

## Summary of the Community Forum Meeting for Burwell

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at the Gardiner Memorial Hall Burwell.

### Purpose of the Meeting

The meeting was arranged by East Cambs Community Safety Partnership in conjunction with Burwell Parish Council as part of the Burwell Safety Campaign. The purpose of the meeting was to give members of the community the opportunity to ask questions to a panel of representatives from relevant organisations and to raise concerns about village issues.

### Present

Panel Members:

Emma Graves-Brown ECDC Community Safety Partnership

Harriet Sugg ECDC Community Safety Partnership

Jo Johnson Andow ECDC Community Safety Partnership

Stephanie Jones ECDC Youth Champion

2 members of the East Cambs Neighbourhood Policing Team – Cambridgeshire Constabulary

Mr Kern – Head of Burwell Village College (Primary) School

District Councillor Lavinia Edwards

District Councillor David Brown

Liz Swift Parish Council Chair

Paul Webb Parish Council Vice Chair

Audience: 28 members of the community

### Summary of the meeting

Liz Swift welcomed all to the meeting and informed the audience how and why the meeting had been set up and that those present would be able to ask questions and raise issues with members of the panel. She explained that some issues and questions could be answered this evening, others would need to be taken away for consideration and action. Following tonight's meeting, an action plan would be set up in order to address the issues raised. A further meeting will then be held on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2023 to allow the panel members to report back on action taken and results achieved. Paul Webb gave a short overview of the year-long Safety Campaign, which had been launched earlier in the year, Working Together to make Burwell Safer. He explained that we are now launching the third stage of the campaign which covers personal safety, making this an appropriate time for this Community Meeting to be held. In the new year, the fourth and final stage will be launched which covers cyclists, pedestrians, and equestrian.

Emma Graves-Brown thanked the Parish Council for hosting the meeting and introduced the panellists. She continued by explaining how the meeting would work. It was noted that other matters of concern, other than safety issues could be raised.

### Forum

1. **As a cyclist, without a car, very concerned about the state of tarmac roads and paths in the village. Also, the cycleway/footpath between Burwell and Swaffham Prior is not wide enough nor fit for purpose.**

Response The condition of footpaths and roads is the responsibility of Cambridgeshire County Council Highways Department. There is a 'Report It' page on the County Council

website that includes an interactive map, where you can log concerns about and damage to roads and footpaths. Please use this to report damage such as potholes on roads and footpaths.

**2. The road surface along Low Road is breaking up due to constant use by construction lorries to the building site. Potholes in Poplars Close have been reported to Highways, who came out and repaired one hole but left the others unrepaired.**

Response Again this should be reported using the County Council reporting page. Potholes need to meet certain criteria before Highways will repair.

**3. When are the Police going to enforce the speed limits in the village, particularly Newmarket Road and Ness Road. People are speeding regularly in Isaacson Road. There is a motorbike regularly speeding through the village first thing in the morning and around 6 pm in the evening. This would be a good time to do a speed check.**

Police Response Feedback from the village, from events such as tonight, provides useful information which can be used when deciding when and where speed checks should take place. It may be beneficial for giving consideration to the design of the road and if any changes such as traffic calming, could be made to the road to slow traffic down.

**4. Have you any data yet on traffic speeds following the installation of the buffer zones at the three main entrances to the village?**

Response The buffer zones were installed as part of a Highways' Improvement Initiative Scheme where the parish council submits an application for joint funding to solve a particular issue. Highways come up with a solution. In the original design for the buffer zones, 100 m countdown markers were included, but due to funding restraints these were not included in the actual work. The zones have only been in place for a month and so far, the opportunity to collect data has not arisen. The village Speedwatch team is intending to carry out session to see the effectiveness of the signs. This information will be shared with the village. Speedwatch only report speeding above 35 miles per hour.

**5. The gap between 40 mph and 30 mph is short, who decides what the distance should be and would it not have been better to put the 40 mph sign on Newmarket Road on the other side of the bridge?**

Response There is a statutory distance requirement of 300 m between the 30 mph sign and the 40 mph. It is not possible to have the sign situated on the other side of the bridge as the distance between the signs would be greater than the specified 300m.

**6. The High Street narrows as it goes into the bend near the Chemist and Pocock and Shaw and is dangerous.**

Paul Webb informed those present about the Safety Campaign and 20's Plenty in Burwell. He explained that the Safety Group is looking at '20's Plenty' bin signs, making signs using the winning poster from the School Poster Competition and the possibility of having 20 mile per hour zones in the village.

This road is narrow and is between existing older properties making it difficult to improve.

**7. There is only one zebra crossing in the High Street opposite the Post Office and this area needs to be looked at carefully especially with the increased growth of the village.**

**Vehicles travel at inappropriate speeds when approaching junctions and leaving junctions.**

Response Liz Swift explained that this is predominately an issue for Highways, but we can raise it with them. It is not however a quick and easy issue to solve and is likely to be very expensive.

Paul Webb continued to explain that in 2017/2018 a village survey was carried out on traffic. One of the issues raised was junctions and speed. The Safety Campaign was launched as a result. The survey could be carried out again, as the Council does need to know about residents concerns and issues. The survey results are very useful for backing applications for funding.

Emma Graves-Brown asked if lorries are using the route as a short cut. Haddenham has set up a Lorry Watch (backed by Matt Staton, Vision Zero for Cambridgeshire, and Peterborough). Lorries through the village are monitored, with registration numbers being taken if needed. Local businesses have been asked to avoid travelling through the village. The Lorry Watch has been very positive and could be set up in Burwell as part of the Action Plan.

