

Background to establishment of Working Group

Previous Transport, Road Safety and Traffic Issues considered by the Parish Council

Wickhambrook Parish Council carried out a detailed survey of parishioner's views relating to transport and traffic issues in the village as part of its Parish Plan, and responses are detailed in the Parish Plan 2011- 2012 Final Report (pages 27-29) which has been published on-line at <https://www.wickhambrook.org/wp-content/uploads/Wickhambrook-Final-Report-Online.pdf>.

In 2015, a Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) Unit was kindly funded by Cllr Mary Evans from her locality budget. Joint meetings with surrounding parishes took place to finalise which villages would share equipment, standardise usage and how best to collectively use the data. Agreement was reached that Wickhambrook and Lidgate would share the unit on a month by month basis. Five VAS Sites were approved by SCC for Wickhambrook; two in Ashfield Green and three on the B1063.

A data format was submitted on behalf of the PC and agreed with Suffolk Police, with agreement that the stats would be forwarded to Suffolk Police. Police enforcement is determined by Suffolk Police on a strategic basis using available resources. Police Enforcement camera vehicles are evident within the Parish, and prosecution numbers are passed on to the PC.

Community Speedwatch

In April 2017 representations were made by parishioners who were keen that a community speed watch scheme be established. The schemes are prescriptive and subject to strict rules of operation

- *There must be a minimum of six volunteers in each CSW scheme.*
- *Speed checks must be conducted by at least three volunteers.*
- *Volunteers must be over 18 years of age.*
- *Each CSW scheme must have a co-ordinator and where possible, a deputy, responsible for the equipment and administration.*
- *The Parish (or local) Council must support the scheme.*
- *Volunteers will be required to sign a CSW agreement.*
- *The locations for monitoring are chosen by the scheme; however risk assessments will be carried out by a trained police officer, who will approve the nearest safe site. In some circumstances a site may not be deemed safe enough to conduct CSW.*
- *Training for volunteers will include use of the equipment, and health and safety issues.*
- *The cost of training volunteers, risk assessing potential sites, and ongoing administration is borne by Suffolk Police.*
- *However, the cost of speed detection equipment, portable signs and reflective jackets will NOT be met by Suffolk Police.*
- *Volunteers will be covered by the Constabulary's insurance, although parishes are advised to notify their insurer of their CSW scheme. Source: Suffolk Police*

Individuals who had showed an interest in such a scheme were contacted but this did not result in enough support to establish one.

Vehicle Activated Signs

The Parish Council considered this issue at length and in May '17 determined instead to invest a sum of money (£2,600) to purchase a VAS Unit in its own right. This unit includes a "Slow Down" message, and available for use solely by the Parish Council at three sites on the B1063, Bunters Rd; outside the School; and on Shop Hill.

In November 2017, the Parish Council agreed an application for two further VAS sites, in Boyden Lane and Cemetery Road. A Site Suitability Survey has been undertaken, the application has been agreed and installation of the Poles is awaited. Data from these additional VAS sites will be provided to Suffolk Police under existing arrangements as soon as they become operational.

In August 2018 Suffolk County Council funded and has provided six 'Kill Your Speed' signs to be used in conjunction with the VAS Unit(s) when sited.

Police advised that for the 9 month period (1st July 2017 to 31st March 2018) there were 30 prosecutions on B1063 / A143 / C659, against a total of 508 prosecutions for the 32 town/parishes in Haverhill and surrounding areas and in response to a request from the Parish Council following the accident, Suffolk Police were able to provide a more detailed breakdown of the prosecutions, as set out below:

