

Road safety campaign report for the PC meeting May 2021

Apologies for not being able to attend this week but I am in Scotland with my mum for part of the week and then exploring the Highlands for a few days.

Here is an update on where we are with the Road safety campaign:

1. Hilary and I have had a meeting with Jon Eaton to explore how we engage with the community on all of the ideas we have had so far for the road safety campaign and to understand how we would progress an application for a grant. You may remember from previous reports we have a few elements to this:
 - a) **Road safety poster campaign.**
 - b) **Engage with highways to look at the potential for a roundabout/road crossing or other traffic slowing model.**
 - c) **Create a well-lit cycle path**/walking path from the village hall car park to the school and a cycle path from Coltsfoot up to recreation ground.
 - d) **Improve the skate park**
 - e) **Create additional parking** if possible, – location to be discussed more fully in due course
 - f) We also wanted to look at **the issue of the school swimming pool** as it is sitting not being used due to disrepair and the lack of funds to bring it back to use.

Here are the actions so far:

- a) **Road safety poster campaign** – now completed and winners have been selected. The school has been paid the £200 for the prize money and to help fund a leaflet for all entries. The winners posters will go up around the village in various locations over the next week or so. We hope to also get all entries on to the Wickhambrook website and into the Wickhambrook FB page.
- b) **Road safety – highways engagement** – we are still waiting on highways meeting us to look at the potential for a crossing/roundabout or something to help slow the traffic coming along Bunters road, past the school and down Shop Hill.
- c) **Create a well-lit cycle path** – This will be part of our grant application – however, Jon has explained that before we can apply for any grants we need to engage with the whole village and get support for these suggestions. The additional parking can be part of this grant once agreed. We (the village) would also need to show some sort of commitment and raise some funds to go towards the project. **See point below re first steps to engage community.**

- d) **Improve the skate park** – Not part of the grant application. We are awaiting quotes to have the proposed graffiti wall repaired but once this has been done, we have to link in with Lizzie Cocher re a project they did at Morton Hall. They engaged a graffiti artist and young people locally to create a graffiti wall. The suggestion is that we do a similar thing (link in with Roger Merry) and would also like to talk to the upper classes in the school re engaging them too.
- e) **Disused School swimming pool** – It was suggested by Jon that there are grants available which would help to repair the swimming pool and make it fit for use by the pupils. However, the school would need to agree to make the pool a community asset for all to use. For example, young mother mornings or over 70's sessions, junior swimming club etc – when the school weren't using the pool. I have emailed SALC to find out the first steps of how we make the pool a community asset before we approach the school with the idea. It would certainly be welcomed, I am sure by the community and school alike and help with the health and well-being of the children. So, this is not part of our road safety grant application and sits as a separate project.
- f) **Grants** – Hilary and I have to speak to Jacinda at CAS for further funding conversations.

First steps towards engaging the community

It is proposed that we have an open day in the village hall on July 3rd. On this day, it is our intention to display all of the children's road safety posters. We would also intend to give villagers information on the road safety campaign elements and ask for support to these. E.g cycle path, parking etc.

We would hope to get volunteers from the village to help with grant application/fund raising elements and really engage the village in shaping how we want things to improve for the school children's health and well-being and road safety. If we don't get any support then we know there is no point in pursuing things any further.

On this day it is also the intention to highlight our other projects – Housing needs survey and Neighbourhood plan - again engaging village support for each of these. Getting villagers to sign up to support these projects. It would be the intention for all PC's to help out on the day which would run from around 10am to 4pm and we could provide information, leaflets, have posters/flipcharts with information on and use the television, for example, to play information from SALC etc

I have asked the MSC if we can use the hall for free on July 3rd and have asked for the trustees support.

Cllr Sandy Thwaite
April 2021