

BLISWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the **Ordinary** meeting of **Blisworth Parish Council** held in Blisworth Village Hall on **Monday 3rd June 2024 at 7.30 pm.**

Present: Cllr S Billing, Chair
 Cllr C Read MBE, Vice-Chair
 Cllr D Wilson
 Cllr W Root
 Cllr B Brown
 Cllr M Field
 Cllr B Ingram
 Cllr N Chandler
 Cllr C Gardner

Also present: Clerk: Angela Billing
 6 Members of public

		Action
BPC/69/24-25	To receive apologies. Apologies received from Cllr Hawkins and District Councillor Cooper. The Council resolved to accept the apologies.	
BPC/70/24-25	To receive declarations of interest under the Council’s Code of Conduct related to business on the agenda. Councillors are reminded that if they have either a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or other interest in any of the agenda items then they should declare the interest and withdraw from the debate or meeting as appropriate. Cllr Billing declared an interest in item: BPC/89/24-25 (e).	
BPC/71/24-25	To receive and approve for signature, the minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 13/05/2024. Approved.	
BPC/72/24-25	To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on the agenda for report only. None noted.	
BPC/73/24-25	Clerk’s report. Outstanding SSE Electricity bills: SSE have assured me that they will be able to send the corrected bills by the end of the week. SSE direct debit arrangement at Unity Trust account cancelled until corrected invoices are available. Grass cutting at Stoke Road works: Discussed with site manager the possibility of their team strimming the site at the end of the works due to the difficulty of access to the site by grass-cutting contractor. Cllr Chandler is liaising with the site manager to arrange for access for the grass-cutting contractor. Cllr Chandler to pursue. Community Payback Services team are now back and have begun to clear more of the allotments. Arranged with the Graveyard Shift volunteer group (including four children from Pond Bank) to plant up over 100 plants at the Closed Cemetery. Also one of the children, with the help of his father, undertook to mow the paths at the Closed Cemetery in the absence of the Community Payback Services team. The Council thanked the volunteers especially the children for their continued hard work. Youth Parish Council – Notices of the first session on 28/06/2024 posted around the village and a workshop/training for developing youth engagement to be arranged.	Cllr Chandler

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	<p>Blisworth Football Club lease: Wellers were not able to provide a 'clean' version of the lease at the last meeting and have missed the deadline for 03/06/2024 meeting. Clerk to pursue.</p> <p>Chapel Lane clearance – Contractors have applied first course of weedkiller.</p>	
BPC/74/ 24-25	<p>Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR) - To complete the year end procedure:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. To review the effectiveness of the system of internal control. RESOLVED: to approve the effectiveness of the system of internal control. b. Resolve to approve the adoption of the year end accounts (2023 – 2024). RESOLVED: to approve the adoption of the year end accounts (2023 – 2024). c. Receive the report from the Internal Auditor and note any action. Members received the report. Recommendations were noted and are already being actioned by the Clerk. d. Resolve to consider and approve the completion of Section 1 the Annual Governance Statement of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (2023 – 2024). RESOLVED: to approve Section 1 the Annual Governance Statements of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (2023-2024). e. Resolve to agree Accounting Statements of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return Section 2 (2023 – 2024). RESOLVED: to agree Accounting Statements of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return Section 2 (2023 – 2024). f. To note the commencement date for the Period of the Exercise of Public Rights. Noted. 	
BPC/75/ 24-25	<p>Public Session:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. District Councillor Report. Report not available (deferred). b. Members of the public. <p>The following issues were raised by members of the public:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Request by a member of the Blisworth Parish Allotments for a one-year trial (due to start in February/March 2025) for one bee-hive on the Blisworth Parish Allotments. ii. Concerns about the football games being played at Eastfield Play area which is damaging the boundary fence and the issue of rubbish being thrown into neighbouring gardens. iii. A representative from the Women's Institute (WI) requested liaising with Blisworth Parish Council to plant a tree and/or bulbs to commemorate 100 years of the Women's Institute. iv. Concerns about the re-emergence of traffic issues (speed and the volume of traffic) through the village when the Stoke Road works are completed and the road re-opens. v. Request for further information about the Youth Parish Council meetings. 	
BPC/76/ 24-25	<p>Response to issues raised in the public session.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Agreed that a bee hive would increase the biodiversity of the allotments and help tenants with pollination of crops with the proviso that it is for a year trial initially and that safety aspects are reviewed. ii. Clerk to check ownership of the fence. Council to look at options for new signage about 'no ball games', possibility of installing another piece of play equipment which will deter football games and asking for public support in the newsletter. 	Clerk

