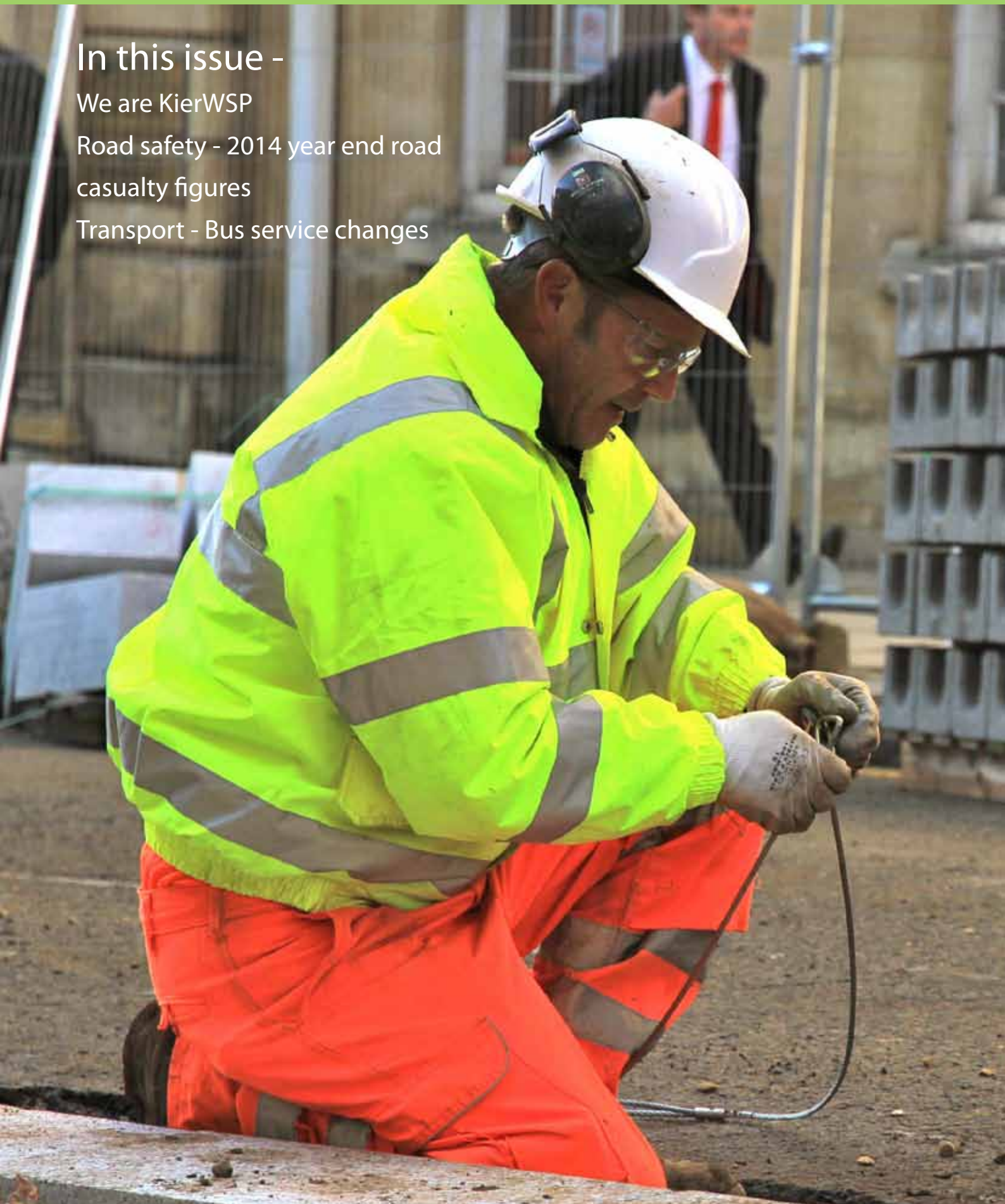


In this issue -

We are KierWSP

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Keeping you informed

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Works completed December and planned for February-

You can find the newsletters and programme details on the website at www.northamptonshire.gov.uk.

Front cover image - Improvement works

Published by Northamptonshire Highways
To give us suggestions and feedback email Rebecca at rmiller@mgwsp.co.uk



Remember, you can report highway faults online with our Street Doctor service.

www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/streetdoctor

If the fault is categorised as an emergency, our telephone number will be displayed so that you can call us instead. This enables us to prioritise the most dangerous hazards in the county.



Looking forward to 2015

Happy New Year to you all and we hope you had a relaxing time with your friends and family over the festive period.

