

3. Roads and Transport

3.1.Overview

The main roads in the District are as they were some 30 years ago with no changes and a large increase both in the use of Motor Vehicles and also in the number of Houses. This has led to severe congestion on the only main road out of the District, towards Bideford, and many consider this will get worse in the very near future. There is also great concern regarding the speed most vehicles travel at, and at the lack of recognised crossing points, on the Main Roads. On street Car Parking is also a problem in all the Villages, with vehicles parking on pavements, causing inconvenience to pedestrians, and also damage to the footpaths. The new developments in Northam and Westward Ho! have also increased the traffic in Northam Square which along with poor and illegal parking and the use of larger Buses has made it a more serious problem, than existed, before the building of the western By-Pass.

3.2 Aims & Objectives

1. To encourage the increased use of Public Transport or Bicycles or Walking.
2. To investigate the improvement of Northam Square
3. To investigate the possibility of improving the Western access to Westward Ho! from Silford Cross and coastal road from Appledore to Northam/Westward Ho!
4. To ensure all "Off Street" Car Parking is maintained at its current level.
5. To investigate the possibility of having our own speed monitoring system.



6. To examine the possibility of altering some road systems to alleviate congestion and provide cycle ways and pavements/sidewalks.
7. To provide more recognised crossing points on main roads, especially near the Health Centre, Torridge Pool and NTC Offices.
8. To install traffic calming measures that are acceptable to all.(Especially near Schools)
9. To improve the condition of the Districts streets and pavements



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3.3 Recommendations

4. Work closely with DCC Highways department on future road developments/improvements and encourage use of natural traffic Calming and Pedestrian Crossings especially Churchill Way, near the Swimming Pool, the Western Bypass near the Health Centre, the Square and Fore Street and Atlantic Way and Golf Links Road.
5. Assist with the provision of a Cycleway around the District and ensuring that this be connected to the Tarka Trail and Bideford.
6. Ensure that all Pavements, footpaths and sidewalks are in good order and promote the improvement, creation and repair of those that are not in good order or, where there is an identified need for additional, plan for new pavements, sidewalks or cycleway.
7. Ensure that all existing Car Parks remain and explore the possibility of leasing part of the Bone Hill Car Park for short term low cost parking for shopping etc. and explore the possibility of Residents parking permits or similar. Traffic in Northam Village has, once again, become a problem, as it was before the building of the Western By-Pass, and a feasibility study is needed to ascertain the best way to alleviate the problem (already promised in the (Northam Community Appraisal Report). These could include full or partial pedestrianisation or a one way system, with the aim of improving the area for pedestrians and possibly encouraging more retail outlets, full consultation would be needed.
1. Identify the entrance to each Village by the construction of a Gateway to each.
2. Improve the Car Parking on Appledore Quay possibly by widening the existing road and having angled parking bays on the river side of the Quay and providing a crossing point for the disabled.
3. Liaise with the Police to ensure that regular speed checks are carried out and that illegal parking is controlled. Set up a "Speedwatch" system as used by other Town and Parish Councils.

