

DPC Timeline from Minutes on A427 Speeding

MEETING DATE MINUTE NO.	DISCUSSION POINTS
<p>Jun 2020 Minute 1005</p>	<p>The Council reiterated the importance of public safety and maintaining pressure on the County Council to provide a safe footway through the village along the main trunk road. County Cllr Matthews agreed to pursue this.</p> <p>Cllr Lomer-Wood raised the greater incidents of speeding through the village during the recent lockdown period. Various possible speed reduction measures were suggested including the application of some distinct coloured areas to the road surface to alert drivers to the 30 MPH limit or the installation of “feign-gates” adjacent to the speed signs at either end of the village. The Council agreed to discuss in more detail at the next meeting and in the meantime Cllr Lomer-Wood will contact the local police to request the presence of a speed gun in the village.</p>
<p>Jul 2020 Minute 1030</p>	<p>Cllr Lomer-Wood presented the informal traffic survey results which showed a significant increase in HGVs since the last survey carried out by the Safer Roads Team in 2017. She advised that she had contacted a private traffic survey firm (VS traffic, Leicester) for a price to carry out a more objective survey with road strips etc.</p> <p>Cllr Lomer-Wood informed the Council that she has reported the missing feign gate on the approach to the village from Market Harborough through the ‘Fix my Street’ website.</p>
<p>Sept 2020 Minute 1042</p>	<p>Cllr Lomer-Wood informed the Council that the feign gate on the approach to the village from Market Harborough had been restored and thanked County Cllr Matthews on behalf of the Council for organising the recalibration of the Speed Sign. She advised that a group of residents were in the process of devising a survey for the village in order to gauge how residents are affected by speeding traffic and the anti-social hours of HGV’s travelling through. In light of new information that the A427 is not a trunk road, the Council discussed various possibilities for traffic calming including the lowering of the speed limit to 20 mph. County Cllr Matthews will pursue this with County Highways.</p>
<p>Oct 2020 Minute 1042</p>	<p>Cllr Lomer-Wood reported on the questionnaire delivered to 80 households in order to gauge how residents are affected by speeding traffic and the anti-social hours of HGV’s travelling through the village and the safety of the existing footway. 57 Surveys were returned. These showed that around 80 % of residents strongly agreed that vehicles were driving too fast through the village, sometime at dangerous speeds. A similar percentage would welcome a continuous footpath and some commented that the current path was too narrow. The Council agreed that the next step would be to petition Northamptonshire Highways. County Councillor Matthews will advise on the best recipient of the petition in County Highways and will contact the department with the idea of painting 30 MPH repeater signs at strategic points on both sides of the A427 through Dingley which might help in the meantime.</p>