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	<p>iii. Clerk to liaise with the WI to determine a location and source a tree and/or bulbs.</p> <p>iv. Cllr Brown presented a Traffic and Highways update.</p> <p>v. Council explained the joint collaboration with the Baptist Church to start a Youth Parish Council to gain young people’s ideas for their village. The first session will be Friday, 28th June 2024. More information to follow via social media. Clerk to pass on contact details for Baptist Church.</p> <p>Councillors thanked members of public for attending and for their support.</p>	Clerk												
<p>BPC/77/24-25</p>	<p>Planning and Development.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="263 521 1385 1308"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="263 521 587 600">Application & Date Comments Due</th> <th data-bbox="587 521 948 600">Location</th> <th data-bbox="948 521 1385 600">Description</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="263 600 587 757">2024/1233/FULL Comments by 04/06/2024</td> <td data-bbox="587 600 948 757">4 Courteenhall Road Blisworth NN7 3DD</td> <td data-bbox="948 600 1385 757">Proposed extension to home office to the rear of 4-12 Courteenhall Road No objections.</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="263 757 587 913">2024/2279/FULL Comments by 06/06/2024</td> <td data-bbox="587 757 948 913">Pynus Cottage, 21 Towcester Road, Blisworth, NN7 3DL</td> <td data-bbox="948 757 1385 913">Proposed New Drop Kerb No objections.</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="263 913 587 1308">WNS/2022/0819/MAF To review Planning Committee Report.</td> <td data-bbox="587 913 948 1308">Stables at Oakwood Farm House Towcester Road Blisworth NN7 3DL</td> <td data-bbox="948 913 1385 1308">Change of use of agricultural land to graze a small number of horses and subsequently request the change of use of stables to accommodate non private use. Clerk to contact West Northants to ask for clarification.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Application & Date Comments Due	Location	Description	2024/1233/FULL Comments by 04/06/2024	4 Courteenhall Road Blisworth NN7 3DD	Proposed extension to home office to the rear of 4-12 Courteenhall Road No objections.	2024/2279/FULL Comments by 06/06/2024	Pynus Cottage, 21 Towcester Road, Blisworth, NN7 3DL	Proposed New Drop Kerb No objections.	WNS/2022/0819/MAF To review Planning Committee Report.	Stables at Oakwood Farm House Towcester Road Blisworth NN7 3DL	Change of use of agricultural land to graze a small number of horses and subsequently request the change of use of stables to accommodate non private use. Clerk to contact West Northants to ask for clarification.	
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<p>BPC/78/24-25</p>	<p>Correspondence from social media: Update from Cllr Read. Noted. Total number of followers on Social Media has slightly increased to 303 people, an increase of three since last month (68.3% of our followers are listed as women and 115 are listed as resident in Blisworth, the remainder listed in Northampton/Road/Towcester/Hartwell). The highest age demographic is the 35-44 year old age group. We have had a post reach of 2249 people (people who have our messages on their social media feeds) and a direct engagement (clicks) of 1969 people. Top performing post in the period was information on the proposed 20mph speed restriction. This led to 1499 people reached (on feeds) and 114 direct engagements (clicks to look at content), 3 reactions and 3 shares. Below are the 27 comments posted against the share on the Blisworth notice board, (Social Media Report Appendix 3). Since the last meeting we have posted information on the Gayton Road closure, youth parish council and the police community beat bus. Also the agenda for June annual meeting has been shared.</p>													
<p>BPC/79/24-25</p>	<p>Police & Neighbourhood Watch Scheme: Update from Cllr Read. We have had a new PFCC appointed Danielle Stone. The single most common issue discussed is traffic and with over 2,000 vehicles entering the village and 3000 vehicles</p>													

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leaving daily clearly speed enforcement and appropriate driving through the centre of the village is a primary concern. Along with volumes of HGV and larger vehicles. The below table shows the crime statistics in Blisworth Parish over the last 12 months (March 23-March 24).

