

Possible Funding for Joint Traffic Regulation Order on A143

The Parish Council has dealt with a number of complaints from residents in Wickham Street relating to the speed of vehicles through the hamlet (there is currently a 40mph speed restriction in place), and their concerns about

- the risk of accidents during heavy rain (there have been a number of instances of aquaplaning reported)
- risks to pedestrians attempting to cross to and from the bus stop (used by school children) and
- the impact of vehicle spray on residential property elevations

Residents concerns have been reported to SCC highways through their online reporting tool, both by the clerk and residents. Highways are now looking at drainage issues.

At the Parish Council's July meeting, (**Min.20.07.7.3 refers**) Cllr Mary Evans advised that there had also been two fatalities in the past year further down the road. She advised that should the parish wish SCC Highways to undertake a survey of that location to generate the evidence needed to support an application to reduce the speed limit to 30mph, she would fund the full £1000 to undertake the survey, and then would look to the parish to fund the cost of any traffic regulation order to be put in place (Cllr Evans has advised that this is likely to be £5,000 (due to legal fees and the cost of advertising)).

The Clerk has applied to Cllr Evans for a locality grant to cover the cost of the initial survey.

Following further research into Traffic Regulation Orders, Cllr Evans has written to both Wickhambrook and Stradishall Parish Council (Appendix A refers) to propose that a joint TRO for both stretches of the A143, in order to save costs, and the Safety and Speed Management Team is supportive of this approach.

The Clerk has approached the Clerk of Stradishall Parish Council, who has advised that Stradishall Councillors supported the idea in principal but would need to make a formal decision at their next meeting on 2nd November.

Any costs relating to the Traffic Regulation Order are likely to fall in the next financial year. The parish council currently has £2750 in earmarked reserves allocated to highways, which would be sufficient to cover a 50% contribution to the cost of the TRO if it were to be shared with Stradishall.

The Parish Council has the power to undertake shared projects with other authorities under

Recommendation:

The parish council allocate £2500 from existing earmarked funds to contribute to the cost of a Traffic Regulation Order to reduce the speed limit from 40mph to 30mph in Wickham Street, if supported by sufficient evidence from the Traffic Survey.