

## Woodstock Road – Blenheim Palace Traffic Risks and Hazards

### Introduction

At the Parish Council meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2020 concerns were raised about 2 road traffic risks associated with Blenheim Palace. The risks are concerned with event traffic and delivery vehicles leaving site. The potential hazards that exist create risks that drivers may not be aware of. This note explains those hazard and suggests mitigation to minimise their impact through the use of warning signs. This note has been produced to raise the awareness of risks and hazards to Blenheim Palace, who should in turn undertake a risk assessment in line with their Management Plan and Health and Safety Policies.

### Blacks Gate

#### Hazards

Event traffic leaving through Black Gate cannot assume they have right of way to join the B4437. Drivers may not be familiar with the junction they are about to join and ill prepared for the speed of traffic.

Vehicles coming off the B4437 enter the Woodstock Road rarely signal, and generally make the slight turn at speed and will not expect slow moving traffic exiting from Black Gate.

#### Risks

The risk of a serious road traffic collision exists if drivers do not take into consideration the speed of traffic using the B4437 when the exit Black Gate.

#### Mitigation

A warning sign could be positioned at Black Gate exit to alert event traffic drivers to the risks they face on exiting the Palace Grounds. The sign could advise the turn is 'right turn only' and to 'be aware of speeding oncoming traffic'. This message could be repeated inside Palace grounds at the approach to Black Gate to condition drivers of the potential risk ahead. Traffic Marshalls could also be used to assist exit and provide a hi-visibility presence that could reduce the risk of a collision.

Alternatively this gate should be used for event access only with Traffic Marshals on hand to control traffic flow, facilitate vehicle movements and provide a hi-visibility presence that could reduce the risk of a collision.



## **Goral Gate**

### **Hazard**

Delivery drivers may not be aware of the hidden dip along the Woodstock Road. As drivers approach Goral Gate to exit onto the Woodstock Road and check left for moving traffic coming from Coombe or Stonesfield, they may think the road is clear but vehicles could be hidden in the dip in the road. The long straight Woodstock Road encourages speeding and vehicles often exceed the national limit on this road. Vehicles could emerge from the dip at speed when a delivery driver is pulling out and unaware of the approaching hazard.

### **Risk**

The risk of a serious road traffic collision exists if drivers do not take into consideration the speed of traffic emerging from the 'hidden dip' along the Woodstock Road when they exit Goral Gate.

### **Mitigation**

A warning sign could be positioned at the point delivery drivers exist Goral Gate covering the message ' Hidden dip on left, beware of speeding traffic approaching' . This message could be repeated along the track leading to the Goral Gate exit to condition drivers of the potential risk ahead.



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28<sup>th</sup> May 2020