- B1063 Bunters Road – 12;
- B1063 Shop Hill - 7; and
- C659 Ashfield Green 11

Response to Road Traffic Accident

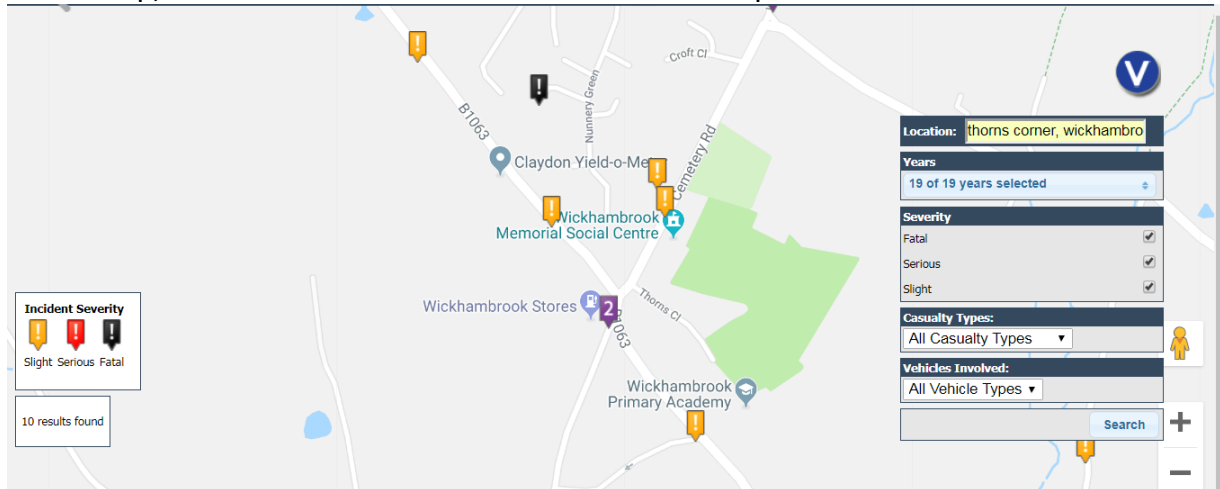
In September 2018 correspondence was received from a local resident concerning a recent RTA involving his daughter (who subsequently made a good recovery) at Thorns Corner on the afternoon of 4th September 2018.

Suffolk County Council Highways, as the body responsible for traffic calming measures, has an on-line reporting tool which enables members of the public to submit requests for traffic calming measures and report traffic incidents <https://highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk/>

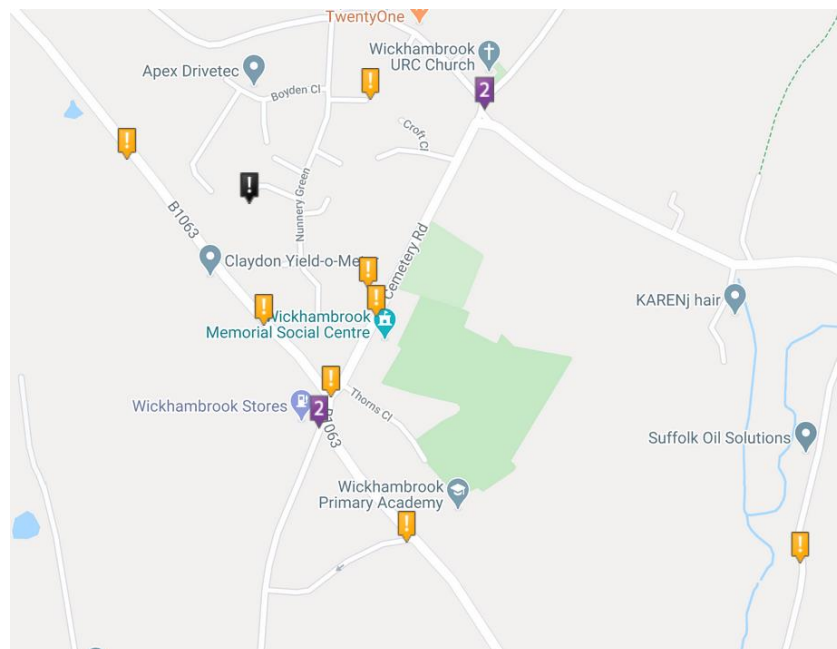
Using the SCC Highways reporting tool, a summary of the incident reports recorded in Wickhambrook to September 2018 is shown below.



Another source of information can be found on CrashMapp. Basic information is published to this map, and further details can be searched on a fee per search basis.