Already half way through January and a lot has been happening.

On day one we had a Safe Start day which meant all our employees were given vital training, refreshers and the day gave us an opportunity to ensure all our vehicles, and people, are ready for the year ahead.

2014 was another busy, challenging but most of all successful year. For many the year may be remembered for the challenges faced but we have come through with a stronger sense of purpose and a reinforced sense of commitment to the vision and goals we have set for ourselves.

Obviously the significant savings that we have had to make has been a major part of work we are doing together, whilst maintaining a great service, and to this end we have undoubtedly achieved both. The list of successes are great and we only mention a few below but there are many other great achievements and successes that are all equally deserving of mention.

For example we are providing the fastest growing bike hire scheme of its type with Cycle CoNNect, also supported by a very successful Summer of Cycling which attracted large crowds each weekend. The hard work of our Road Safety team means that casualty levels are at the lowest since they were introduced in the 60's. Major projects completed, like the Corby Link Road, demonstrate our strong commitment to deliver and collaborate across many teams together with our supply chain. We have maintained the network to the best possible standard given the budget restrictions and this has been acknowledged by Government. As Northamptonshire grows we have responded to more planning applications than ever before and started other major infrastructure schemes to support development and enable investment and growth in the county.

In Transport the team have managed some difficult situations well, provided fantastic support to their customers at busy times and, most of all, made thousands of journeys safe, reliable and enjoyable.

Now it is time to look at 2015 and look forward to further successes. Major schemes to prepare Northampton for growth are now back on site and progress is good. We have the go ahead to start improvement works in Kettering to ease congestion and enhance the town.

As always we will be providing completed and planned work programmes monthly on the NCC website and the newsletter will be sent to you every quarter and will continue to provide great stories about what is happening in transport and highways across Northamptonshire.

We are KierWSP

Following the acquisition of May Gurney by Kier in July 2013 we have now looked at the MGWSP brand and rolled out the refreshed KierWSP brand.

Much of this work took place in December and staff continue to work as Northamptonshire Highways, the externally focused transport and highways service we are very proud to deliver in Northamptonshire. The continuity of the services is our main concern and road and transport users in the County will not be affected by any brand changes.

The refreshed brand brings bringing together the two strong identities of Kier and WSP. It reflects our continued strategy of focusing on providing the best transport and highway service and placing the customer at the heart of the business. The brand refresh has provided us with a new logo and this will be used everywhere MGWSP has been used in the past.

The logo for KierWSP, featuring the word 'Kier' in a dark blue serif font and 'WSP' in a lighter blue sans-serif font, both in uppercase letters.

All of these changes have been kept to a minimum as we mainly work with the identity of Northamptonshire Highways, the brand that was launched last year. Only necessary changes have been made that require very little staff time and have minimum costs attached to them.

We are committed to the partnership with Northamptonshire County Council and are very much looking forward to developing this as the strategic alliance and developing new ways of working.

Our objectives are to achieve the necessary budget reductions, whilst delivering the same levels of service through an integrated working arrangements which facilitates greater opportunities for efficiencies.

Email addresses will be changing from @mgwsp.co.uk to initialsurname@Kierwsp.co.uk.

Emails sent to @mgwsp will continue to be delivered to staff and replies will carry the new @kierwsp details.



Your next bus will arrive.....

Every month we will aim to bring you news of bus service changes have been registered for the coming month. We do not control most services in the County, with these being operated commercially by one of the bus companies. However companies must normally give us 56-days' notice of their new timetable, and at this point we will be able to provide information through our website and this monthly bulletin.

In general, please contact the bus companies for enquires about changes to their services or call Traveline for up-to-date timetable information on 0871 200 2233.

Up-to-date timetable information is available from our website www.northamptonshire.gov.uk

Routes



Bus Service changes from Sunday 25th January 2015

Centrebus service 8, between Corby and Kettering will run on a revised route between Corby and Stanion now serving Geddington Road rather than Bangrave Road South.

Stagecoach services 19, 49 and 50 in the Kettering area will have minor timetable changes to improve reliability.

Leicestershire County Council services RR7 and RR9, which run through part of Kettering Borough, will no longer operate from this date.