Lorries heading to and from the Solar Farm Construction site in Weirs Drove driving at speed through the village and travelling down Hythe Lane were noted. Yvonne Rix to contact the site manager and raise a complaint.

It was stated that many of these problems could be resolved if Burwell had a bypass.

Gill Miller on behalf of the Parish Council Safety Group reported that a letter had been sent to many businesses in the village and on the outskirts asking them to sign up to '20's Plenty in Burwell'. The group has also engaged with the primary school and children to get the message across of the need for traffic to slow down in the village. There is a need for everyone to be involved to create a safer village. The Parish Council only has limited authority.

It was agreed that it would have been useful to have had a representative from the County Highways Team attending the meeting and that a representative should be invited to further meetings.

#### **8. What action is the Parish Council taking against the proposal to cut the village bus service from the end of October?**

Response Liz Swift explained that the Parish Council is very concerned about the proposal and will work with the A to B1102 Group and with other neighbouring parishes to do whatever we can. Letters have also been sent to the MP, Mayor, District and County Councillors.

Stephanie Jones, ECDC informed the audience that there is a link on the ECDC website to the VCAC Voluntary Car Scheme and that this service could help those with issues of getting to medical appointments etc. There is a charge to use the scheme and volunteer drivers are also required.

#### **9. Having listened to concerns about road safety, the County Council could adapt the 'Highways Report It' web page to allow near miss situations to be recorded, as well as highway faults and issues.**

Response – noted

#### **10. Buses are a national problem that needs to be sorted by Government**

Response – noted.

#### **11. What Youth Engagement has been covered with CIL income or what is likely to be covered in the future?**

Response – It was explained that ECDC has a Youth Action Plan and through this, a large number of young people were questioned about what they would like, what issues they face and what do they like to do. Relevant organisations and agencies are working together on the plan. The ECDC Youth Action Plan Policy can be found on the ECDC website. Members of the Burwell Action for Youth (BAFY) were included in the survey. BAFY is now meeting on a Tuesday evening at Mandeville Hall and are looking for volunteers to help with the group. Liz Swift explained that whilst new developments pay Community Infrastructure Levy, nothing can be counted on until the development has taken place and payment has been received.

Emma Graves-Brown reported that Lizzy Wales (CCC Youth Officer) and the Police engaged with the youth. Anyone interested in becoming a detached youth worker should speak to her at the end of the meeting.

Liz Swift continued to explain that the Parish Council does support work with youth in the village.

#### **12. What crime levels like in Burwell?**

One of the Police Officers explained that Burwell experiences less crime than many of the other areas in ECDC. Littleport, Soham and Ely are all a lot higher.

It was noted that this term of office for the current Parish Council ends in May 2023.

#### **13. What is happening with the Newmarket Road Development?**

The first occupation of a property on the development will release the Section 106 to fund the Burwell to Exning Cycleway. Discussions are beginning to take place about the Sports Hub, with a consultant paid for by This Land looking at options and possible funding sources. The Parish Council has not yet agreed to take over the land.

District Councillor David Brown explained that planning consent for the Vistry developments has not yet been approved. This is due to Vistry submitting an application where the density is higher than agreed at the outline planning stage. The Planning Officer is in discussions with the developers to try to resolve the issues. This Land still needs to apply for planning for the 50 houses that they intend to build.

Despite the need for a roundabout on Newmarket Road being argued by both District and Parish Councillors, Cambridgeshire County Council Highways are still adamant that a roundabout is not required.

#### **14. The Zebra Crossing opposite the Post Office is dangerous as vision of pedestrians waiting to cross and vehicles approaching the crossing on the Newmarket Roadside is restricted.**

Yvonne Rix (Parish Clerk) reported that she does write to the resident who owns the hedge to request that it is cut back when needed. The Parish Council has also asked Highways to repaint the zebra when needed.

**15. What is the current precept and where does the Council spend the money?**

Yvonne Rix (Clerk) explained that this year's precept is £183,000. She continued by explaining where the Council spends the precept listing items such as the play areas, Sports facilities, open spaces, and community halls. Paul Webb explained that Burwell has one of the lowest Band D rates in the district. Parish Councillors are all volunteers.

**16. Following a report from a resident who was unable to attend the meeting, Emma Graves-Brown asked if anyone else present had experienced issues with youths cycling in the open space area on the edge of Bloomsfield?**

The Police reported that they had spoken to the youths, boys about the age of 9 or 10, who were just having some good, harmless fun. However, they encouraged residents to report to the Police any actual anti-social behaviour.

It was noted that a motorcyclist with an extremely noisy exhaust, regularly travels through the village causing quite a disturbance. The Police indicated that if they are made aware of the details such as the registration number, times when this happens etc. they will look into the matter.

**17. With so much through traffic going through the village, is anything being done to the A14/A142 junction to encourage through traffic to use this route?**

The Local MP, Lucy Frazer submitted an application to Government for improvements but was unsuccessful.

**18. Who should we speak to should we have concerns about parental parking at the School?**

Mr Kern asked for serious concerns to be reported to the Police, but other less serious concerns should be raised with the school. Parking issues etc can and are brought to the attention of parents through the school newsletter and parents are also challenged by the school should the need arise.

Burwell Village College (Primary) School is aware of the Parish Council Safety Campaign and has actively been part of some of the elements. The school tries to encourage families to use other means of getting to school instead of bringing the car such as walking, cycling, or scootering. This is easier to do in the summer than winter.

Following on from the questions and before the end of the meeting, Emma Graves-Brown gave a short presentation on who was involved in the Community Safety Partnership. More information can be found on the Community Safety Partnership page on the East Cambridgeshire District Council website.