

## **Traffic Working Group**

### **Report for Parish Annual Meeting 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

The Traffic Working Group is made up of two members of Speed Watch and the Vice Chairman of the Parish Council. The Group was formed to find solutions to the increasing speeding and volume of traffic through our Parish. The Group works closely with the Villages Road Group which has been formed by a number of Parish Councils in the area. It includes Great Thurlow, Little Thurlow, Great Wrattling and Great Bradly. The purpose of this group is to work together on reducing speed and volume of traffic through our villages and bring to the attention of our elected representatives our common concerns about the problems faced by all villages and to deliver solutions where possible.

#### **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 every 3 months. There are 10 camaras in all to share across Suffolk.

#### **Project List for 2024:-**

##### **Withersfield 20 MPH Zone**

The 20 MPH Zone for the whole of Withersfield Village was agreed by SCC in July 2020 but has not progressed even after repeated representations from the Parish Council and our County Councillor Bobby Bennett. As a result of these representations an on-sight meeting was held between our Chairman Terry Rich and Chris Oaks who leads our Speed Watch team and two representatives from Suffolk Highways together with The Cabinet holder for Traffic on Suffolk County Council Richard Smith. Richard Smith made it clear that he was not in favour of 20 MPH Zones 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 but did not make any specific suggestions.

##### **Double Yellow Lines at Melbourne Bridge**

SCC has said they do not believe this is necessary and they will not fund the cost or approve the work. This issue will be raised again with Bobby Bennett.

##### **Traffic Problems on Three Counties Way**

The new development at the Arboretum will increase the traffic problems on Three Counties Way. This has been identified and discussed with Bobby Bennett and we have requested a traffic assessment at the junction of the Arboretum and Three Counties Way, to assess the impact on the junction of additional traffic from the new houses being built on the estate.

##### **20's Plenty Campaign**

The Parish Council and the TWG are supporting 20's Plenty. The campagne is 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. Counties in England such as Cornwall, Oxfordshire and Lancashire have agreed 20mph for every settlement, as have counties throughout Wales, with 20mph promised by the Scottish Government. In all of those places, 30mph is becoming the exception and will only be on roads that are demonstrably safe for all road users, particularly pedestrians, children and the elderly. Local support for this campaign is the only way we can change the attitude of Suffolk County Council. If anyone would like to be involved contact Frank Eve.

**Frank Eve**

**Vice Chairman Withersfield Parish Council**

**14/05/24**