The data was re-checked in February 2020 and shows no change in reported incidents:



The Parish Council authorised funds to cover the cost of requesting traffic data from (SCC) Highways and more detailed accident data from CrashMapp. Data sets from SCC and CrashMapp (**Appendices 1 & 2 refer**) were obtained. Further information on collision data from SCC Highways was available at an additional cost. Ongoing data sets from the Parish Council's VAS machine are reported monthly.

In October a proposal to investigate access to land for parking as school drop off/pick up zone to the rear of the school on land which forms part of Six Acres (egress onto Cemetery Road) was submitted by Cllr Claydon. Concerns were raised about possible safety issues and the need for Suffolk County Council (SCC) Highways to support any proposal. Councillors considered a range of options along similar lines that might be explored in future. Further enquiries were made of SCC Highways on the Parish Council's behalf by Cllr Mary Evans, who held the portfolio for Highways at Suffolk County Council. Cllr Evans asked for a highways officer to come out to the village to consider options.

In November it was reported that information available from the Council's subscription to Crash-Mapp revealed that only four accidents had been recorded over the past 10 years on the B1063 from the village towards Stradishall. The meeting noted that the reports were minor in the context of the volume of traffic and speeds vehicles were travelling at. In view of this, the Parish Council took the view that that it was unlikely that further information would be gained from SCC Collision data. At this meeting a request was made by a parishioner for consideration to be given to traffic calming measures on the B1063 adjacent to Wickhambrook Primary Academy. The meeting considered a parents parking survey in order to gain a better understanding of the issues relating to Wickhambrook Primary Academy and Cllr Evans reported that she would be willing to help with this.

In January 2019 a parishioner referred to an accident (November '18) which had involved a lorry and 3 cars on the A143 near to Wickhambrook Primary Academy to illustrate pressure of road traffic on parking at times when parents were dropping off or collecting children. It was acknowledged that parking and speeding near the school had been identified as an ongoing issue by the Parish Council and Cllr Couzens reported that Cllrs had met with Mike Mottram, of SCC Highways in December to identify new approaches to traffic calming.

Suffolk County Council Highways

At their meeting with SCC Highways in December '18 Cllrs Barton and Couzens had made it clear to Mr Mottram that using the residential road at Thorns Corner as a relief road would not be a feasible option. The Highways team said that they would report back to the Parish Council with ideas and would also approach the school to look at ways of introducing incentives to discourage parking and speeding.

SCC Highways suggested a buildout to slow traffic in the road adjacent to the school, but there were concerns that given the existing width of the highway at this point, and the pressure of parking for parents to drop off and pick up children at the school, this would not be an appropriate option.

A visual survey of the road adjacent to the school recorded between 40 – 45 vehicles parking at school drop off and pick up times. There is currently parking available at Memorial Social Centre for 43 vehicles (excluding disabled spaces).

Cllr Evans also reported that following a catch up with the Road Safety Team after their meeting with Parish Cllrs on site in December, it had been agreed that the team would go back to the school with proposals for a walking bus and incentives for parents, which had been successful in other schools in Suffolk. Mr Mottram of the SCC Road Safety Team that Wickhambrook had not been classified as a dangerous area for speeding as a village. It was not possible to install a pedestrian crossing at the shop opposite Thorns Corner due to the junction of roads.

In April, the Clerk reported the following progress advised by SCC Road-safe Officers

- The incidents in 2018 had been considered and SCC officers had agreed that there was no obvious engineering solution to local concerns

- Mike Motteram had asked a colleague to approach the school again with a view to working with the Road Safety Team and the Parish Council to encourage sustainable and healthy travel
- Cllr Jolland reported that the head teacher had explained that the school did not have the resources to man the gate to effect a diversion of children from the main road
- The Clerk reported that SCC had advised that the S.106 funding from the Cemetery Road development would be used to engineer a new footpath from the development to the Memorial Social Centre and that no funds would be available to develop solutions to the speed/weight of traffic on the B1063 at school access and egress times. Cllr Evans asked the Clerk to forward copies of e-mails about the s.106 funding to her to look into, together with further information on the school cycle bus.