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<p>Nov 2020 Minute 1066</p>	<p>Cllr Lomer-Wood informed the Council that she had sent the results and analysis from the household survey, aimed to gauge how residents are affected by speeding traffic, the anti-social hours of HGV's travelling through the village and the safety of the existing footway, to the County Council Minister for Highways. As yet no response had been received. Much discussion took place on the concerning matter of speeding. Reference was made to Walcote, a small village on the A427 in Leicestershire which had worked with Leicestershire Police and County Highways to trial average speed cameras through the village. This had proved to be very successful. County Cllr Matthews advised that the timing for any consultation with Northants Highways may not be appropriate for the next 6 months whilst the new North Northants Authority is being formed. The Council agreed that in the meantime it would contact Northants Police to request attendance at its next meeting to discuss options and to draw up a list of possible traffic calming measures through the village as well as looking at Walcote's methodology in order that a robust argument for speed reduction can be put forward to the new Authority.</p>
<p>Dec 2020 Minute 1074</p>	<p>Members of the public and press are invited to address the Council: The Chair welcomed the visitors. Reference was made to a response from the Northamptonshire Police and the Safer Roads Team (SRT) following a letter sent to the Police Commissioner by a local resident. A survey carried out by the SRT in October 2020 showed that whilst 52% of vehicles exceeded the 30mph limit, only 25% exceeded the NPCC threshold of 35mph. The survey also recorded that the number of HGV's travelling through the village had trebled in the last three years. The SRT have increased their visits to Dingley to provide some additional support and the Neighbourhood Policing Team has also visited Dingley when resources permit. The SRT will continue to provide a proportionate level of enforcement for Dingley going forwards. The Police Commissioner suggested that contact is made with Northamptonshire County Council about steps that can be made to change the look and feel of the environment further to increase speed compliance. Cllr Lomer-Wood informed the Council that she had sent Jason Smithers, the Northamptonshire County Councillor for Highways a list of concerns and possible options for traffic calming. Council encouraged all residents to approach the Highways department individually with their concerns and will continue to seek police attendance at a future meeting.</p>
<p>Feb 2021 Minute 1090</p>	<p>Cllr Lomer-Wood had circulated her report to the Council prior to the meeting. It was noted that the pot hole on eastbound side of A427 near feign gate had been fixed and the resident complaint about sunken hydrant cover outside 1 Harborough Road referred to NCC with the reference number passed on to resident for tracking. Cllr Lomer-Wood had emailed to Danny Moody at NCALC regarding the possibility of forming a rural village traffic/highways alliance and also Jason Smithers at NCC Highways asking for information on whether the number of HGVs passing through the village exceeded that predicted by the current highways strategy document and any statutory regulations regarding the minimum width for a road shared by HGVs and pedestrians. The Council once again commended Cllr Lomer-Wood for all her work with this.</p>

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<p>Mar 2021 Minute 1102</p>	<p>Cllr Lomer-Wood informed the Council that she had not as yet received a response from Jason Smithers at NCC Highways regarding her requests for information on whether the number of HGVs passing through the village exceeded that predicted by the current highways strategy document, whether there were any statutory regulations regarding the minimum width for a road shared by HGVs and pedestrians and any reference in the Highways Management plan to looking after residents mental well-being. She referred to the Highways update circulated by Mr Smithers which talked about a pilot survey trialling 20 mph signs in villages. Cllr Lomer-Wood will follow this up as well as looking at the Footpath Warden Scheme and contacting the Health and Safety Executive regarding legislation on statutory widths and distances.</p>
<p>Apr 2021 Minute 1111</p>	<p>Members of the public and press are invited to address the Council: The Chair welcomed the visitors. Sergeant Rock informed the Council that there were no crime trends of any concern to report in the area and that Desborough Police House is to remain with staffing levels set to increase. He reported that the police had been heavily involved with Covid enforcement but were now starting to send out speeding patrols which were issuing prosecutions rather than warnings. Cllr LomerWood explained to Sgt Rock the problems that the village was experiencing with the volume and speeds of heavy traffic. Sgt Rock responded that through the Rural Days of Action recurring problems at key areas can be tackled with regular speed gun operations. A discussion took place on the possibility of applying for an axle weight restriction through the village which could be achieved if there was substantial damage to properties caused by the heavy vehicles. Cllr Lomer-Wood asked if residents could take photograph of damage to their property and to do an audit of the main hauliers, times and numbers travelling through the village. Sgt Rock encouraged the Council to lobby the County Council in this regard. Cllr Dudson raised the problem of the lack of safe footways through the village and asked how the police could support the Council's application to the County Council for an extension of the existing footpath and the provision of a footpath down to the A6 roundabout. Sgr Rock said he would refer this back to the Safer Roads Team who could potentially follow this up with Highways.</p>
<p>June 2021 Minute 1132</p>	<p>The Council referred to the detailed response from James Docherty, Network Coordination Manager at Northamptonshire Highways regarding Cllr Lomer-Wood's request for information on whether the number of HGVs passing through the village exceeded that predicted by the current highways strategy document, whether there were any statutory regulations regarding the minimum width for a road shared by HGVs and reports of structural damage to properties from vibration resulting from HGV's using the A427. The Council was disappointed to note that the A427 through Dingley falls outside the scope for a weight limit restriction and that possibility of by-pass which could potentially provide a permanent solution to the problem would be highly unlikely due to the huge amounts of funding required. With regard to structural damage being caused to property, Mr Docherty suggested that structural assessments are commissioned by residents to determine the extent of the impact or damage. There was no further information on the pilot advisory 20mph limit scheme which the Council had registered an interest in. Cllr Lomer-Wood will pursue. The Council observed that the footway between the notice board and Church Lane was starting to become overgrown. The Clerk will contact local contractor Gary Ritchie with a view to clearing this. Cllr Stevens informed the Council that there will be a traffic speed enforcement operation in the village in July.</p>

