

Drinkstone Parish Council, Highways

Report to the Ordinary Meeting Dated 4 Oct 2021

Agenda Item; Councillor portfolios

General

There are only two issues recorded on the Suffolk CC Highways reporting website (one reported by myself and one other):-

- i) Give Way sign (Jcn of Rattlesden Road and Gedding Road). This is now marked as "WORKS ORDERED"
- ii) Road sign hit by vehicle jcn of Plough Road and Woolpit Road. (I'm not sure if this is Woolpit or Drinkstone but that doesn't really matter) which is awaiting investigation.

Suffolk CC Highways have advised that they will not repair the vandalised 30mph signs previously reported so these are on my to-do for which I shall buy some postcrete from this year's Highway's budgeted expenses.

I have reported a number of potholes between Rookery Farm and Hill Farm Lane but Suffolk CC Highways have responded that they are not serious enough for repair, and have been removed from the reporting web site.

The road name sign at Park Road / Gedding Road has also been hit by a vehicle and I have reported this to MSDC. (For info traffic signs are Suffolk CC, whereas road name signs are MSDC!). MSDC have reported back favourably and because the sign is undamaged (just fallen over) it looks like it can be re-installed by their contractor.

Suffolk CC Highways reporting can be found at www.highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk

Support to Residents

The verges on the west end of Cross Street has now been cut, albeit late in the season and after a local resident had engaged a contractor to cut one half.

Suffolk CC Highways have acknowledged that they now fully understand the access issues and will ensure it is cut in future.

MSDC have erected a name sign for "Hill Farm Lane" at the Jcn with Deadman's Lane.

SID (Speed Indication Display) (written suitable for cut and paste into Village Magazine)

SID continues to work well, no reliability problems, and batteries reliably last our 2 week relocation programme. Statistics show 59% of oncoming traffic exceeding the speed limit but 74% in the other direction (where data is captured but the illuminated sign is not activated). This strongly suggests that the visual reminder does help to reduce speed.

A few residents have reported back favourably, and the only criticism is that there is only one unit and cannot be in all 4 places at once.

A maximum speed of 70mph was recorded in the most recent period. The excessive speeds have been reported to Suffolk Police Community Engagement Officer, but other than an acknowledgement no action has been taken.

Proposal: That the council should purchase another SID (same specification as the existing) complete with batteries, and an additional set of brackets sufficient to enable two SIDs to be deployed full time and to face in either incoming or outgoing direction. Budgetary cost £2000.

The rota for relocating of SID and recharging of batteries requires a **Verbal Review**, so that we can keep the workload and inconvenience to the volunteers to an absolute minimum, particularly considering the possibility of a second SID.

Painting of Rails

Work is complete and a number of residents have written to either the Council or Jungle Drums to express their thanks and appreciation.

Prepared by Cllr Paul Selvey