A Focus on Road Safety and Traffic Congestion in the area of Wickhambrook Primary Academy

In June, Cllr Evans (SCC) reported the excellent work of Wickhambrook Primary Academy Junior Road Safety Team who had won a Gold award for their project. The Parish Council was asked by the Headteacher of the school to consider what assistance could be offered to help introduce a road safety training scheme on the by road adjacent to the school leading to its carpark at the rear.

The Parish Council acknowledges that finding a solution to the issue of parking when parents/guardians are dropping off and collecting their children from the school could make a significant contribution not only to the safety of school children, their health and well being, and also a likely reduction in road congestion on the B1063 in the vicinity of the school and shop hill during these periods.

The School and its children are engaged in trying to reach a solution, and Cllr Evans has offered considerable support in raising the Parish Council's concerns.

The Parish Council recognises that this is an area of work in which it is important to be able to engage fully with stakeholders (Wickhambrook Primary Academy teachers, governors and parents); Suffolk County Council, West Suffolk Council (localities and communities); and local residents.

In order to be able to reach and work more effectively with stakeholders, and allow sufficient time to develop and fully explore options which the Parish Council and other local authorities may be able to support and act upon, Councillors determined in August that the best option would be to separate this work from the ordinary meetings of the Parish Council, by setting up a working group.

Minute History of Actions relating to road safety and traffic calming in Wickhambrook.

September '18

18.09.07 **Noted:**

The Parish Council considered its response to a recent Road Traffic collision and request for consideration of traffic calming measures in response to recent road traffic accident at Thorns Corner, Wickhambrook (circulated) and to take action as appropriate.

7.1 Resolved:

That funds up to £15 be authorised to subscribe to CrashMap in order to obtain more in-depth information about previous RTA's recorded in Wickhambrook

7.2 Resolved:

That funds £40 + VAT be authorised to request a detailed traffic survey data from Suffolk County Council for relating to volume and speed of traffic through Wickhambrook between 2008 and 2018.

October '18

18.10.09 **Noted:**

9.2 That the Clerk had subscribed to CrashMap in order to obtain more in-depth information about previous RTA's recorded in Wickhambrook (Minute No 18.9.7.1 refers).

9.3 That detailed traffic survey data relating to volume and speed of traffic through Wickhambrook between 2008 and 2018 had been requested of Suffolk County Council Highways (Minute No 18.9.7.2 refers). The meeting agreed that this matter be added to the next agenda as the Clerk had been advised by Suffolk County Council Highways that there were additional costs for one set of data the Parish Council had requested.

18.10.17 **Noted:**

That a proposal to investigate access to land for parking as school drop off/pick up zone to the rear of the school on land which forms part of Six Acres (egress onto Cemetery Road) had been made by Cllr Claydon. Concerns were raised about possible safety issues and the need for Suffolk County Council (SCC) Highways to support any proposal. Councillors considered a range of options along similar lines that might be explored in future and the meeting agreed that Cllr Couzens would contact Suffolk County Cllr Mary Evans, who held the portfolio for highways, to ascertain the support SCC Highways could offer to the proposal.

November '18

18.11.07 Noted:

7.2 That the Clerk had subscribed to CrashMapp in order to obtain more in-depth information about previous RTA's recorded in Wickhambrook (Minute No 18.9.7.1 referred). Only four accidents had been recorded over the past 10 years on the B1063 from the village towards Stradishall. The meeting noted that the reports were minor in the context of the volume of traffic and speeds vehicles were travelling at. Detailed summary reports had been downloaded and circulated.

7.3 That detailed traffic survey data relating to volume and speed of traffic through Wickhambrook between 2008 and 2018 was requested of Suffolk County Council Highways (Minute No 18.9.7.2 referred). Only one set of data

(*circulated*), relating to traffic speeds in May 2016 was available, at a cost of £41.40

7.4 That SCC Highways had advised that the cost of supply of collision data relating to accidents in Wickhambrook (police reference, manoeuvre, road surface and times of collision) would cost £70 plus VAT. Data was held up to August 2018.

