

Drinkstone Parish Council, Highways

Report to the Annual Parish Meeting Dated 7 Aug 2023. Agenda Item; Councillor portfolios

General

At the time of writing there are two open Highway's issue on Suffolk County Councils reporting tool for Drinkstone. These relate to increased traffic (A14 road works), and asks if anything can be done. One resident has suggested speed bumps be installed as they believe speed signage "does not work".

The reporting tool can be found here <https://highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk>

SIDs

SIDs continue to operate well.

Potholes

Suffolk Highways' have finally repaired the potholes between Rookery Farm and Hill Farm Lane

Road Signs

Tony and Merete Bland have volunteered to clean the signs near their home as they already have done this in the past. Terri Holborn also contacted me to volunteer but without specifying which signs. It subsequently appears that she has cleaned a substantial proportion of the village street signs, I even suspect that she has cleaned the signs already cleaned by Merete and Tony!

20's Plenty Campaign

There has been no feedback from any villagers with regards to 20's Plenty, however its early days yet (which is why we thought rolling the agenda item over three sets of meetings would be a good idea). As a spin off to our discussion regarding 20's Plenty I was asked to seek a quotation for an illuminated "Bend Ahead" sign to be placed near Chapel Lane. I have received a quotation for £4395 for a solar powered sign. This price does not include erecting a post which would be undertaken by Suffolk County Council.

Fly-Tipping

There was an instance of fly-tipping in ditches adjacent to the Church. I reported this to the Police and to Mid Suffolk District Council. The rubbish was disposed of by volunteers. We need to be careful because the material dumped gives some clues as to potential offenders but obviously there is no proof, so therefore I recommend we do not publicise the nature of the material dumped in case we indirectly point the finger at someone who is entirely innocent.

A14 Traffic

Penny Otton has presented our concerns and requests to Suffolk County Council Network Assurance. As of 19th July they have advised that Network Assurance and National Highways will review various mitigation measures that might be put in place.

Louise Sharp has presented me with an informal survey of traffic volume 5th July from 16:40 to 17:40 at Blacksmith's Corner and counted a total of 487 vehicles of which 472 was through traffic (Woolpit to Beyton or vice versa). Whilst the figures are significant, and probably in excess of the general expectations for the road, I don't believe that there are any limits as to what is an acceptable or unacceptable volume of traffic.

One resident was less than enthusiastic about locating a SID to Blacksmith's Corner, again citing volume of traffic as being the problem, not speed. On further inspection the existing post is not suitable so I suggest we drop this proposal.

Chapel Lane Trees

Graham Todd is concerned about the willow tree (and others) bordering his garden but (to his knowledge) the tree is on un-adopted land. He has consulted Peter Holborn, the village Tree Warden. The view is it should be reduced to about 4ft and then trained to grow straight (rather than leaning over the road). Graham feels reluctant to bear the cost just because he is the nearest resident, and he has taken it upon himself to consult the residents on Chapel Lane regard to splitting the cost. I have agreed with Graham this is a sensible approach. Arguably, the allotments (and hence Parish Council) might be considered as a Chapel Lane resident. Graham has requested a quote from a local tree surgeon and will take it from there. Graham feels it is too big a job to be tackled by a volunteer crew.

Cross Street verge

Suffolk CC's annual cutting of verges has once again omitted the tail end of Cross Street. This is a regular occurrence due to the official end of the lane not being very clear. The residents are not too pleased, especially as Suffolk promised last year that it would be complete this year.

Prepared by Cllr Paul Selvey