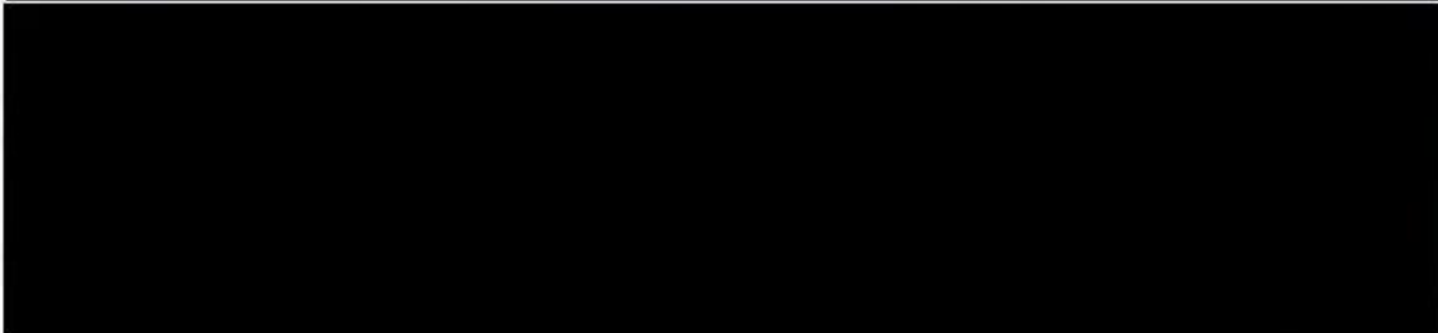
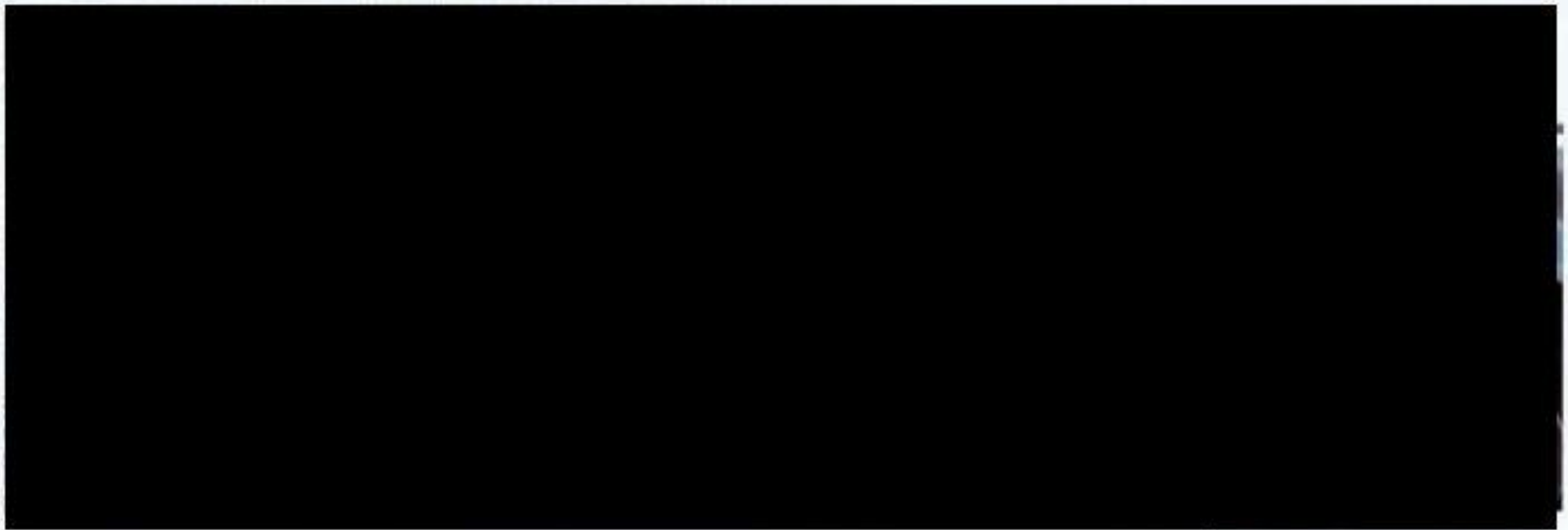




I have had so many near misses on lower road bend that I dislike having to drive through it! It happens routinely .