7.5 The meeting determined that data downloaded from CrashMap indicated clearly the nature of the collisions, speed and outcome and that it was unlikely that further information would be gained from SCC Collision data. The Proposal to authorise the cost of requesting further data from SCC Highways was not moved.

7.6 That a request from a member of the public for consideration to be given to traffic calming measures on the B1063 adjacent to Wickhambrook Primary Academy (*circulated*). The meeting considered a parents parking survey in order to gain a better understanding of the issues relating to Wickhambrook Primary Academy and Cllr Evans reported that she would be willing to help with this. The meeting agreed to continue to monitor the situation and asked the Clerk to write thanking the resident and advise that the Parish Council would contact her again once a course of action had been determined.

January '19

19.01.05 **Open Session: 7:45pm**

Noted:

That when public comment or question on any Agenda item was invited, the following: Mr Norton referred to the recent accident (November '18 which had involved a lorry and 3 cars on the A143 near to Wickhambrook Primary Academy to illustrate pressure of road traffic on parking at times when parents were dropping off or collecting children.

Mr Norton asked that the School advise parents and other attending Wickhambrook Primary Academy that the residential road at Thorns Corner should not be used for parking. Additional parking there had caused problems with damage to gardens and a further wear on the un-metalled adopted road which was already in poor condition with pot holes, and required re-surfacing. Cllr Jolland advised that the Head teacher does communicate to parents regularly about this issue.

Cllr Couzens acknowledged that parking and speeding near the school had been identified as an ongoing issue by the Parish Council and that it was working closely with SC Cllr Mary Evans (with portfolio for Highways) and the highways team to identify ways of resolving this. Cllrs Couzens and Barton had met with Mike Mottram, of SCC Highways in December to identify new approaches to traffic calming. At this meeting Cllrs Barton and Couzens had made it clear to Mr Mottram that using the residential road at Thorns Corner as a relief road would not be a feasible option. The Highways team would be reporting back to the Parish Council with ideas, and would also be approaching the school to look at ways of introducing incentives to discourage parking and speeding.

6.2 Cllr Evans had advised that she may be late. The meeting agreed to delay this item on the agenda until her arrival. On arrival (at 7.1 on the agenda), an oral report advising that:

- Following a catch up with the Road Safety Team after their meeting with Parish Cllrs on site in December, it had been agreed that the team would go back to the school with proposals for a walking bus and incentives for parents, which had been successful in other schools in Suffolk.

- A meeting with Suffolk Constabulary had been scheduled in early February to consider road safety and speed enforcement policy. The Police had been trialling an ANPR scheme in the north of the County and targeted resources to speeding enforcement in the first 3 weeks of 2019, recognising that it was an issue that affected quality of life in villages.

19.01.07 **Noted:**

7.2 That Cllrs Barton and Couzens had met with Mr Mottram of the SCC Road Safety Team in December. Mr Mottram had reported that Wickhambrook had not been classified as a dangerous area for speeding as a village. It was not possible to install a pedestrian crossing at the shop opposite Thorns Corner due to the junction of roads. The team would explore a walking bus and incentives for parent as an option and report back to the Parish Council.

February '19

19.02.07 **Noted:**

7.2 Progress following December meeting with Highways Safety Team - that this item be moved forward to the March meeting. Awaiting feedback from Mike Mottram at Suffolk County Council.

March '19

19.03.07 **Noted:**

7.2 Cllr Paul Couzens reported that nothing further had been heard from the Suffolk County Council Highways Safety Team following their meeting in December. The meeting asked the Clerk to write asking for an update to progress.

April '19

19.04.07 **Noted:**

7.2 The Clerk reported the following progress advised by SCC Road-safe Officers

- The incidents in 2018 had been considered and SCC officers had agreed that there was no obvious engineering solution to local concerns
- Mike Motteram had asked a colleague to approach the school again with a view to working with the Road Safety Team and the Parish Council to encourage sustainable and healthy travel
- Cllr Jolland reported that the head teacher had explained that the school did not have the resources to man the gate to effect a diversion of children from the main road
- The Clerk reported that SCC had advised that the S.106 funding from the Cemetery Road development would be used to engineer a new footpath from the development to the Memorial Social Centre and that no funds would be available to develop solutions to the speed/weight of traffic on the B1063 at school access and egress times.
- Cllr Evans asked the Clerk to forward copies of e-mails about the s.106 funding to her to look into, together with further information on the school cycle bus.