12 Month Rolling Average

Crime	Number	Percentage
Violence and Sexual Offences	41	47%
Anti-Social Behaviour	11	13%
Vehicle Crime	14	16%
Drugs	2	2%
Public Order	2	2%
Other Crime	3	3%
Other Theft	9	10%
Burglary	3	3%
Criminal Damage and Arson	2	2%
Possession of a Weapon	1	1%
	88	

The police neighbourhood team will be present in the village on Wednesday 22 May and 19 June at the Royal Oak PH car park in the Beat Bus at 3pm to meet with residents and discuss any concerns.

The Neighbourhood alert / Neighbourhood watch system "Northamptonshire Talking" has 83 members registered with 2 members pending. Regular updates about local crime and matters of priority within South Northants are issued through this portal <https://northamptonshiretalking.co.uk/>. These alerts are also published on the Parish social media. Using this system complies with GDPR. No alerts have been issued relevant the village in the period.

BPC/80/24-25

Report on data from SID/VAS devices: Update from Cllr Read.

VAS unit in Courteenhall Road

In the period between 27 April and 1 June (36 days) there were 111,813 vehicle movements (Avg. 3106 per day), which a significant increase of 19% on last month's report and represents traffic now being able to access the A508 junction and traffic becoming familiar with that route, also with the Stoke Road closure it is now similar to volumes experienced before the junction alterations which exceeded c3000 per day. The speed data has become corrupted and is showing some erroneous results so cannot be relied upon for this period.

VAS unit in High Street

In the period between 9 May and 1 June, note that the batteries ran out between 12 May and 18 May (18 days) there were 69,975 vehicle movements (Avg. 3,887 per day), this is a 21% increase on last month but still not reflective of the volumes seen previously in Dec 2023 we experienced 4,367 per day so this represents a 11% reduction in recorded volumes. The speeds are consistent with December 2023 and last month with average speeds to 28.1 mph and 85% of vehicles were travelling below 32 mph. The top speed recorded was 79 mph. Peak traffic flows regularly

