

Road Safety Update

Further to the update provided at the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council (**WPC.23.05.05** and **Minute 23.05.20.4** refers), the parish council resolved to authorise a contribution of up to £500 (plus VAT if applicable) towards the upgrade of Footpath 25.

Suffolk County Councillor Bobby Bennett invited the parish council to apply for a locality grant in the sum of £1000 towards this work, which has been approved. The clerk has confirmed to Public Rights of Way that it wishes PROW to undertake the work, with thanks to Cllr Bennett. The PROW Officer is still trying to instruct a contractor for this work.

The parish council agreed in November '22 that Road Safety Issues would be further reviewed once Community Actions under the Neighbourhood Plan were drafted (**Min. 22.11.8.3r** refers), and the relevant draft Community Actions are set out at **Appendix A** for information and a more detailed report looking at these will be submitted in November.

An update of ongoing issues is set out at **Appendix B**

20's Plenty Campaign

The parish council has recently received correspondence from the 20's Plenty Campaign (attached as **Appendix C**) inviting parish councils to join its advocacy network and campaigning activities and to resolve a formal statement of intent:

20's Plenty for Suffolk is a campaign aiming to:

1. Achieve, a 20mph speed limit in all Suffolk communities, on roads where people and motor vehicles mix in residential areas and town and village centres.
2. Demonstrate, to Suffolk County Council, the desire across Suffolk for speed limit policy change to help communities achieve changes more easily, including to 20mph and on rural roads.

20's Plenty for Suffolk is supported by [20's Plenty for Us](#), a not-for-profit organisation working with counties across the UK. With their help, volunteers from the Suffolk Campaign are on hand to help local campaigns, by organising county-wide meetings, media presentations and meetings with councillors and council officers.

This campaign would underpin Community Action 4 – Traffic Management in the Draft Neighbourhood Plan (see Appendix A)

Recommendation:

Wickhambrook Parish Council

- a) supports the 20's Plenty for Suffolk Campaign aims for 20mph and a change to Suffolk's speed limit policy**
- b) calls on Suffolk County Council to implement 20mph in Wickhambrook**
- c) will write to Suffolk County Council to request 20mph on streets throughout Suffolk where vehicles and people mix, with 30mph as the exception on those roads only when the needs of vulnerable road users allow a higher limit.**

Community Action 3 – Highways maintenance

The Parish Council will work with landowners and parishioners to ensure that actions are taken to improve and maintain the quality of Wickhambrook's network of roads and lanes. Emphasis will be placed upon matters to include:

- getting pot holes filled and repaired
- clearing ditches and drains
- maintaining hedges and verges.

Rationale for Community Action 3:

In the village questionnaire of March 2022, the majority of respondents recorded concerns about roads. Wickhambrook residents want to see better maintenance of the road system – including mending of pot holes; better drainage and maintenance of ditches in order to address problems with surface water and flooding; improved access and safety on pavements and pathways; and better maintenance of verges and hedges.

Community Action 4 – Traffic Management

The Parish Council will work with Suffolk Highways to ensure that actions are taken to make Wickhambrook's roads and lanes safer for all users, to manage traffic and to tackle speeding and inconsiderate road use. Priority will be given in the work of the parish's road safety working group to issues that include:

- inhibiting the speed of vehicular traffic
- ensuring that pavements are wide enough and well-maintained
- improving safety at crossing points and junctions.

Rationale for Community Action 4:

In the village questionnaire of March 2022, 90% of respondents argued that village infrastructure should be improved before any new building takes place. The majority of these respondents listed roads as the chief concern. Further, the largest number of concerns expressed in the development proposals survey carried out in April 2023 were about road safety and traffic management issues. Respondents argue for improvements in road safety around the village, for example, by improving junctions, imposing speed limits and creating better and safer pathways.

Community Action 5 – Footpaths and Bridleways

The Parish Council will take actions to maintain and enhance the network of safe and waymarked footpaths, bridleways and cycle routes around Wickhambrook. The Parish Council will also seek to work with the County Highways Department and neighbouring Parish Councils to extend this network further afield in order to develop safe off-road connections with settlements such as Ousden, Lidgate, Cowlinge, Stradishall, Denston, Depden and Hargrave.

