

Findings from Wingham Walk with Residents and Suggestions for Improvement plus proposed Actions

In Spring 2025 Cllr Donna Holt went on a walk with a carer from Wingham and one of the residents in an electric wheelchair to understand the issues facing those with disabilities in the village.

A set of videos and photos were taken and several suggestions made to Cllr Mark Sugden our then SCC Councillor. Unfortunately, due to his state of health, the information was not acted upon at the time and was forwarded to our new SCC Councillor Andy Burton when he was appointed in Nov 2025.

Following a recent Claygate Parish Council EHTC meeting Cllr Holt was tasked with writing a short paper on the topic listing the issues and suggesting some possible solutions and owners. The below write up attempts to do this.

I list those issues/potential improvements below and would welcome your thoughts as to whether SCC might be able to address any of them.

List of Recommendations:

1. Remove Holly hedge outside Wingham on walkway by pedestrian exit.



Holly in environmental terms is viewed as low value. Residents often catch their clothes and skin on the holly as they pass in an electric wheel-chair due to the narrowness of the pavement and the Holly branches brushing them. This could potentially be done by the Claygate environmentalists whom already do work at Wingham with permission from SCC. Action for Cllr Andy Burton with SCC.

2. Drop the pavement on the corner of The Avenue and Meadow Road.



Currently there is no dropped pavement meaning that wheel chairs need to use the ramps into and out of peoples driveways to cross the road or places where the curb is low. And this also encourages the wheelchair user to drive on the road for some time when crossing. This was a point which Mark Sugden said he would pursue and so we suggest passing this item to Cllr Andy Burton as an Action.

3. Lift height of bar on style at top of Torrington Road.



Wheelchair access currently impossible without the wheelchair user ducking under the style. Possible action for CPC EHTC to explore with residents of Torrington Close.

4. Lift height of bar on style from Torrington Close into Hare Lane.



Action for CPC EHTC to explore with residents of Torrington Close.

5. Outlaw parking on pavement on right hand side as you walk down Oaken Lane.

We were advised by Cllr Sugden that nothing can be done about this. Requires Government to amend legislation to give powers to local Council. Pavement parking is legal in England. Only police can deal with obstruction at the moment.

6. Drop the pavement on the corner of The Avenue and Judge Walk.



This was a point which Mark Sugden said he would pursue and so we would like to pass this item to Cllr Andy Burton as an Action.

7. Widen the pavement on the corner of The Avenue and Oaken Lane where the grass verge is.



This was originally ruled out by Cllr Mark Sugden as he said pavement widening is an expensive task. We believe this does not need movement of the kerb so is inexpensive, what we are suggesting is simply taking out the grass verge shown on the corner and flat tarmacking the area that was grass, so making the pavement wider by doing that which allows wheelchairs to properly turn the corner without having to mount the grass verge. We would like to pass this item to Cllr Andy Burton as an Action.

8. Properly sink the curb on Oaken Lane as you turn the corner right onto Oaken Lane and then cross over towards Wingham.



The curb is not correctly sunk on both sides of the road and therefore causes instability for wheelchair users. We suggest passing this item to Cllr Andy Burton as an Action.

9. More hard standing by bus stop on the Wingham side of Oaken Lane to allow access to bus using the accessibility ramp.



At the moment the accessibility ramp must be lowered onto the grass and wheelchairs have to go onto the grass to get onto the ramp. We would like to pass this item to Cllr Andy Burton as an Action. Can he please advise who is responsible for the grass verge. This is the bus stop at the bottom of Oaken Lane on the same side as Wingham Court and near their entrance.