June '19

19.06.06 **Noted:**

6.1 An oral report from Cllr Mary Evans noting:

- The excellent work of Wickhambrook Primary Academy Junior Road Safety Team who won a Gold award for their project. The meeting asked the Clerk to ensure that an item recognising their work and award be included in "The Scene" and on the Parish Website. The Parish Council was asked to consider what assistance could be offered to help introduce a road

safety training scheme on the by road adjacent to the school leading to its carpark at the rear.

July '19

19.07.07 **Noted:**

- 7.2 A written report Updating on parking issues in vicinity of Wickhambrook Primary Academy (**WPC19.07.01**, *circulated*). The meeting noted in discussion that build-outs as a means of reducing vehicular speed very often resulted in more traffic congestion. The meeting considered the options available and agreed to establish a Working Group to include number of Councillors, together with representatives from (but not limited to)
- Suffolk County Council
 - West Suffolk Council (Localities and Communities)
 - Wickhambrook Primary Academy (parents, teachers and governors).
- The meeting asked the Clerk to prepare a flyer to be circulated to school parents and an item for "The Scene" encouraging people with an interest to contact the Clerk about participating in a working Group. The meeting agreed that the formal constitution of a working group would be established at the August meeting, in advance of any expressions of interest from parishioners and stakeholders.

August '19

19.08.07 **Noted:**

7.2

7.2.1 A written report updating on parking issues in vicinity of Wickhambrook Primary Academy (**WPC19.08.01**, *circulated*).

7.2.2 **Resolved**

To establish a working group to research and consider viable options for resolving access and congestion issues in the vicinity of Wickhambrook Primary Academy.

The meeting further asked the Clerk to write to Wickhambrook Primary Academy, Suffolk County Council, West Suffolk Council, Logan Homes and the Memorial Social Centre inviting participation in the group. Cllrs C Townsend and J Norton volunteered their time.

September '19

19.09.08 8.2 Update on the establishment of a Working Group to research and consider viable options for resolving access and congestion issues in the vicinity of Wickhambrook Primary Academy. The Clerk confirmed actions from the last meeting were underway. The meeting considered plans of the area between Wickhambrook Primary Academy and the Memorial Social Centre and asked the Clerk to circulate copies to all Councillors and seek to clarify the extent of registration of parish land at Six Acres.

October '19

19.10.07 **Noted:**

7.2 Update on the establishment of a Working Group to research and consider viable options for resolving access and congestion issues in the vicinity of Wickhambrook Primary Academy. The Scene having just been published, no expressions of interest had been received at the time of the meeting.

November '19

19.11.07 **Noted:**

7.2 the Clerk had scheduled a meeting with Cllr Thwaite for early December with respect to the establishment of a Working Group to research and consider viable options for resolving access and congestion issues in the vicinity of Wickhambrook Primary Academy. The Clerk reported that there had been no uptake or interest expressed in participating from coverage to date. The meeting considered what more could be done to engage with residents and asked the Clerk to draft flyers for distribution early in the New Year, printing costs anticipated in the region of £100 plus VAT.

January '19

20.01.07 **Noted:**

7.2 the Clerk had scheduled a meeting with Cllr Thwaite for early December with respect to the establishment of a Working Group to research and consider viable options for resolving access and congestion issues in the vicinity of Wickhambrook Primary Academy. The Clerk reported that there had been no uptake or interest expressed in participating from coverage to date. The meeting considered what more could be done to engage with residents and Cllr Thwaite kindly offered to work with the Clerk to produce an item for circulation in "The Scene", and additionally produce information for the Website, Facebook Community Page and the printing of up to 500 flyers to be circulated throughout the village.