Bus Service changes from Sunday 22nd February 2015

Following meetings between us and Stagecoach, major changes will take place to Stagecoach services 89, 90 and 90A between Towcester and Milton Keynes. A new service X89 is being introduced outside of peak hours, running new faster journeys direct on the A5 between Towcester, Paulerspury and Milton Keynes town centre, replacing service 89 at these times. This means that Old Stratford, Deanshanger and Potterspury will now be service by a revised service 90/90A running every hour between Potterspury, Yardley Gobion, Cosgrove, Old Stratford and Milton Keynes town centre. Most journeys outside of peak hours will no longer serve the railway station in Milton Keynes. Some peak hour journeys on service 89 will still serve Deanshanger and Old Stratford.

Service 90 will now run more journeys between Yardley Gobion and Cosgrove and central Milton Keynes, including new journeys at 0817 and 0944. We are also in discussions with Country Lion about running Sunday service 89 under the service number 90 and also serving Yardley Gobion and Cosgrove.



County Connect will now also serve Potterspury, allowing residents to continue to travel to Towcester at times when service 89 does not serve the village.

For more details on these changes contact the Bus and Rail Development Team 01604 364344.

Stagecoach are introducing an extra early morning journey on weekdays on service 1 in Northampton.

Stagecoach Saturday-only service X17 to Leicester will no longer operate from this date.

Area 1

I just wanted to say thank you on behalf of the residents of Gretton for the recent rectification work carried out to Station Road and Harringworth Road and also the junction to High Street. The patching has made a vast improvement to the road surfaces and driving along these roads is now a pleasure.

Again, a big thank you. A great job, well done.

Kind regards,

David

David Hall, Director, TruckEast Limited

Andy Leighton

Can you pass on a massive thank you on behalf of many local residents and myself not forgetting p.c Neil Mackenzie to Andy Leighton and team for all the hard work that is being carried out on HW39 regarding the motorcycle barriers on the footpath. Speaking to many families/dog walkers they are beginning to feel a lot safer using this path.

Keep up the great work.....

Regards PAUL

Just come off the phone to Mr Catlin regarding the hard standing in Oakley road Corby near Lidl.

He's very happy with the work and says he's used it a number of times and its so much better.

Please pass on his thanks for the works and Mine for managing to squeeze the works into the programme its much appreciated.

Take care , Mat

18th December 2014

Regarding: the new drainage system on Leckhampstead Road, Wicken

Dear Helen,

Wicken Parish Council wish to thank you for the very professional job of installing the new drain system in Leckhampstead Road this summer.

With the significant rainfall we have had, the new drains have proved to be very effective.

Rob Dunmore who organised/designed the scheme was a pleasure to deal with and the sub-contractors Michael Titchmarsh led by Pete (General Foreman) were pleasant and helpful, as well as being clearly competent.

Please feel free to pass this letter onto who ever you see fit.

Area 1

We were surprised and pleased to see that firstly the potholes in Manor Road were marked earlier in the week and secondly they were repaired today. Not only did the operatives repair the road, they removed two significant hazards from the footpath. Thank you for your prompt action it is much appreciated.

Kind regards, Mrs Healy

Ian Smith and team

On behalf of Harrington Parish Council I write to thank you for the work that has been carried out at the Rothwell/ Lamport/ Harrington road junctions. It is well illuminated approaching from Lamport and nobody should mistake this bend now.

I have had approving comments from several people about the improvements.

Please thank everyone on our behalf.

With kind regards,

Betty West

Rights of way

Today we did our final "recce" walk for the Northampton Ramblers' Christmas Ramble next week and we were extremely pleased to see that the footpaths across three fields had been re-instated and were clearly marked, with way markers now visible - a great improvement. So we would like to thank you and the landowners for rectifying matters and we are now looking forward to a very pleasant walk next week.

Thank you once again.

Yours sincerely
Pam and Brian

Getting it right



Record number of speed deterrent visits in 2014

Our Roadside Operations Unit, Jack Douglas and Malcolm Strike, are part of the Road Safety & Sustainability Team.

They have had a busy year travelling around the whole county setting up mobile speed deterrent devices which detect and warn offending motorists of excess speed, mobile phone usage and seat belt compliance. They are able to visit several sites per day as a proactive response to complaints of speeding and anti-social driving activity from local communities.

The team completed 600 roadside operations in 2014 which is a record and an indication of how much this service is in demand. Their presence in local communities provides public reassurance and reinforces how seriously we take issues of road safety.

Jack (pictured below) said: 'One of the biggest causes of complaint around the county is excess and inappropriate speed, especially in built up areas. Due to competing priorities the police are not always able to respond quickly with enforcement activity but, we can often visit a site within a few hours of a request and provide a high visibility presence with our Mitsubishi vehicle and equipment.

