

HIGHWAYS & FOOTPATHS WORKING GROUP
Report to Parish Council 03 September 2019
Lead Cllrs: L Bennett, J Clark, C Hainsworth (Co-ordinator),

RECOMMENDATIONS:

There are no new recommendations to Council in this report – all agreed monitoring and actions are in progress in accordance with the Council’s priorities for 2019/2020

1. COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH (CSW)

Sign up to the Community Speedwatch Programme - (Resolution July 2018)

- £5,000.00 ringfenced in Council Reserves to take this forward in accordance with identified Powers and Duties for road safety
- Ward Grant £200 received from SKDC for expenditure for clothing (with logo), signage and equipment for volunteers April 2019

Currently there are no plans to purchase an additional VAS until the current one has been installed and tested. Costs may be incurred for maintenance and software

- There are now 10 volunteers trained to carry out roadside checks.
- Monitoring commenced 31 May 2019 with seven hourly sessions carried out at CSW approved locations at the time of writing this report (16 August 2019). This equates to approximately 48 hours volunteer time.
- Despite the regular speed signs and road markings denoting the 30mph speed limit, the large signs declaring this was a speedwatch area and the hi-visibility jackets, 86 vehicles were travelling in excess of 35mph (out of 1,126)
- Advisory letters will be issued to drivers by Lincolnshire Police

A schedule for August into September 2019 has been put in place so a big thank you to all the volunteers who have made this possible.

The data from the Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) at Stainby is not currently available. This will be reported in more detail in the next report.

The more volunteers we are able to recruit will allow us to extend the programme to Woolsthorpe and North Witham once Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership has assessed and approved the locations.

2. FOOTPATHS

Footpath 9:

Thanks to Cllr Bellamy for progressing the request for widening the gap for easier access at Bourne Road Estate. Hedge was cut back by householder and whilst this section is owned by South Kesteven District Council, the LCC Countryside Service have been provided with the permissions for the work to be carried out.

Footpath 1:

The steps and not re-instated after ploughing. Allocated a Priority 3 resolution by Lincolnshire Countryside Access.

Footpath 7:

The pedestrian barrier will be repositioned to allow wheelchair access. Allocated a priority 2 resolution by Lincolnshire Countrywide Access.

Footpath 3:

Reported to Lincolnshire Countrywide Access to be re-instated. Awaiting outcome.

Footpath 17:

Discarded tyres reported to Lincolnshire Countryside Access. Awaiting outcome.

Footpath 20:

Overgrown and reported to Lincolnshire Countrywide Access. Allocated a priority 2 resolution.

Footpath 15:

Overgrown and reported to Lincolnshire Countrywide Access. Allocated a priority 2 resolution.

Water Lane Footpath, Woolsthorpe

Overgrown hedges and verges reported to Parish Council; responsibility established and work in hand with landowner

3. LCC PRIORITIES

Parish Council Priorities have been fully shared with LCC and updates published in the H&F Working Group reports submitted to Council on a monthly basis. Works continue to be monitored, and any new issues raised will be considered by Council to inform any review of priorities.

