

Traffic Working Group

Report for Parish Annual Meeting 16th May 2023

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. They have been working on the following projects:-

Completed Projects:-

40MPH Buffer Zones

This project was started July 2019 was funded by local and PC donation and has now been fully implemented. We have four buffer zones at the entrances of the villages.

- **Approved - July 2019**
- **Completed - January 2022**

Quiet Lanes Project – Wratting Road Withersfield

The Quiet Lanes Project was a Suffolk County Council initiative to identify suitable roads as Quiet Lanes. A Quiet Lane is a nationally recognised designation of single-track road to make it safer for people to use for cycling, walking and horse riding, by the erection of signs and publicity. Funded by SCC

- **Project - January 2021**
- **Consultation - March 2021**
- **Approval - April 2021**
- **Completed June 2022**

The signs have been erected and Withersfield road is now a “Quite Lane”.

ANPR Camara Scheme

An ANPR device 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.

Withersfield now has a camara installed on Withersfield Road was one of the first Parish Councils approved for the scheme.

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.

- **Applied 17th May 2021**
- **Approved 20th May 2021**
- **Completion 10th June 2022**

Project List for 2023:-

Withersfield 20 MPH Zone

The 20 MPH Zone for the whole of Withersfield Village was agreed by SCC in July 2020 but costs have escalated and we have been unable to agree the required type of traffic calming required with Suffolk Highways. We are working with Bobby Bennett our County Councillor and have written separately to Suffolk Highways to try to arrange a meeting to move this project forward.

- **Approved July 2020**
- **Completion TBA**

Double Yellow Lines at Melbourne Bridge

The parking on Queens Street has become dangerous. The yellow lines on Queens Street need to be extended so dangerous parking is stopped. SCC has said they will not fund the cost and the costs are prohibitive for Withersfield PC. This issue is being discussed with Bobby Bennett and at the Villages Road Group.

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 at the Villages Road Group.

The Villages Road Group (VRG)

The Traffic Working Group is now working in close co-ordination with the VRG. This Group is made up of Councillors from Great Thurlow, Little Thurlow, Great Wratting and Great Bradley. These parishes have similar traffic problems to Withersfield and we are now working to co-ordinate our action and find solutions to our common problems, bring our issues to the attention of Suffolk Highways. These additional issues include the following:-

- Increasing traffic from Haverhill to Cambridge directed through our villages as a result of developments on the A1307 and how to address these issues
- Proposed developments in the area that will further increase traffic through our villages, these include the new Haverhill Bypass, the new housing development at the Arboretum, the expansion of High Point Prison and the proposed development of an Anaerobic Digester in Withersfield
- How Parish Councils overcome the problems communicating with Suffolk Highways as a result of the retirement of David Chenery
- 20mph zones for more Suffolk villages

Frank Eve
Vice Chairman Withersfield Parish Council
Chairman Villages Road Group
TWG 16/05/23