

## **Drinkstone Parish Council, Highways**

**Report to the Ordinary Meeting Dated 05 Oct 2020**

**Agenda Item; Councillor portfolios**

### **General**

As of 29 September there is 1 highway issue logged on the Suffolk Highways website (discounting duplicates); viz:-

- i) Road sign damaged at Plough Road/Deadmans Lane. Works have been ordered

Previously reported potholes between Rookery Farm and Hill Farm Lane have been repaired over the summer, however the poor remedial work along the utilities service trench continues to present the possibility of further potholes opening.

Suffolk CC reporting can be found at [www.highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk](http://www.highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk)

### **Cross Street**

Residents on Cross St are still unhappy that Suffolk CC have failed to cut the verges despite the County Council acknowledging that they have responsibility to do so. I have written to Suffolk CC Highways but not received a reply.

### **Flooding on The Street**

It is my recommendation that the Parish Council write (or speak) to the resident whose pond regularly overflows in winter before the winter draws in. It is my intention to contact Suffolk Highways with regard to the flooding on Park Road to request they clean the sump/drain after the bulk of leaves and other Autumn debris has fallen.

### **CPRE Quiet Lanes**

We have been invited to make an "expression of interest" to this initiative, organised by CPRE (Campaign for Protection of Rural England). Undoubtedly the initiative is well intentioned, promoting the idea of securing access to lanes for Pedestrians, Cyclists, Horse Riders etc. on "C" or unclassified roads, that might otherwise be dominated by motor vehicles.

My impression is that the initiative's identity is a little confused. Its guidance document differentiates itself from traffic calming, however the opening words to the introduction is "Speeding traffic is a huge problem in villages". The initiative suggests a number of ideas such as landscaping, false cattle grids, narrow entrances, and removing unnecessary signage, so as to enable access to a wider range of potential road users. The initiative guidance is generic and requires local application and interpretation.

My personal fear is that many options will be precluded either for reasons of practicality (narrow entrances prevent farm vehicles) and/or costs. Some options may also be seen as just "pointless", for example will a sign at the beginning of Chapel Lane stating that it is a Quiet Lane really make any difference.

Having said that (and I acknowledge my views are somewhat sceptical) it is entirely likely that at County Level there may be a budget allocation for Quiet Lanes, and if we do not submit an expression of interest the Parish Council could miss out.

### **SID (Speed Indication Display)**

Applications for 4 of the 5 submitted to Suffolk CC Highways Dept have been approved. The location near the Electricity Sub Station has not been approved due to overgrowth concerns.

Suffolk CC have limited their cover of post installation costs to two per Parish, the remaining two will cost £190 each + VAT. The locations approved are Rattlesden Road (near the allotments), Gedding Road (near jcn with Rattlesden Road), Village Hall and The Street (near Drinkstone Lodge).

A decision is required as to which two (of the four) we request, or whether to proceed with all four and incur the additional cost of £360.

**Prepared by Cllr Paul Selvey**