

Traffic Working Group Report for Parish Annual Meeting 6th May 202

Withersfield 20 MPH Zone

The 20 MPH Zone for Withersfield Village although agreed by SCC in July 2020 has now been rejected by SSC and Suffolk Highways. Suffolk Highways have said they may relook at the proposal if further virtual traffic calming is put in place. This followed an on-sight meeting between our Chairman Terry Rich and Chris Oaks who led our Speed Watch team and two representatives from Suffolk Highways together with The Cabinet holder for Traffic on Suffolk County Council Paul West. Paul West made it clear that he was not in favour of 20 MPH Zones in general and in his opinion Withersfield did not need one and therefore it would not be implemented. The Highways officers indicated that some virtual traffic calming measure may be agreed.

Virtual Traffic Calming

The Parish Council have now agreed with Suffolk Highways to install Village Gates at all entrances to the village and to refresh the "SLOW" signs at the bend on Church Street. This will be funded partly by 106 monies from the new development at the Arboretum and Parish funds, some of which was donated by Friends of Withersfield for traffic calming and a legacy from a former villager.

Traffic Problems at the Arboretum

The Arboretum estate has been facing problems when exiting the estate from Three Counties Way onto the A1307. The reed beds are overgrown and causing difficulties to motorists. This stretch of road sees a lot of speeding vehicles making the turn out of the estate even more dangerous with the lack of visibility. The hedges/trees are also overgrown along the pavement and cycle way causing difficulty for pedestrians and cyclists next to speeding cars, and road signs are being obscured. The issue was reported online, a while ago, but the response was that the criteria hadn't been met for any action to be taken by Highways. This has been challenged and Cllr Bennett has reported the issues raised and asking for a further review.

Double Yellow Lines at Melbourne Bridge

After raising this issue with Bobby Bennett, the SCC has decided they do not believe it is necessary and they will not approve the work.

Speed Watch

Chris Oaks has decided to retire from Speed Watch and we therefore have no Speed Watch Team operating in Withersfield at the present time. The VAS unit is still available and if anyone is interested in taking over organising Speed Watch or the operation of the VAS unit please contact Frank Eve.

ANPR Camara Scheme

An ANPR device continues to operate on a rota basis in Withersfield. It identifies a speeding vehicle by capturing an image of the number plate of the vehicle. The data is shared with the Police and the County Council. The County Council writes to the owner of the vehicle on behalf of both parties explaining that their vehicle has been registered as speeding. Repeat offences at a particular location could prompt the deployment of SafeCam (the Police's enforcement team) and the issuing of fines to those who breach the speed limit. The Camara is in position for 7 days and returns on a rota basis. There are 10 camaras in all to share across Suffolk.

20's Plenty Campaign

The Parish Council and the TWG are supporting 20's Plenty. The supporting local councils that want 20mph in their community where people live, work and play. As the Highway Authority, Suffolk County Council sets local speed limits and erects signs and road features, such as 20mph roundels. Demonstrating widespread local community support for 20mph helps to persuade Suffolk County Council to implement it more widely and cost-effectively. If anyone would like to be involved contact Frank Eve.

Frank Eve

Vice Chairman Withersfield Parish Council

06/05/25