| | Priority | Current Situation and updates |
|---|--|---|
| 1 | Junction of Back Lane/High Street | The H bar marking will be marked out on site and the local team will get this painted on the ground during September 2019. |
| 2 | High Street/B676/Stamford Road Crossroads Consider moving 30mph speed limit area/sign entering Colsterworth eastbound back towards Stainby This is too close to the crossroads, is often obscured by overhanging branches and is too close to crossroads | LCC have advised that the extension of the 30mph speed limit is not possible as it does not meet the county council's "current policy". Still not clear what the actual policy is? A precedent was set when the 30mph speed limit signs at the west end of Woolsthorpe Road were moved further west as a safety issue regarding speeding traffic arriving in Woolsthorpe. |
| 3 | High Street Details of proposals received for traffic calming on the High Street (particularly at Houghton Lane due to the narrowing of the road and children crossing) have been shared with LCC. Whilst we understand that there currently is little quantitative evidence of accidents or injuries held by LCC, this is still a priority for Parishioners. There have been anecdotal incidents reported of "near misses", blocked road due to buses not being able to pass parked cars, etc. this will continue to be monitored through the Council's Highways and Footpaths Working Group. | LCC are still not currently processing traffic calming scheme requests but they will place the requested restrictions on the list for further investigation. There are obvious issues with schemes of this nature including displaced parking, increased speeds etc. This is something that will be considered when the investigation takes place, but there are no timescales available for this at the minute Update: Still no contact to date from LCC regarding "further investigations". Incidents will be logged to inform any further representations. |
| 4 | Bridge End: New issues have arisen with the move of the Co-op; (e.g. parking on verges, lack of pavement, risks of flooding, access issues). There have been no reported accidents or injuries, but the situation will be monitored. In respect of the lack of pavement we would urge LCC to consider this as consultees in any housing developments in that area. | The PC's comments have been noted by LCC and have been passed on to those who look at developments and their impact. <i>Following resolution by Council at June 2019 meeting, the Clerk wrote to LCC Highways to enquire what road furniture could be installed – this work has now been scheduled to install posts either side of the Co-op entrance</i> Update: No indication when this work will be scheduled. |
| 5 | A1: The Parish Council has consistently raised concerns about the safety of the A1 and this is reported at monthly meetings as the closures and congestion impacts directly on our Parish <i>July 2019: County Cllr Bob Adams is now on the LCC Highways & Planning Committee and confirmed that there will be a consultation about the A1 – CAD Parish Council will be invited to attend. Cllr Bellamy continues to monitor the situation (See Item 6 below)</i> | The A1 does not fall within the remit of LCC; LCC are putting pressure on Highways England to undertake the survey/review that was promised some time ago. Update: Nothing further heard regarding consultation but concerns remain – see Item 6.3 below regarding update by Highways England |
| 7 | Flooding/Drainage/Soakaways: There has become a noticeable deterioration in drainage of surface water, particularly on the B676 (from crossroads to A1) | Continue to monitor and report issues to LCC through standard processes (Fixmystreet) The periods of heavy rain this summer has exacerbated the situation |

4. ISSUES LOG – Traffic and road safety

Incidents and Concerns reported since last report (July 2019)

Lorry lost its load of hay bales on the B676
 Damage to property and road closed
 Thankfully no-one in the vicinity when it
 Happened so there has been no injuries.



Parking on grass verges at Woolsthorpe

Unfortunately, the Parish Council have no powers as this is not illegal. Our PCSO is made aware and is able to speak to residents where necessary.

Parking on pavements – Woolsthorpe Road

Concerns have been expressed about parked cars along Woolsthorpe Road blocking pavements and therefore restricting access. Again, the Parish Council no powers in this respect.

Flooding at North Witham

Due to blocked gully's a resident has experienced severe flooding at their property. This has been reported via Fixmystreet and taken up directly by the individual with the Authority involved. No further action has been planned.

The Parish Clerk has undertaken to put something in “In Touch” to highlight parking issues with Parishioners.

Traffic Regulation Orders

Enquiries have been made to the Parish Council about implementing a Traffic Regulation Order at Woolsthorpe Road in respect of parking and speeding.

Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) are responsible for these and further information can be found on their website at <https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/transport-and-roads/traffic-management/traffic-regulation-orders/35415.article>

Only requests which meet all policy criteria will be added to an LCC programme for further investigation. Once under investigation, LCC will:

- Consult with police, the county councillor, the parish council and other statutory consultees
- Place a notice in the local paper
- Place notices on site

The investigation process can take up to 12 months and consultees will be notified of the outcome.

Speeding on Woolsthorpe Road

Ongoing concerns reported about excessive speeding on Woolsthorpe Road, particularly works traffic and specifically at the west end. Whilst the flow of traffic is far lower than the main B676 through the Parish, it remains a problem.

As reported above, a request has been made to Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership for an assessment on Woolsthorpe Road and North Witham.

5. NORTH WITHAM

In February 2019 the longstanding issues about HGVs using the roads in and around North Witham were highlighted to the Parish Council (specifically the bottom of the village via Bull Lane, Water Lane and Rectory Lane). Full details and photographic evidence were provided and is available.