Rationale for Community Action 5:

In the village questionnaire of March 2022, 62% of respondents indicated that they walk around the village and 19% cycle. Many people argued that the pavements and paths around the village are in need of maintenance (with many pavements needing to be widened) and that the roads need improvements in terms of repairs to potholes; signage; and better and safer crossing points. In all, 83% of respondents were in favour of the creation and maintenance of better footpaths and quiet lanes to make it safer and easier to get around the village and the wider parish on foot and bicycle.

Updates to issues identified:

Wickham Street, 40mph review.

The clerk escalated this issue with the support of SC Cllr Bobby Bennett, and although considered again, the request for a reduction in the speed limit from 40mph to 30mph has been refused. The contractor for Anglian Water has this spring been obliged by SCC Highways to fund installation of markers for an extension of the 30mph zone at Chedburgh and Hargrave due to heavy plant machinery crossing the roads. The clerk has raised this with Cllr Bennett and asked that further consideration be given to a reduction of the speed limit at Wickham Street in the light of this.

Drainage at Nunnery Green.

Works to rod out the drains at Nunnery Green were completed in May '23. No further complaints have yet been received with respect to flooding, but there has been a very dry late spring and early summer.

Speeding at Boyden End/Nunnery Green

This has been raised a number of times, more recently following the installation of Quiet Lanes signage.

Although there is a record of a post having been installed for collection of VAS data at Nunnery Green, no data has been collected from this point, and there does not appear to be a post. The clerk will raise this with Suffolk County Council.

More recently, there has been some interest in Community Speed Watch (see Min. EO.23.07.03 – public forum). A poster was prepared inviting expressions of interest for the parish stand at the Fete and Flower Show, but no interest was recorded on the day. The clerk will invite a Community Speed Watch team to present at a future meeting of the parish council.

From: [Gareth](#)
Cc: 20splenty.suffolk@gmail.com
Subject: 20's Plenty for Suffolk Campaign
Date: 13 September 2023 14:01:54

FOR THE ATTENTION OF ALL PARISH COUNCILLORS

20's Plenty for Suffolk is a campaign aiming to:

1.

Achieve, a 20mph speed limit in all Suffolk communities, on roads where people and motor vehicles mix in residential areas and town and village centres.

2.

Demonstrate, to Suffolk County Council, the desire across Suffolk for speed limit policy change to help communities achieve changes more easily, including to 20mph and on rural roads.

20's Plenty for Suffolk is supported by [20's Plenty for Us](#), a not-for-profit organisation working with counties across the UK. With their help, volunteers from the Suffolk Campaign are on hand to help local campaigns, by organising county-wide meetings, media presentations and meetings with councillors and council officers.

In May 2023, **ALL** parish council clerks were emailed information about the start of the **20's Plenty for Suffolk Campaign**. Since then, we have run two well attended information webinars, and held our first campaign meeting. Over 40 towns and villages across Suffolk have started campaigns or strengthened existing campaigns. More have contacted the **20's Plenty for Suffolk** network for information.

Many parishes have discussed and voted on the **20's Plenty for Suffolk** motion:

(Name of parish or town council)

- a) supports the 20's Plenty for Suffolk Campaign aims for 20mph and a change to Suffolk's speed limit policy
- b) calls on Suffolk County Council to implement 20mph in (name of your place)
- c) will write to Suffolk County Council to request 20mph on streets throughout Suffolk where vehicles and people mix, with 30mph as the exception on those roads only when the needs of vulnerable road users allow a higher limit.

Support for the campaign is growing quickly—we wanted to write to you again. Our records show your parish has not yet contacted 20's Plenty for Suffolk. **We don't want any communities to feel left behind as the campaign gains momentum.**

The full **20's Plenty for Suffolk** parish briefing paper is attached to this email. This link will take you to the [20's Plenty for Suffolk Parish Campaign Materials](#).

Please alert ALL councillors to the campaign aims and urge them to make this an item on a future parish council agenda.

And if you have already started a campaign or passed the 20's Plenty Motion, but not made contact with 20's Plenty for Suffolk, then please do email and let us know what's happening. We are keeping a record of the progress parishes are making and are here to help.

If you have questions: contact: 20splenty.suffolk@gmail.com or your 20's Plenty Volunteer
Contact (the sender of this email) Gareth Davies 20's Plenty for Suffolk