

Road Safety Working Group Update

The Road Safety Working Group was established in August 2019 (Min. Ref 19.08.7.2 refers).

At its January meeting, the parish council considered the two issues identified by the working group which I reported on, speeding and parking (Min.21.01.7.3).

Following on from this, the working group met again on 9th February and the points discussed and agreed are summarised below:

1. The poster campaign by the children in the school is well under way. It closed on 12th February and the Head Teacher, Hannah Tyzak and Luke Twentyman, a governor will forward images of the contributions for judging by the working group including Mary Evans. The group has agreed 7 first prizes and two runners up in each class, a total of 21 prizes, at a cost of £140.00. £10 for first and two runners up of £5.

Recommendation:

- **That Wickhambrook Parish Council donate £140.00 to Wickhambrook Academy for the purpose of purchasing prizes for the competition.**

The proposal is that the winning artwork be used for the production of posters to be displayed on signposts and notice boards around the village, getting the message out to road users to reduce speed. (for example, see below):



The contributions of runners up will be collated into a leaflet (to be produced by the school) to go out to parents, summarising the work of the group and engaging them further. Funds for the prize money and leaflets will be covered by the local organisations budget line, and for the signs/posters from the Safety & Security earmarked reserves.

Recommendation

- **That Wickhambrook Parish Council donate £60.00 to Wickhambrook Academy towards the production of a leaflet featuring the runner's up contributions.**
- **That Wickhambrook Parish Council authorise the cost of producing posters for display on noticeboards and signs around the village at a cost of not more than £560.00 plus VAT**

2. SPEEDING ISSUES

The working group has asked Cllr Mary Evans to arrange for a Suffolk County Council Highways Officer to meet members of the group to consider what options are available and would be effective in reducing the speed of vehicles on Shop Hill, including, but not restricted to:

- mini roundabouts
- pedestrian/pelican crossing at Thorns Corner
- Build outs at either end of the village
- Rumble strips or speed bumps (good support from the group).

The group would ideally like highways to report on all the engineered options available, costs, pros and cons with particular reference to the likely impact on agricultural traffic within the village centre.

Cllr Evans has advised that due to Coronavirus, the recent very wet weather and trying to complete work before the end of the financial year, Highways are currently fully committed on projects at present. She has further advised that there is a ANPR project on the B1063 scheduled to take place in February/March which is likely to include Shop Hill, and that she has registered an interest in Wickhambrook Parish Council being included in this project on its behalf.

Permanently situated VAS machines also received support. Cllr Barton has advised that whilst it is not possible to permanently situate VAS which collect data on speed, it would be possible to use the existing posts for permanent (or long term) deployment of Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs), which can be solar powered. There are a wide variety, for example:



Recommendation:

- **That Wickhambrook Parish Council consider the purchase of (3) Speed Indicator Devices at a cost of £ to enable increased messaging throughout the village about speed reduction.**

The working group was also supportive of proposals for a Community Speed Watch group. The clerk is following up on this with Community Action Suffolk and neighbouring parishes which do operate speed watch, but we would need to test this out and see who would be interested - for example by:

- A notice in the Scene (temporarily suspended) and on the Website;
- A leaflet to villagers – there would be a cost implication here in production (estimated at £80.00 based on last leaflet printed)

- Posters on noticeboards

3. **PARKING**

The land owned by Dave King next to the school not currently available to be used for parking, the group has considered the following options;

- improving the track down the side of the recreation ground to be used by cars** with a turning point at the bowling green - not welcomed. There is no natural 'out' at the bottom near the tennis courts and no room for two lanes at the side. Everyone felt that this was not a viable solution. MSC have been made aware of this suggestion and have reservations on this idea also. NOT SUPPORTED BY WORKING PARTY - for reasons stated above.
- improving the track down the side of the recreation ground to be used as a cycle track.** This suggestion was welcomed by all working party. Both the HT and Governors want to encourage children (and parents) to walk/cycle to school. In this age of obesity - walking/cycling, getting out in the fresh air and generally improving health is welcomed. The idea of a proper path incorporating a cycle path - well lit - for winter evenings was supported by everyone at the meeting.

There was also a suggestion that a National Lottery grant could support this. I have done some checks on how to apply for this and the PC can apply for this and it does fit into the category of improving social welfare. There is a website where you can email your idea and they will tell you if you would be eligible.

The group was also supportive of the suggestion to upgrade FP25 to a permissive cycle path between the school and Coltsfoot Green. The Clerk has done some initial research and upgrading the path using road plainings is likely to cost £1600 plus VAT for each 50 meters. This would be doubled if upgraded to type A plainings.



Establishing and upgrading a path from the school to the link to the Memorial Social Centre the edge of Six Acres and the Recreation Ground as below, could cost between £7 – 14,000.



Providing some low-level solar lighting could be feasible, for example:



London XT Solar Post lights currently cost £29.99 for a set of two with a 10 hour run time.

The group also considered and was supportive of creating more parking at the top of the recreation ground – as this land is owned by the Memorial Social Centre, this would require their support.

Wickhambrook Primary Academy advised the working group that use of ground at the rear of the school for parking is not possible. The school has 180 pupils and the teachers and governors consider it is important that children are able to use this ground for regular exercise, fresh air and general sports activities. The school has also explored what they do with their pool. This is currently in a state of disrepair with no funds available to bring it back into use (costs for repair are estimated at £30K).

Conclusion

It is likely that there is no one proposal which is going to provide an immediate solution to the issues of speeding and parking in the vicinity of the school. However, a combination of the following proposals:

- Possible engineering solutions to the road layout in the centre of the village
- Increased use of Speed Indicator Devices and messaging throughout the village
- Improving the footpath to Coltsfoot Green and establishing a new path to link up to the track leading to the MSC
- Making provision for additional parking at the MSC
- Possible support of a cycle bus with volunteers to link to the MSC car park for younger students

Would be likely to work in concert with each other to reduce speeding and improve parking options and access to the school in the short to medium term. There could also be beneficial effects on health and wellbeing for school children and their guardians.

Because many of the options will have cost implications, following discussions with the Clerk, the working group would like to consider grant funding that includes as many elements as possible, with a focus on health and well-being and for the benefit of the wider community/villagers. The clerk has suggested that a holistic approach to include upgrades to the skate park and games area, and bringing the pool back into use, be considered.

Because such a grant application would require considerable work and expertise, it would be advisable to work with Community Action Suffolk on identifying relevant grant funding and developing a bid (which may be to more than one grant funding organisation - match funding).

Recommendation

We agree to proceed with working with CAS to submit the relevant grant application.

DRAFT