No specific action was taken by the Parish Council in response to the detailed and thorough outline of the problems presented at that time and possible solutions. At the July 2019 meeting a resolution was passed by Council:

To Resolve that the Parish Council delegates its power to the H&F Working Group, to open formal channels of dialogue with SKDC, LCC and Lincolnshire Police to consider the options put forward in this report

A workplan has been formulated (Appendix 1) and progress will be reported to Council in the H&F report. There is the potential for a Traffic Regulation Order to be considered which will:

- Improve the safety of road users
- Prevent serious damage to roads or buildings
- Facilitate traffic flows

6. A1 ISSUES

1. Incidents impacting on our area (accidents, delays, tailbacks/diversions) on A1

(Source: <https://www.newsnow.co.uk/h/UK/Travel+&&Transport/Road/A1>)

| Date | Details |
|--------------|---|
| 11 Aug 2019 | A passer-by put out a fire before firefighters arrived, on the A1 south of Grantham this afternoon (Sunday). A fire crew from Corby Glen were called just after 12.30pm to the scene near South Witham. The passer-by had used a dry powder extinguisher to extinguish the flames. |
| 12 Aug 2019 | Northbound on A1 at Colsterworth - Accident was reported at 5.05pm but traffic was 'coping well' and moving by 6.15pm. |
| 07 Aug 2019 | An overturned car and caravan are causing long delays on the A1 southbound. The accident happened at 7am near Great Ponton. Emergency services including police, ambulance and fire crews attended 4 mile queues reported |
| 02 Aug 2019 | Firefighters tackled a van fire on the A1 at Colsterworth yesterday afternoon. Crews from Grantham and Stamford were called to the A1 southbound shortly after 3pm. They used one hose reel and thermal imaging cameras to extinguish the blaze. |
| 01 Aug | Police were searching for a driver who fled a three-car crash which completely shut the A1 for almost five hours. Three vehicles, a white Ford Focus, a Vauxhall van and a silver Vauxhall Corsa, were involved in a collision on the A1 at the Colsterworth junction with the A151 just north of Peterborough late last night (Thursday August 1) The crash was reported to police at 11.50pm and the northbound carriageway was closed until 4.30am this morning (Friday August 2). |
| 01 Aug 2019 | There was a seven-vehicle crash just after midnight on the A1 at Colsterworth on Thursday, closing the road in both directions |
| 01 Aug 2019 | On Thursday afternoon, a lorry broke down on the northbound carriageway at Colsterworth causing delays for motorists in the area. |
| 01 Aug 2019 | A two-car collision just north of Colsterworth caused 10-mile tailbacks |
| 25 July 2019 | Traffic is back to normal on the A1 at Grantham following earlier issues which saw traffic backing up for several miles. According to traffic reports, there were "severe delays" on the southbound carriageway from the Boothby Pagnell junction, just south of Grantham. Further reports suggest the southbound carriageway was blocked further south, at the Easton turn-off, at the same time. |
| 25 July 2019 | A crash on the A1 left traffic at a standstill. The collision occurred southbound at Great Ponton at 1.06pm today, Thursday, July 25. Between a car and an HGV There was a lot of debris on the road and traffic was at a standstill while emergency services were at the scene. |
| 20 July 2019 | A teenager has been taken to hospital after being involved in a crash on the A1 at Grantham this afternoon (Saturday). After several hours of road closure, the A1 has now reopened. Emergency services were called to the scene on the southbound carriageway at 3.07pm. The road was closed between the A607 and Little Ponton turn-offs while Lincolnshire Police officer carried out an investigation. Tailbacks stretched back for several miles and a diversion was put in place. The incident involved one car and one male teenager was taken to Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham, with potentially serious injuries. |

2, **GRANTHAM SOUTHERN RELIEF ROAD – IMPACT ON A1**

Source: <https://www.granthamjournal.co.uk/news/september-start-announced-for-second-phase-of-grantham-southern-relief-road-9079414/>

Work on the second phase of the Grantham southern relief road is due to start in September.

This phase, the second of three, will connect the A1 to the B1174.

The second phase is expected to take two years to construct and will see a bridged junction/underpass built connecting the A1 with the B1174 relief road roundabout built in 2016.

Traffic management planned for the scheme is as follows:

- Lane closures on the A1, between the A607 and Little Ponton junctions, from 8pm to 6am starting in early September for a month to allow for widening works.
- A 50mph enforced speed restriction will also be implemented at this time and will remain in place for the remainder of the scheme.
- Northbound traffic will be moved to the southbound carriageway, and southbound traffic will be moved to the newly-constructed widened section of carriageway from early November for seven months.

This work will allow half of the new bridged junction to be built.

Following completion of the first half of the new bridged junction, the A1 will be moved onto it to allow for the second half to be constructed over eight months. During this time, the A1 will continue to run on four lanes.