There is no doubt that our vehicle activated devices are very effective and we can alter the displays to suit the circumstances. The public are always very pleased to see us and often approach us at the roadside to discuss our activity and thank us for attending.

Offending motorists often approach us as well and are relieved that we are not handing out speeding fines but have hopefully learnt a valuable lesson. We can also collect speed data which is useful when our team is considering permanent traffic calming measures or other appropriate interventions.'

If you would like a visit from our Roadside Operations Unit for some speed deterrent activity at locations in your area please contact Simon Mills, Principal Highway Safety Engineer, with details.

He can be contacted via email: smills@kierwsp.co.uk



2014 year end road casualty figures

The Road Safety & Sustainability Team are very close to finalising the 2014 road casualty figures for Northamptonshire.

These will receive final validation in early February before going to the Department for Transport, but ahead of that we are pleased to report that fatal casualties in 2014 fell to 21, compared to 26 in 2013 and 35 in 2012.

This is the second lowest figure (19 in 2011) since records were introduced in 1960 and significantly lower than 74 as recently as 2006. Whilst this is good news for road safety, one death on our roads is one too many and we must not forget that behind each statistic is a grieving family or someone coming to terms with a life-changing injury.

We will strive to do all we can to continue to reduce casualties in 2015 and would urge all road users to help us to make Northamptonshire's roads safer for everyone.



Car seats and coats don't go

Most parents don't even realise they have the wrong seat, something we found out when Northamptonshire Highways ran the annual supermarket car park check. We are passionate about in-car safety and wanted to see how Northamptonshire was doing when it comes to keeping our children safe. The results were startling in some cases and showed there is still a lot of work to be done and we need to get the message out there.....is your child safe when you are travelling?

Over the week we talked to over 300 parents and offered to look at their car seats to check they were suitable. Disappointingly a lot of parents refused and at the end of the week we were aware that there is an issue out there. Of the seats we did get to check only about 50% were of a good standard and fitted correctly.

We really don't know everything we should about making sure our children are safe in a car. Just a few of the hazards of choosing and using a car seat include incorrect seat standards, facing the wrong direction, broken clips and coats.....

Fat coats, thin coats it really does not matter. They will make a difference to your child's safety. The primary safety feature of the harness is to keep a child secured in the seat so he rides with the seat but does not move within his harness. The force of a crash will cause the thickness of the coat to flatten, ensuring that the child will move within the harness and increasing the chance for injury. By putting a child in a coat before securing the harness, you compromise the primary safety feature of the harness.

So add that to the other considerations and buying a child seat is not that simple.

Primarily check it is United Nations standard....in the UK it must be.

- Conforms to the United Nations standard, ECE Regulation 44.04 or R 44.03 or to the new i-size regulation
- Is suitable for your child's weight and size
- Is correctly fitted according to the manufacturer's instructions.

There are many different types available. They are divided into categories, according to the weight of the children. These correspond broadly to different age groups, but it is the weight of the child that is most important when deciding what type of child seat to use.

It's your responsibility to make sure all children travelling in the front or rear seat of any car, van or goods vehicle use the correct child car seat until they are either 135 cm in height or 12 years old (which ever they reach first). After this they must use an adult seat belt.

That also means you are responsible for other children in the car. Seatbelts are OK but will not work as well as car seats so try to borrow the child's seat if you are travelling with them. A seat belt on its own will not properly fit your child, until they are at least 135 cm (4'6") tall, although it's better to wait until they are 150 cm (5ft) or taller before moving them to the seat belt on its own.

And if you go for second hand ask a lot of questions. You want to make sure the seat is safe and conforms like any other. Sometimes you can find a bargain car seat on e-bay but make sure they are certified to safety standards(remember - legally there are no such term like factory seconds on a child car seats) Safety equipment like stair gates and cupboard locks are taken for granted these days but make sure you consider your child's safety when travelling. Yes, it's frustrating and time consuming to juggle your child, their stuff and keys and coats for a short drive to the store. But the fact is, most crashes happen close to home. Improper use of a car seat harness, including keeping a coat on when securing the harness, offers a false sense of security.

A properly fitted child car seat will help to prevent your child from being thrown about inside the vehicle, or ejected from it, if there is a crash. It will also absorb some of the impact force, and provide some protection from objects intruding into the passenger compartment.

So next time you go out on a cold winter day, find an alternative to squeezing your child's winter coat into the harness.