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	exceed 400 vehicles per hour (avg. 6 vehicles every min or a vehicle every 10 seconds) along this stretch of road. This area is not proposed by West Northamptonshire to be included in the new 20mph zone.	
BPC/81/ 24-25	Gateway Update. Update from Cllr Wilson. The next update is due in July.	
BPC/82/ 24-25	Traffic Working Group report. Update from Cllr Brown. Noted.	
BPC/83/ 24-25	To discuss training options and agree next steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. GDPR Training. RESOLVED: Clerk to arrange training with Cllr Brown. b. New councillor's training. RESOLVED: Cllr Chandler to attend Off to a Flying Start course. Clerk to find dates/venues (cost £48.00 plus VAT). c. Joint Youth Engagement Summit with NALC and OVV. RESOLVED: Clerk to book training (cost £65.00 plus VAT). 	Clerk Cllr Brown Cllr Chandler
BPC/84/ 24-25	To discuss the Draft Local Plan strategy and agree next steps. Update from Cllr Read. Cllr Read submitted a detailed response on behalf of Blisworth Parish Council. Noted.	
BPC/85/ 24-25	To discuss the West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) – Open Space Assessment Consultation and agree response. Clerk to submit a response following Councillors' recommendations.	Clerk
BPC/86/ 24-25	Village Maintenance & Open Spaces: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Play area: Monthly safety inspection report: Update from Cllr Wilson. A minor issue with the small car. RESOLVED: To await the next Play Area maintenance check due in July/August. b. Defibrillator: Confirmation of satisfactory checks and any issues. Update from Cllr Read. Monthly check was undertaken and no issues were identified. c. Allotments & Closed Cemetery. Update from Cllr Billing. Community Payback Services team are now available again to carry out works at the allotments and Closed Cemetery. Clerk to liaise with the team to oversee and alternate works to be scheduled, including mowing the paths at the Closed Cemetery. Clerk noted outstanding rent arrears. RESOLVED: Clerk to pursue outstanding rents or give tenant(s) notice to quit/or surrendering one or more of their allotments. d. Discuss option for an allotment association and agree next steps. Update from Cllr Billing. RESOLVED: Clerk to inform tenants of Council's decision that tenants are required to form an allotment association to deal with the day-to-day maintenance of the allotments and resolve issues/disputes amongst themselves. 	Clerk Clerk Clerk
BPC/87/ 24-25	Review offer of trees from Highways and discuss next steps. Update from Clerk. Noted. Clerk to review options for trees/hedging plants.	Clerk
BPC/88/ 24-25	Internal Control: Financial & Management Risk Assessment: To receive declarations of gifts/hospitality and review record of gifts/hospitality received by Councillors or the Clerk to date. None received.	
BPC/89/ 24-25	Finance & Administration Banking Issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Bank reconciliation to 03/06/2024. Deferred. b. Discuss delegated authority for Clerk to authorise payments and agree outcome. RESOLVED: Clerk/RFO shall have delegated authority to approve 	

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	<p>and submit for payment the list of payments in Appendix 2 as per Financial Regulations 5.6.</p> <p>c. Note transfer of £3000.00 from Skipton Savings Account to Unity Trust Current account. Noted.</p> <p>d. Discuss and agree further transfer from Skipton Savings Account to Unity Trust Current account to meet monthly payments. RESOLVED: Clerk to request transfer of £1200.00 from Skipton Savings account to Unity Trust Current account.</p> <p>e. To note receipts and approve the following payments and any others that arrive after publication of the agenda. RESOLVED: To note receipts and agree the payments listed in Appendix 1.</p>	Clerk
BPC/90/24-25	<p>Councillors' reports and items for future agenda.</p> <p>Clerk to write letters of thanks to residents of Church Lane for cutting back their hedge to allow access onto the narrow footway, volunteers at the Graveyard Shift, particularly the children for their ongoing maintenance and support and to the organisers of the Blisworth Scarecrows to thank them for their hard work and for achieving such a brilliant and joyful event in the village.</p>	Clerk
BPC/91/24-25	<p>Council Surgery – Resolve to agree on a representative(s) from the Council for the next Council Surgery. RESOLVED: Cllr Billing and Cllr Wilson to attend.</p>	Cllr Billing & Cllr Wilson
BPC/92/24-25	<p>To agree the date of next meeting. RESOLVED to agree the date of the next meeting to be Monday, 1st July 2024. The meeting closed at 9.40 pm.</p>	

Signed: Chairman..... Date:

Please see the Clerk for a copy of the signed minutes.

