

Summary of the Community Safety Forum Meeting for Burwell
Wednesday 1st March 2023 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 updates on the items raised at the previous meeting held on 5th October 2023 and to raise any other concerns that they may have.

Present

Panel Members:

Emma Graves ECDC Community Safety Partnership
Harriet Sugg ECDC Community Safety Partnership
Jo Johnson Andow ECDC Community Safety Partnership
Stephanie Jones ECDC Youth Champion
District Councillor David Brown
Liz Swift Parish Council Chair
Paul Webb Parish Council Vice Chair

Audience: 11 members of the community

Apologies had been received from District Councillor Lavinia Edwards and Parish Councillor Brenda Wilson.

Summary of the meeting

Liz Swift welcomed all present and introduced the members of the panel. She continued by explaining that many of the issues raised at the previous meeting, some issues such as the corner near the chemist, improvements are restricted due to the built environment on both sides of the road. The County Council Highways Department had provided some updates, and these were shared with the audience.

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.

Initial 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.

Response from Highways:

Highways cuts back the grass encroachment along the cycleway/footpath between Burwell and Swaffham Prior twice a year in order to keep the path as wide as possible.

Highways Supervisor for Burwell, Bob Rossiter to meet with members of the Parish Council in April to look at paths or roads that it is felt require attention. Highways can only repair paths and roads where the default meets the intervention level (Highways Operational Standards which sets out how the maintenance of the public highway asset is managed). Budgets are extremely stretched and are only sufficient to carry out essential repairs that meet the intervention levels.

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.

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

Bob Rossiter, Highways Supervisor for Burwell has confirmed that an order has been issued to repair potholes. He is also pushing forward for patching in the new financial year.

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 from Highways:

Highways are aware the current Report It system does not provide either the customer or the Authority with the tools required to improve the service provided, we are currently working on procuring a new system that will enhance the experience for all users.

The Parish council will discuss with Bob Rossiter how this is progressing when they meet in April.

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.

Response from Highways;

I have asked Bob Rossiter, Local Highways Officer to investigate and where required, write to the occupier requesting their cooperation in cutting the vegetation.

Paul Webb explained that the Parish Council has also asked for the crossing to be repainted. Highways has explained that road markings are carried out on a rolling basis of around every three to six years. The condition of the crossing will be raised at the meeting with Bob Rossiter in April.

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.

David Brown explained that Vistry has submitted two applications, with both being returned to Vistry to resolve issues with density of housing concerns. The Parish Council will be consulted prior to the applications being determined by the planning committee. He added that as far as he can see the traffic lights installed on Newmarket Road is for the initial stages of the cycle link to Exning. He has today also received a notification of a further temporary traffic order for Newmarket Road for work involved with the development.

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?

Initial Response

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.

Harriet Sugg reported that since the first meeting the Police have carried out some visits to the area. The ECDC Open Spaces Team have also visited the site and carried out some work along with the planting of trees. Signage for the area is being considered.

It was reported by Harriet Sugg that since the last meeting there had been no complaints regarding youth in the village. However, complaints could arise in the summer with lighter evenings but all complaints will continue to be monitored.

A letter from a resident who could not attend the meeting in person, was read out. The letter raised concern about traffic travelling through the village at speed and the need for a 20 mph speed limit to be implemented.

Paul Webb reminded all of the availability of the '20's Plenty' bin stickers. He continued by explaining that the Parish Council is looking into submitting an application to reduce the speed in the village to 20 mph through a Local Highways Improvement initiative. Discussions are still to be held with Highways as to whether just the spine roads should be included or the entirety of the village.

A member of the audience stated that they agreed with a 20 mph speed limit for the village. The A14 is a bypass for the village and may be, with slower speed limits through the village, more may be willing to use the A14. They continued to say that they understand the effect of the A14/A142 junction on drivers decision to take the route through Burwell. They also felt that the way Cambridgeshire County Council deals with pot holes compared with Norfolk and Suffolk is poor and wondered if Norfolk and Suffolk County Council allowed a greater amount their budget for dealing with highway issues.

David Brown reported that both the local MP's, Lucy Frazer and Matt Hancock supported concerns for the A14/A142 junction. Funding from the Hatchett development in Newmarket has now commenced and money from this development is earmarked for improvements to the junction.

David Brown then raised a safety concern about the area at the bottom of the school drive on two the Causeway. The paving stones and tarmac at this location are very unlevel. There

have already been two significant accidents here with individuals tripping. He is aware that this area is owned by Cambridgeshire County Council. Both Highways and the school are in dispute about who the responsibility lies with. The Parish Clerk has written to Joshua Schumann to ask for his help in resolving the issue and getting the repair carried out.

Emma Graves gave the following update on the Community Safety partnership. She explained that the Partnership has been supporting the Sister Safe Project, first launched in Littleport. The project promotes safety on the street for women and girls, and domestic abuse, giving them ways to deal with the situation should it arise. Businesses have been asked to register as Safe Places to give somewhere safe for the victim to go to. There is an app which advises where the nearest location is. Burwell Parish Council has shown an interest in this scheme.

Harriet Sugg and Jo Andow have been visiting primary schools in the district and have been delivering age-appropriate County Lines Awareness courses to years 5 and 6. They have also carried out courses in secondary schools. A pilot course has been held for parents.

The Little Eyes and Ears has been launched in schools. Schools can either use the training packs available or can have a presentation carried out by the Community Safety Partnership.

The Community Safety Partnership has carried out Eyes and Ears training for a number of parish councils, voluntary organisations, and individuals.

Two schools have been involved in the Open Court Project. Year 9 students have had the opportunity to visit the Court House in Ely and through role play they have been given the opportunity to find out what it is like to have to go to court as a suspect, member of the jury or witness.

The Community Safety Partnership will be holding a showcase event on their work and that of other organisations involved with the partnership at Ely Cathedral on 13th March 2023 between 6.30 pm and 9 pm. Free tickets are available through Eventbrite.

The Police and Crime Commissioner has funding available (up to £5,000 per project) to support projects which fits into the areas covered by the Community Safety Partnership Action Plan, that are proactive and that can be delivered in 12 weeks. The Community Safety Partnership will help organisations with their applications.

David Brown praised the members of the Community Safety Partnership in the reactive way that they deal with issues raised by members of the community.

Issues with the lack of volunteers to support the local youth group, Burwell Action for Youth were raised. Liz swift explained that the Parish Council works closely with the group and no volunteers have come forward. Funding towards the cost of training could be available but could not support the long-term employment of a Youth Worker. The Police and Crime Commissioner does have a Youth Fund and could be approached. Stephanie Jones to investigate all options.

Those present generally felt that a 20 mph speed limit would benefit the community, although one resident felt that this would be ignored by drivers. Bins with the '20's plenty' sticker attached could distract a driver. One resident suggested that a member of the medical profession should be asked to do a presentation on the level of injury when hit by a vehicle travelling at 20 mph, 30mph and 40mph.

Liz Swift thanked all for attending.

The meeting closed at 7.40pm.