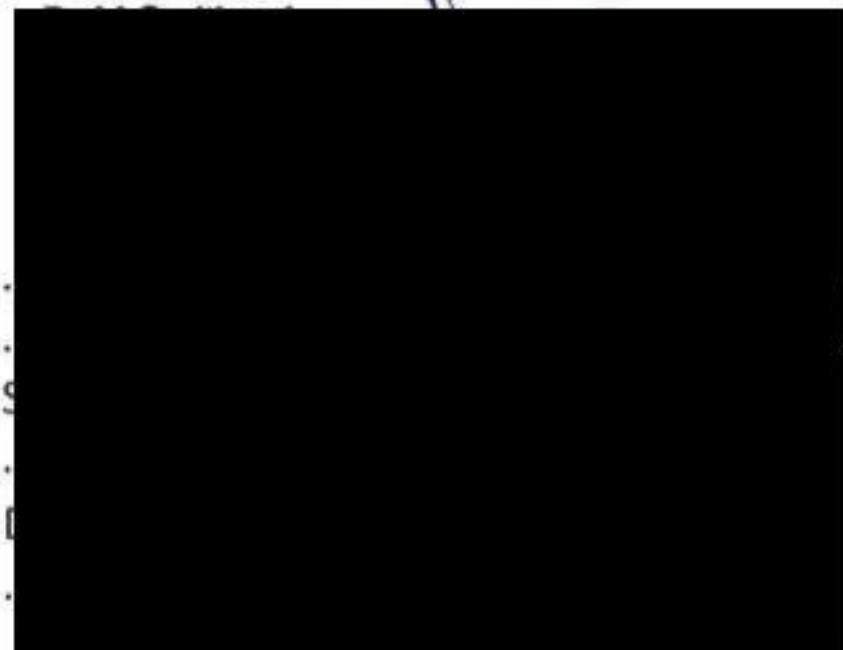
Consequently I drive very slowly through this bend and keep well over to the left, because I often encounter cars coming the other way who drive partly on the wrong side of the road (cutting the corner) and also many cars who drive too fast or both. Even driving slowly I still have experienced near misses.

Delivery lorries,builders lorries, large trade vans and couriers are more frequent these days and are forced to drive partly on the wrong side round the bend. I was forced into the hedge by a Sainsbury delivery truck. I phoned the company who identified the driver. He admitted that it was his fault but said the shape of the road and the drives , plus the trees and hedges made it extremely difficult to stay in the left hand lane.

Amazingly people sometimes park on the bends or the lead up to them, or sometimes on the grass verge.,oblivious to the hazard they cause.

On several occasions I have had to break hard because of children playing in the road on the blind Side of the bend, and on occasion pedestrians and cyclists on the wrong side oblivious to the danger.

I find it astonishing that anyone could consider increasing the volume of traffic and making an already dangerous bend worse!



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Description of the incident witnessed or experienced on Lower Road

I was driving home on a weekday afternoon, coming down Brookside Road, turning into Lower Road. On rounding the blind bend outside The Elms, I immediately came up behind 2 pedestrians strolling south along Lower Road in the road. They had their backs to oncoming traffic, so could not see me approach them suddenly. Had I not been driving carefully at less than 20 mph, I would have collided with them both. Fortunately, I stopped just in time and waited until they had crossed the road to the pavement. It was also fortunate that there was not another vehicle approaching from the other direction at the same time or the pedestrians could have leapt into the path of the other vehicle.

This was not the first time I have encountered pedestrians in the road, ~~in~~ out of sight of oncoming traffic as they round the blind bend.

Description of the incident witnessed or experienced on Lower Road

I was driving in a southerly direction en-route home, entering the first of the double blind bends when I was confronted by a young male cyclist approx. 10 years old riding in the middle of the road coming towards me, as there is no cycle or pedestrian alternative nor is there space to install one.

Due to my quick reflexes I narrowly avoided a potentially serious injury to the child who, by the way, was not accompanied by an adult.

This incident occurred last year during day-light hours.

I have lived at the a/m address since 03-93. Over the past 25 years, I have had many near misses on both of the blind double bends. This is due to the fact that I never drive above 5/8 mile per hour around these bends. My near misses have been caused both cars and cars driving too fast and on the wrong side of the road. Most recently in March 2018, a young man (this 20s) driving too fast in a red FIESTA had to brake quickly to avoid a head-on collision.

Description of the incident witnessed or experienced on Lower Road

My daughter + I were weeding the front rockery.
As there is no pavement in front of the property we
were having to stand in the road.
4 boys in their early teens came riding round
the corner 4 abreast on push bikes + doing
'wheelies' completely oblivious to any danger.
When a lady, who I believe lives in Lodge Road,
drove round the corner + had to do an emergency
stop in order to avoid hitting them.
She later walked by us, as we were still gardening
+ stopped to talk to us about the incident as she
was obviously shaken up.