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Appendix 1

BLISWORTH PARISH COUNCIL PAYMENT LIST & RECEIPTS **JUNE** 2024 Meeting

PAYMENTS

Ref:	Statutory Power	Invoice	PAYEE	PURPOSE	CHQ/D D	Total Amount Including VAT	VAT	Amount Excluding VAT
22	LGA 1972, Section 144 The Highways (Traffic Calming) Regulations 1999, 1026, 7 (2d)		FlowerCraft Nursery	Spr/Sum Plants & compost for village planters	UTBT22	£132.00	0.00	132.00
23	Environmental Protection Act 1990, s89 (1a)	7699	Shield Ltd	Dog Waste Bins x 13 & Bin x 1 01.05.24 - 31.05.24	UTBT23	£148.20	24.70	123.50
24	LGA 1972, s.111		Clear Councils	Annual Insurance cover 01 June 2024- 31 May 2025	UTBT24	£1,051.62	0.00	1,051.62
25	LGA 1972 s 142	28874	Merland Copy Shop Ltd	Printing of Round & About Jun-Jul Issue	UTBT25	170.00	0.00	170.00
26	LGA 1972 s 142	25	Alan North	Invoice 24 for R&A Alan North Jun-Jul 2024 Iss 157	UTBT26	50.00	0.00	50.00
27	LGA 1972 s112 (2)		A Billing - Salary	Clerk's Salary May 2024 Mth 02	UTBT27	976.19	0.00	976.19
28	LGA 1972 s112 (2)	120PF003233662502	HMRC - Nat. Ins.	HMRC Nat. Ins. Employer Contributions May 2024 Salary Mth 02	UTBT28	33.42	0.00	33.42
29	LGA 1972 s112 (2)	Pension Month 02 2024-2025	Nest Pensions	Nest Pension Employer costs 01/05/2024 - 31/05/2024	UTDD29	38.42	0.00	38.42
30	LGA (Financial Provisions) 1963 s5		A Billing - Expenses	Clerk's Expenses (01.05.2024 - 31.05.2024)	UTBT30	31.20	0.00	31.20
31	LGA 1972 s 142 LGA 1972, s111 (1)	2030 4193 3319	IONOS	Website Fee 08/05/2024-08/06/2024	UTDD31	6.00	1.00	5.00

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32	LGA 1972, s.111	28/05/2024	Lloyds Bank PLC	Credit Card Fee	UTDD32	3.00	0.00	3.00
33	LGA 1972 s 142	28/05/2024	Lloyds Bank PLC	Credit Card Payments Colour Printing	UTDD33	12.00	0.00	12.00
34	Highways Act 1980, s. 96	1979	CutCrew Ltd	Cut to: Area 2 x 2 & Area 1 x 2	UTBT34	837.02	139.50	697.52
Totals						£3,489.07	£165.20	£3,323.87

RECEIPTS

DATE	DETAILS	INTEREST	ALLOTMENTS - RENTS	PRECEPT	GRANTS	VAT REFUND	OTHER	TOTAL	BANK ACCT
17/05/2024	Biodiversity Donation						£28.00	£28.00	UT
17/05/2024	Parish Field Fee 2024-2025		£315.00					£315.00	UT
20/05/2024	Blisworth FC-62		£150.00					£150.00	UT
30/05/2024	Allot/10		£10.00					£10.00	UT
	Totals	£0.00	£475.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£28.00	£503.00	

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Appendix 2

List of Authorised Payments for 2024-2025

Payee	Purpose	Amount inc VAT	Payment Type
Salary	Clerk's Salary February 2024		BACS
Alan North	Editing of Round & About bi-monthly x 6 payments per year	£50.00	BACS
Payroll	Barbara Osborne Business Services x 4 payments	£84.00	BACS
BVH&PFA	Hire of hall x 12 @£13.00	£156.00	BACS
CutCrew Ltd	Cut to: Area 2 x 2 & Area 1 x 2 Cuts every 2 weeks	837.02	BACS
HMRC - Nat. Ins.	HMRC Nat. Ins. Employer + Employee Contributions Monthly	£33.42	BACS
IONOS	Website Fee - Monthly	6.00	DD
Lloyds Bank	Credit Card Monthly Charges plus card payments	3.00	DD
Merland Copy Shop Ltd	Printing of Round & About bi-monthly x 6 payments per year	170.00	BACS
Nest Pensions	Nest Pension Employer costs Monthly	£38.42	BACS
Northants CALC Ltd	NCALC Membership:	Variable	BACS
Northants CALC Ltd	Training	Variable	BACS
SSE	Electricity Supply Monthly	Variable	DD
The Shield Group	Dog Waste bins clearance - Monthly	£148.20	BACS
Unity Trust	Bank Charges per quarter	£18.00	DD

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Appendix 3

Social Media Report: (Residents names have been removed)

13 May - Hi there. Not sure who to contact but people doing roadworks on Windmill/Courteenhall have left a load of signs and cones outside mine and my neighbours houses on our property for seemingly no reason. they have now been there a week and we would like them removing as no works seem to still be going on. Can you please provide me contact details of who is responsible/can the message be passed on for them to be collected from outside 26/28 Buttmead where they have been left.