Additional lane and carriageway closures will be required throughout the course of the project to allow for critical construction operations to be carried out safely. Date and details of these closures will be announced once dates have been confirmed.

3 **UPDATE ON HIGHWAYS ENGLAND WORK ON A1**

District Cllr Bellamy has received an update from Highways England via MP Nick Boles Office: It's not clear which areas of the A1 have been considered but assume that this will link in to consultations with LCC Highways.

"I am able to advise you that our partners have now completed a number of reviews along the length of the A1 and these have highlighted locations and lengths of the A1 that need to be considered for future safety improvement works. The reviews have also identified the potential to undertake more holistic works along the length of the route to again improve the safety of the route for the travelling public.

As you will appreciate a major route such as the A1 suffers from a wide range of issues and the demand for undertaking works on the route is high, as such obtaining road space to undertake future works does pose a significant challenge to us. This issue is exacerbated when you consider the need to coordinate works on other routes that use the A1 as their diversion routes.

This said the safety of those travelling and working on the strategic road network is our main imperative and as such we are currently having conversations with the various asset owners to identify the potential of including safety improvement works within their planned maintenance schemes. It is felt this provides the best opportunity at this time to implement safety improvements in a timely manner.

As these conversations are still at an early stage I am not in a position to provide any specific details of actual works to be undertaken or time scales for undertaking works"

**Highways & Footpaths Working Group
18 August 2019**

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| APPENDIX 1: Report to Parish Council 03 September 2019 |
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Terms of Reference: HGVs and Traffic Issues at North Witham

Resolution 02 July 2019 (19.89.1)

“To resolve that the Parish Council delegates its power to the H&F Working Group, to open formal channels of dialogue with SKDC, LCC and the Police to consider the options put forward in this report.”

- To have the police react properly and appropriately to reports of HGVs being in the village when they shouldn't be – especially where property damage is involved.
- A physical width restriction being placed at the eastern end of Bull Lane near its junction with the A1. If this was set at 7'6" it would stop HGVs using the route as a short cut. Legitimate access to North Witham would be possible via the B676 and Old Post Lane
- The closure of Bull Lane at its junction with the A1. Whilst unpopular, it would solve the problem; this must be considered in the wider A1 consultation.
- The creation of an absolute 7.5 tonne weight restriction for a short section of the east end of Bull Lane. Contact local businesses at North Witham Rd, South Witham, and at Sewstern to request that their suppliers are provided with 'special instructions' such that delivery vehicles do not attempt to use the Bull Lane exit from the A1.
- The fitment of 'HGV – don't follow sat nav' signs on the A1, to the north and south of Bull Lane, to discourage HGV drivers from blindly following sat-nav guidance from the A1. HGV drivers know what these are about and only the foolish ignore them. This might prove to be a cheap and surprisingly successful solution?

WORKPLAN

| Issue | Purpose and Outcome | Action | Current status |
|---|--|--|---|
| Communication and relationship building with Local Contractors | Identify both local hauliers and local businesses who are a party to HGVs routing via Bull Lane / Rectory Lane and write to them ¹ Highlighting the problem and impact on the community with a view to changing working practices with ongoing monitoring through agreed lines of communication. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Clark to get names of relevant businesses for first contact • Agree wording in letter • Assess response • Monitor outcomes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Businesses have been identified • Letter has been drafted (V1) |
| Liaison with Police | Consider enforcement options regarding weight limits etc | Meeting to be arranged with PCSO Bowden (Cllr Hainsworth) | PCSO Bowden not available until mid to late August 2019 |
| Engagement with SKDC and LCC | Sharing concerns as our priorities to see if this can fit into theirs (e.g., consultation on A1) and also any actions that can realistically and financially achieved (e.g., pictogram sign "HGVs do not follow GPS") | Share plan with District and County Cllrs in the first instance for support. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report progress in Council minutes • Await details of consultation of A1 from LCC • Refer proposal for signage to LCC |

¹ Proposed letter:

Reference: The rules surrounding area weight restrictions allow vehicles into the restricted area provided they are accessing addresses in connection with a trade or business. This means that the vehicles delivering in the restricted area are perfectly entitled to use Water Lane etc. We are looking for a diplomatic and empathetic approach, coupled with a sense of good will, understanding and a sense of community to get the businesses on our side so they request their supplier to route via Old Post Lane.