Description of the incident witnessed or experienced on Lower Road

As a Lodge Road resident of Old Bexhampton for 30+ years I am fully aware of the dangerous blind bends in Lower Road and always drive with extreme care. I have had to take immediate action to avoid accidents many times.

25/5/18 — driving round the blind bends I was not by 3 boys on bikes, no hands, riding across the road towards me. If I had not been driving slowly and if another vehicle had been behind me when I braked sharply there would have been a serious accident.

29/5/18 — I was driving down Brookside then turned right into Lower Road approaching the bends slowly. I had to make an emergency stop outside the white bungalow as a blue Mini was coming towards me on my side. The driver was avoiding a dog walker in part of his own lane — there is no pavement for pedestrians on this section of Lower Road.

Description of the incident witnessed or experienced on Lower Road

We were coming out of our drive at approximately 2pm. Seen a white van (unmarked) came round the corner of Lower Road on the wrong side of the road. This was immediately followed by a red car and they appeared to be having a race.

This is not an unusual occurrence as there are too many incidents like this and that it is only a matter of time before someone drives into our car.

We are always very cautious coming out of our drive but the traffic has definitely increased over the last 5 years.

Description of the incident witnessed or experienced on Lower Road

I was driving back to my house in Lodge Road when on the dangerous bend in Lower Road I was confronted with 3 cyclists across the road, none of them had their hands on the handle bars and one was doing a wheelie. I slammed my brakes on, fortunately I had no one else in the car and was driving slowly. The cyclist drove past me unaware they had nearly caused an accident probably thinking as many cyclist do that the Lower Road is part of Broadmarsh cycle track. [REDACTED] I arrived home very shaken and this is not the first time this kind of event has occurred.



Description of the incident witnessed or experienced on Lower Road

Incident 1 Middle of the day travelling out of Lower Road during the Summer: as I passed in front of The Elm and round the corner I was faced with a white van on my side of the road travelling at speed. The only way for me to avoid head on contact was for me to mount the verge as the van passed. The driver was avoiding a group of pedestrians entering Lower Road on the south side of the carriageway.

Incident 2 Middle of the day entering Lower Road (Feb/Mar 2018) as I got close to the first bend I was faced with a large blue painted van straggling the centre of the carriageway. My only option was to brake hard and push my nearside wing mirror into the hedging of Orchard Cottage. The driver was avoiding a dog walker with a young dalmatian. The dog was proving troublesome circling the walker outside the entrance to The Elm and the adjacent bungalow and may have 'bounced' onto the carriageway. Once the dog settled the driver manoeuvred around me. No damage apart from scratches on the mirror casing was done.

40 years of use of the bends has meant having many experiences of potential dangers and a natural tendency to proceed with caution. These include groups of cyclists and groups of ramblers filling the road, young cyclists riding with no hands, a mobility scooter on the inside of the bend, cars regularly avoid the large puddle that forms opposite 'Longon' which means exiting the bends on the wrong side of the road.

Description of the incident witnessed or experienced on Lower Road

On driving from my house along Lower Road, I approached the left hand bend round to No 12, when another vehicle approached the corner at the same time. Although the other vehicle was a small family car the driver took a line across the bend cutting off the corner, even though they could see me approaching. Had I not braked sharply to a halt, I would have hit either the oncoming car or the steep concrete curb-stones on the left hand side of the road, along the inner corner.

Description of the incident witnessed or experienced on Lower Road

My husband was hit by a wing mirror of a car crossing Lower Road to go to Dibley Park.

I have also had near misses when cars have come towards me in the middle of the road, and I have had to back!

Also cars have had to stop for us where there is no footpath, because of overtaking from other cars.

I am the daughter of above, and regularly visit my parents from Salisbury. I have had a number of minor incidents/near misses over the last few years. On one occasion my nephew was hit, as the other car came into the middle of the road. It is also very dangerous to cross the road from Dibley Park and a crossing would be required if more traffic.

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Date: 10 July 2018 at 16:58:31 BST

To: bedhamptonvillage@gmail.com

Subject: Near Miss

Hi Guys

I don't know if you are still counting near misses but if so please log one for today!

4.30pm, came around bend (in car) just by The Lodge to meet 3 lads bombing along on the road using push scooters. Aged 6-11 approx. The last two were on the wrong side of the road. We always crawl around that corner so we're able to stop in time but had we been going at the speed of some vehicles we see coming round there, it could have been very nasty indeed.

Thanks

[REDACTED]