Reply - Hi, we're not sure who was undertaking the work and will raise with WNC. Can you also log it on <https://www.fixmystreet.com/> many thanks

Resident - Fab, thank you. Yeah I didn't actually see them and wasn't sure what work it was but there was also a sign on the corner of windmill one day, that's now gone but the others have been left. Thanks so much

Reply - We have discussed this at tonight's meeting. Apparently on the back of the signs should be the company name of who owns them. Could you have a look at take a photo and we can get the company to collect

Our total number of followers on Social Media has slightly increased to 303 people, an increase of three since last month (68.3% of our followers are listed as women and 115 are listed as resident in Blisworth, the remainder listed in Northampton/Road/Towcester/Hartwell). The highest age demographic is the 35-44 year old age group. We have had a post reach of 2249 people (people who have our messages on their social media feeds) and a direct engagement (clicks) of 1969 people.

Our top performing post in the period was information on the proposed 20mph speed restriction. This led to 1499 people reached (on feeds) and 114 direct engagements (clicks to look at content), 3 reactions and 3 shares. Below are the 27 comments posted against the share on the Blisworth notice board, I have removed residents names.

- We have just come through the High Street and the car said 20mph. Happy to oblige.
- Only the pot holes will deter some of these drivers!!!!
- Nice idea but won't be adhered to and nobody to police it either sadly. There can be a myriad of rules but without policing it's a waste of time
- "Wonderful" idea! Cars will go slower, spend more time in the village, more pollution! Do something about lorries, by pass road and parking on the road, so the people can get home quicker!
- Let's bring back Steptoe and his horse and cart
- Wales now think 20mph is not such a good idea.
- Ensure people stick to the 30mph through the village maybe with an occasional visit from the camera van in the heart of the village and ban lorries altogether unless they can prove they are actually delivering to the village.
- Don't get me wrong I'm not condoning speeding through the village but If speeding is such an issue in the centre of the village, which is where these limits would apply why do we never see the police mobile cameras there ?? I've lived here 12 years and only ever seen them on the areas coming into the village where it changes from 60 - 30

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- Maybe they should be asked to set up shop on the high street or outside the school ?
- not sure I've seen anyone speeding in the marked area, it's the bits in blue that are the issue
- so why the 20 limit
- the speed van has to park at certain areas in order for the cameras to 'judge' the distance/speed.
When the call went out for villagers to be trained to use a hand held speed gun (GATSO), if I remember rightly, there were not enough volunteers Alan can probably clarify. I know people have busy lives but we need to be prepared to put ourselves out a little to protect our village.
- that's correct and believe it or not the van and volunteers have to be clearly visible.
- Gayton Road shouldn't be 60 with houses and the boat yard down there.
- again the roads shocking can't do 60
- let them carry on and smash up their suspension
- Be careful what you wish for, check out Hanslope Humps!
- There's loads of cars come up/down Courteenhall Road doing 50+ a few are doing 80+ - maybe they should put speed ramps in as well as the 20mph as the speed limit isn't going to deter these drivers
- maybe that's why they've left the potholes
- If this goes ahead then the lollypop lady will be removed this would surely be a greater loss for our village and nobody will stick to it
- Definitely extend past the doctors but drivers will ignore it and why not a weight limit?
- They will ignore it anyway!
- I got a better idea instead how about stop the massive 15+ ton lorries coming through the village
- Make all of it 20mph!
- Hear! Hear!
- My camshaft would try jumping out my engine if tried pottering along at 20mph why Electric scooters and E bikes over take me [OBJ]
- I can't go faster than 30 anyway roads in Blisworth are shocking