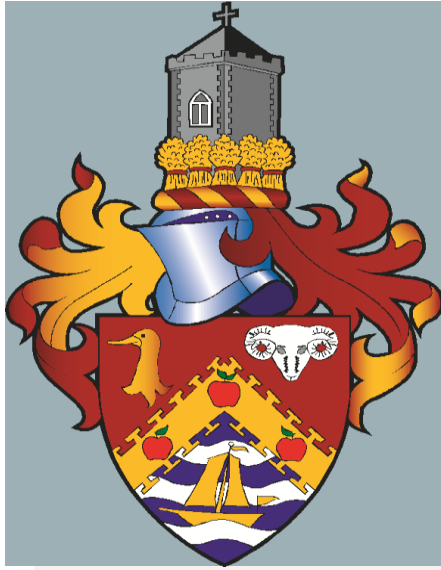




Driving Guide How to Be a Village Road Hero

Cliffe & Cliffe Woods Parish Council



Being a Road Hero

- 1) **Overview**
- 2) **Safety**
- 3) **Courtesy**
- 4) **Priority**
- 5) **Accidents Happen**
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Introduction

We are very privileged to be living in a rural setting, serene and green.

Often our roads are narrower than in our nearby towns, with many different encounters possible – Wildlife, large and small vehicles, horses & pets and of course pedestrians

A slower pace is needed with so many users both in and out of vehicles, and is why we have lower speed limits.

We want to help you and everyone using the roads to enjoy their experience.

By reading this guide we hope you will help by becoming a Road Hero!





Road Safety

Keeping You & Other Road Users Safe

Safety Awareness

- *Safety should always be our top priority*
 - *Regularly check your vehicle to ensure it is roadworthy*
 - *Be careful and aware of wildlife and pets who can react unpredictably*
- *Like-wise pedestrians may be walking and can appear suddenly or on blind bends*
- *Hazards such as potholes, roadworks as well as fallen trees & branches can be more common due to our rural setting and mean traffic using both lanes*
- *Narrower roads mean potential meetings with a variety of vehicles, HGVs, buses, tractors, horse riders and cyclists be ready*
 - *Be aware of road and driving conditions*

Safety

Less Speed, More Patience

- *Speed limits are lower due to concealed entrances, emerging traffic & increased variety of road users*
 - *Remember not all our roads have footpaths*
 - *Blind bends and bluffs mean you may need to react suddenly*
 - *Stopping distances are far greater the faster you are travelling*
 - *Leave plenty of time for your journey*
- *How much do you think you gain by speeding, is it worth risking you or others for a few seconds?*
 - *A little patience helps us all reach our destinations safely*



“Leave sooner, drive slower, live longer.”

Anonymous



Courtesy & Consideration

Helping us all have a better day

Courtesy & Consideration

- *Communicate with other road users in the appropriate manner – this could be your indicators, headlights or horn and aim to do so in advance*
- *Some road users may go slower – only pass when and if safe and appropriate to do so, remember vehicles may be wider and longer than they seem*
- *Make sure you follow the latest rules for passing horses, cyclist and pedestrians – with horses try to avoid revving and using the horn leaving (max speed 10mph, minimum space 2m)*
- *Try and use headlights appropriately – lighting up the road at night is great for you but can dazzle other road users*

Courtesy & Consideration

- Follow the highway code, regarding priorities and remember if we all let one car go, traffic tends to flow
- When approaching hazards make your intentions clear to those around you
- Remember our rural setting supports a lot of wildlife, during dawn and dusk they may be more active avoid revving & horns
- Respect the weather conditions, minimise splash and use appropriate lights, remember stopping distances can increase in icy, wet conditions.
 - Be aware of road surfaces, loose mud, potholes, Ice & standing water – minimise splash where possible and avoid skidding



“Have you ever noticed that anybody driving slower than you is an idiot, and anyone going faster than you is a maniac?”

George Carlin



Priority

Who Goes First?

On Road Priority

Throughout our Parish there are points where vehicles may need to move around hazards such as road works, potholes, parked cars as well as other road users, wildlife or traffic calming measures.

There will sometimes be sign posts pointing to who has priority but what about when there isn't a sign?

As a general rule, if the obstruction is on your side of the road oncoming vehicles will have priority.

Any time that you continue with obstructions on your side, then to do so you must not cause oncoming vehicles to change speed or direction.

If someone has already began to approach, you should ideally wait for them to finish doing so, remember they may have been waiting for their gap a while.



Priority at Mini Roundabouts?

Throughout our Parish we have several mini roundabouts

Approach these in the same way as normal roundabouts. This means we give way to the right!

All vehicles should pass round the central markings (except large vehicles which may be incapable of doing so)



Accidents Happen

What Needs to be Reported?

The law defines a reportable road traffic collision as a collision involving a mechanically-propelled vehicle on a road or other public area which causes:

injury or damage to anybody - other than the driver of that vehicle

*injury or damage to an animal - other than one being carried on that vehicle
(an animal is classed as a horse, cattle, ass, mule, sheep, pig, goat or dog)**

damage to a vehicle - other than the vehicle which caused the collision

*damage to property built on, attached to, growing in, or otherwise forming
part of the land where the road is*

Accidents Happen

But What to Do when It Does?

Stop at the scene – it is a legal requirement to stop as soon as it is safe to

Switch off your engine & switch on your hazard lights

Check for any injuries to yourself and any passengers

Exchange details with anyone involved – name, address, car registration

Provide your insurance details if requested

If you have trouble getting these details from someone involved or they've left without giving them, call the police on 101 while you're still at the scene.

Accidents Happen But What to Do when It Does?

When should I call 999?

- ✓ If someone is in danger
- ✓ If someone has been seriously injured
- ✓ You believe a serious offence has been committed
- ✓ The collision has caused a blockage or dangerous obstruction of the road

What Makes a Road Villain?

Things like

Using Electronic Devices Such as Mobile Phones While Using the Roads

Excessive Speeds

Erratic Behaviour On the Road

Tailgating Other Road Users

Driving Under the Influence

Driving unsafe, uninsured or Inappropriate Vehicles

Driving and Parking Without Consideration of Others



Further Reading & Resources

THE HIGHWAY CODE

The Highway Code is available to purchase as well as online

Please see below hyperlink to their website

<https://www.highwaycodeuk.co.uk>

KENT POLICE

Kent police has their own road safety information

Please see below hyperlink to their road safety information

<https://www.kent.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/rs/road-safety>

ROSPA

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) is a charity that aims to save lives and prevent life-changing injuries

Please see below hyperlink to their free driving resources

<https://www.rospa.com/policy/road-safety/resources/free>



*“Because the greatest part of a road trip isn’t arriving at your destination.
It’s all the wild stuff that happens along the way.”*

Emma Chase



Summary

Driving safely in our rural villages requires heightened awareness and a considerate approach to sharing the road with locals, animals, and other drivers.

By following these tips, you can ensure a safe & pleasant journey while respecting & preserving the tranquillity & safety of the rural environment.

Safe travels

Thank you For Being a Road Hero!



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