

## Road Safety Update

Hilary has been working behind the scenes and been in contact with SC Cllr Bobby Bennett and SCC Neighbourhood Planning regarding the road safety and speeding issues trying to progress some action. As a result of this, here is a summary of progress made:

- Responses from SCC Road Safe team have suggested that they consider there are no viable road layout solutions to reduce speeding through the village past the school (despite VAS data having been supplied to them to support our case). Additionally they have advised that implementing an enforceable 20mph zone in the vicinity of the school is not an option as the highway layout does not meet the criteria. However, they have suggested that a week-long traffic and speed survey could be carried out if we agree to pay the costs of this – which is £365<sup>1</sup>.
  - **I propose that we agree this tonight. It would be a very worthwhile and possibly revealing survey outlining exactly how quickly traffic, throughout the day, is passing along Bunters Road and down Shop Hill.**
- SCC also asked if we had considered a community speed watch group - which we have discussed in the past but haven't explored further. We would need enough volunteers to resource this, and when this was previously considered there were insufficient volunteers to implement the scheme.
  - **Action: Check with other PC's to establish the work involved in setting up and supporting Community Speed Watch**
- SCC do not recommend speed bumps on a B road and say that rumble strips wear down quite quickly.
- Hilary has asked Cllr Bennett (5/1) that if it is felt that no engineered solutions to reduce speeding and improve road safety in the village are viable, that we would like a formal response from SCC Highways and the Road Safe team summarising the options they looked at and the reasons why they are not appropriate. We can then feed this back to the PC, Road Safety group and the wider community.

### Additional proposals:

- I suggest we reinstate the VAS machine (if possible) outside the school as this may act as a speeding deterrent.
- We are waiting on the ANPR project starting although have no specific date. Jonathan Shaw (ANPR officer) wrote to Hilary in November asking her to complete a proforma regarding locations through the village. This was quickly completed but have had no update as to when this will commence.
- Hilary has advised that Bury St Edmunds now have a Cycle Bus up and running on a voluntary basis. Hilary knows the lady who has set this up and we have agreed that a meeting with her to understand how she did it, how much it costs, where we get it from etc etc, would be good to pursue.
- Although the road safety group have also considered solutions to try to resolve parking outside the school and additional cycle paths etc – I feel we need to try to sort out the speeding issue in the first instance and then look at these other proposals further down the line.

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<sup>1</sup> Highways spending for the current financial year is £742.95 against a budget of £2750 (drawn down from reserves to fund a Road Traffic Order for Wickham Street (if sufficient evidence). Cllr Bennett has funded the survey in Wickham Street, although we do not have a start date. Therefore, the cost of a speed survey outside the school (£365.00) could be funded in the current financial year, with any underspend on that budget line being converted to earmarked reserves to be drawn on in the next financial year in the event there is evidence for a RTO in Wickham Street.

- Hilary has been in contact with other clerks to look at setting up a wider network of parishes to raise the profile of road safety and other highways issues with Suffolk County Council to achieve results with the help of District Councillors in West Suffolk.

Sandy Thwaite  
January 2022.