Your child's safety is at stake

<http://www.childcarseats.org.uk/>



Going the extra mile

Bikeability is 'cycling proficiency for the 21st century' and is designed to give the next generation the skills and confidence to ride their bikes on today's roads. It also instils a road safety mind-set at an early age as well as promoting a healthy lifestyle. Children will typically start Bikeability lessons once they have learnt to ride a bike. Level 1 will help new riders to control their bike before they move on to developing on-road skills at Level 2. Level 2 is usually tackled by children in Years 5 or 6, before they leave primary school. Level 3 teaches trainees how to ride in different and more challenging traffic situations, and is usually completed by children of secondary school age. We deliver training to around 2,000 pupils per year and have a team of around 20 instructors.

One of our Instructors, Lynne Jobling, recently had a dilemma with a young boy who was struggling to attain his Level 2 pass after several attempts. Taking groups of six at a time Lynne noticed that he was failing to grasp some of the basic principles and eventually spoke to his mother and the Head Teacher. It transpired that he had Special Educational Needs which affects his ability to learn in certain situations. Undeterred Lynne was determined that he would pass his Level 2 test and, more importantly, gain confidence in the notion that he was not a failure. She knew that she would have to find a different way to teach him in order for him to become a proficient rider. He was equally as determined and, after carrying out some research and taking advice, she formulated a plan before taking him for some tuition.

The result was? Well we have reproduced Lynne's lovely email to her line supervisor, Julie Brown in the Road Safety & Sustainability team. We think it says it all.....

After racking my brains for well over a week on how to help this young man , I came up with a plan. To cut a long story short we had a chat before the session, we rode down to our 'site ' and kept the instructions for him, simple.

I didn't let him go first, he watched a few students go first and then he had lots of goes, improving with every turn. Only one disaster (wrong side of the road doing a left turn) He knew straight away that it was wrong, shook his head, gave himself a good talking to and the next ride.....perfection !!!!

He spent the session, checking and rechecking with me , was this right or had he got that wrong.....he didn't give up and I praised him for trying so hard.

Sohe passed his level 2 , you have never seen a failing child look so happy and relieved. Now he isn't failing, he is proof that effort, self-belief and strong praise does work wonders.

One happy coach too.....

I even managed to get the Head to well up and of course his mum when I told them both that he passed. Mum just cried (my job here is complete)

The young boy received a big cheer from his classmates when he returned to school and his mother and the Head went out of their way to thank Lynne for all her efforts.

By going the extra mile Lynne encapsulates everything that is good about the Bikeability scheme and all our Instructors are passionate about making it all inclusive. This story demonstrates that perseverance, determination and considered thinking is often rewarded with a great outcome.



Wardens....Your comments count!

The Northamptonshire Highways Wardens scheme represents an important and valued collaboration between Northamptonshire Highways, Parish & Town Councils and Local Community Groups. Our Highway Wardens are a vital link between the local community and Northamptonshire Highways. They provide valuable information which assists us in maintaining the highway network. The scheme ensures the views and requirements of the local community are represented, and ensures Northamptonshire Highways provides services that help respond to community needs, based on the information provided by our Highway Wardens

The Highway Warden scheme has now been running for about a year and we are always keen to work with our Wardens to help grow the understanding of the services provided by Northamptonshire Highways as well as to share information about developments in the service. In addition we are keen to improve the Highway Wardens scheme by seeking the views of our Wardens.

At the end of January a questionnaire will be sent out to all of our current Highways Wardens and all Parish Councils. The purpose of the questionnaire is to gain feedback on what has gone well since the start of the scheme and what areas could be improved. We are also keen to gain an understanding as to why some of our communities choose not to participate in the scheme.

Please do take the time to respond to the questionnaire so that we can work together to improve this very valuable scheme.

Works programme and communication

For more information on transport and highways, and to read all the past newsletters and programmes, please go to www.northamptonshire.gov.uk

The highways team produce a programme of works on the network each year. A lot of factors determine the priority of a road on the list and include the state of the road's surface, whether the road is actually failing structurally, the road classification, proximity of schools, hospitals or other vulnerable users.

This programme of works is proposed for 2014/ 15 and includes works that would be undertaken if funding allows. The programme is also weather dependent and as a result we may need to change the schedule.

We will update the programme as required to make sure we are publishing the latest information.

The completed works for December 2014 and the programmed works for February can now be found on the NCC web-site. www.northamptonshire.gov.uk



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highway updates?
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council



You can do it online

Report highway problems online or use your mobile phone, 24 hours a day 7 days a week.

Problems such as potholes, overgrown verges and cracked pavements can all be reported online in just 5 easy steps and you will receive regular updates.

www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/streetdoctor



Northamptonshire
County Council