both local people and visitors to shop here and use other village facilities.

Apart from the obvious paving work you will have noticed that many surplus street signs have been removed from the village giving the streets a less cluttered look. Also the lamp posts and waste bins have been refurbished and new seats provided on the re-landscaped area at the roundabout. Efforts were also made to improve access for people with poor mobility and the route from Mandevilles round the rear of the church to the Precinct has been made easier with no uneven surfaces. Finally, pedestrians should find it easier to cross between Barclays Bank and Morreys now we have a proper kerb edge and protective bollards.

We were also able to experience the centre of Holmes Chapel free of through traffic. This has led a large number of people to contact us to ask about the possibility of pedestrianising the village centre. This would be a major undertaking and would not necessarily be looked on favourably by all members of the village so before any decisions were taken there would have to be wide consultation. There are of course other possible options such as one way traffic or banning heavy vehicles through the centre and we would like the Highways Authorities to look at these seriously. In order to convince them, we need to work on a case to justify the large expense involved and we would be interested in talking to anyone who might have relevant experience to help us with this task.

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