

Burwell Parish Council

Safety Group Meeting – 23.1.2023 7.30 pm at the Jubilee Reading Room

Present: Paul Webb (Chair), Brenda Wilson, Liz Swift, Geraldine Tate, Lea Dodds, Ian Woodroffe, and Jim Perry.

Paul Webb thanked all for attending and also those who attended the meeting with Highways regarding the proposal to introduce a 20 -mph speed restriction within the village. He also thanked Lea Dodds for contacting 20's Plenty. He explained that the agenda for the meeting had been kept short to allow time to discuss item number 3. The deadline for the 24/25 LHI applications has now passed, but at the next meeting discussions can begin for possible submissions for the 25/26 funding.

1.Apologies

There were no apologies for absence.

2.Approval of draft minutes of the meeting held on 9.11.2023

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th November 2023 were approved.

3. 20 mile per hour village restriction

Paul Webb reminded all of the content of the meeting held with Carole Hutton and other representatives from Highways on the 10th January 2024. The group then looked at the detailed maps provided by Highways showing where the 20 -mph limit would be in the village.

The following comments were made.

- That dropping from a 40 -mph limit in the buffer zones down to 20 -mph seems excessive. It was noted however that prior to the buffer zones being introduced that the drop was from 60 -mph down to 30 -mph.
- Newmarket Road now goes from 60 -mph to 40 -mph to 20 -mph. Although the drop to 20 -mph does not come into place until near the Doctors Surgery which seems strange.
- The Weirs is 60 -mph and would be better to be either 30 -mph or 40 -mph so that drivers are not tempted to use as a means of avoiding the lower speed limit through the village. It is not known if lowering the speed limit along the Weirs could be dealt with through the 20 -mph scheme or if a separate LHI application would be required.
- Clarification regarding the Weirs needs to be sought from Highways.
- Precedent of the Scottish Borders which is a similar situation as the Cambridgeshire schemes has seen a continued speed reduction since 2021 when introduced of around 5 -mph on faster roads and 3 -mph on the quieter roads.
- Consider that we are close to recommending to Full Council that we should go ahead but feel that we should reduction to 20-mph along Ness Road and Swaffham Road should be further in for example just after Toyse Lane on Ness Road and just before Heath Road on Swaffham Road. This is likely to cause interaction from residents along Ness Road and Swaffham Road with the Council then being able to decide whether to then go ahead with the entire village being 20 -mph.
- Would prefer to see 40 to 30 to 20.
- Having the MVAS data would have been useful. The signs need to be sorted as a matter of urgency. A village event maybe useful in order to explain the rationale behind the Council's decision if it is decided to go ahead with the speed reduction.
- Isaacson Road, Barkways estate, Summerfields, and St Mary's View need to be 20 -mph.

The Clerk was asked to raise with Highways queries made by the group.

All members present agreed that a recommendation should be made to Full Council to go ahead with the scheme subject to amendments being made once responses have been received back from Highways.

It was agreed that the recommendation should be presented to Full Council on the 13th February but with the final decision being made at the Council meeting on 27th February 2024. This will allow time for discussion on the 13th February and any further amendments being made prior to the vote taking place on the 27th February. It was further agreed that a 'drop in' event should be held for the community over a couple of days after Council's decision has been made. More discussion to take place about the event at the next Safety meeting on the 19th March.

It was noted that details of the result of the survey being inconclusive, the vote rigging and the need for the Council's decision to be placed on the safety of all, particularly vulnerable users, has been included in the latest edition of Clunch.

4. One Way System – Silver Street/North Street

The request for a one-way system in Silver Street and North Street proposed by a resident at the recent Council meeting was discussed. It was noted that Highways has said that if the 20 -mph limit is introduced, schemes such as a one-way system will not be required. Stustran supports 20 -mph schemes, however North Street could possibly do with some physical speed reduction intervention. The Clerk was asked to go back to the resident and explain that at the moment other items are taking precedence as the Council only has limited funds, but the proposal will be kept in mind.

5. Zebra Crossing High Street – School Lane/Spring Close Area

A request had been made by a resident for a zebra crossing on the High Street near Wild Acres. The Council can apply for funding through an LHI application for either a crossing here or one on Swaffham Road near the Heath Road junction. As found with the zebra crossing on Ness Road the costs involved can be very high. Speed reduction to 20 -mph may reduce the need for additional crossings. The Clerk was asked to thank the resident and inform them that the Council would bare the request mind, with other places suggested, should they decide to consider applying for another zebra crossing in the village in the future.

Meeting with Highways 15.11.23

The notes from the meeting had been circulated. It was noted that the paving slabs at the entrance to the school had been levelled. Many of the issues raised will be resolved if the 20-mph limit is introduced. A number of the issues raised are not within James Broder's remit.

7.Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on 19th March 2024. Geraldine Tate gave her apologies for this meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.28 pm

Signed

Dated