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<p>July 2021 Minute 1141</p>	<p>Members of the public and press are invited to address the Council: The Chair welcomed the visitors. Serious concerns regarding the size, volume and speed of HGV's travelling through the village, which has increased rapidly in recent years, were raised once again and discussed at length. Residents said that both their properties and mental health were being damaged by the continuous noise and the vibrations felt in their properties throughout the night. It was suggested that residents set up an Action Group to work in conjunction with the Parish Council. This group could be involved in lobbying the County Council, commissioning independent structural assessments to determine the extent of the impact, contacting other rural villages with similar problems and potentially raising the profile of the issues in question through the media. The Clerk will write to Mick George and Steven Sanderson to raise the issue of their lorries speeding through the village.</p>
<p>Sept 2021 Minute 1158</p>	<p>Cllr Lomer Wood informed the Council that a working group comprising of local residents had been set up and would be looking at the historic buildings along the A427 and the effect of vibrations from the heavy vehicles. She advised that the village had been selected to take part in a pilot advisory 20mph scheme and that the VAS signs had been switched off whilst this was underway. There will be a questionnaire at the end of the 3 month trial to gauge its success. It was felt that the 20mph signs which had been put up under the 30mph signs were too small and not really visible to motorists. Cllr Lomer Wood will raise this at a site visit arranged for the following day with Cllr Graham Lawman, Executive Member for Highways, Travel & Assets which will involve looking at the lack of footpath and any way that may be available to slow the traffic through the village. It was noted that a response had been received from the letter sent to local hauliers requesting that their drivers travel considerately through the village. It appeared that there were less HGV's coming through at night and those that did were certainly driving slower. Cllr Stevens advised that the police were currently training 2 new officers to operate the speed gun in Dingley and other villages that have requested its presence. Cllr Dudson suggested that a timeline be drawn up to record all the work that has been done so far. Cllr Lomer Wood will ask whether the Village Working Group would be interested in taking this forward.</p>
<p>Oct 2021 Minute 1171</p>	<p>Cllr Lomer Wood referred to the advisory 20mph advisory scheme. It was felt that this was hard to achieve due to the sudden reduction of speed from 60 to 20 mph. There will be a questionnaire at the end of the 3 month trial to gauge its success.</p> <p>Cllr Lomer-Wood reported on her site meeting with Cllr Graham Lawman, Executive Member for Highways, Travel & Assets. The feign gates will be painted a different colour and the slow sign on road repainted in order to reinforce the speed limit. These works will be carried out in the Spring.</p> <p>It appeared that speeds of the HGV's coming through the village were certainly driving slower following the letters sent to local hauliers. Cllr Lomer-Wood also advised that communications with One Network on the diversions were effective in reducing the number of vehicles travelling through the village.</p> <p>A time line has been drawn up to document all the work that has been done so far by the Parish Council on traffic calming and circulated to all councillors.</p>

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<p>Nov 2021 Minute 1184</p>	<p>Cllr Lomer Wood referred to the advisory 20mph advisory scheme and advised that the survey, which was to gauge the success of the three month trial, should be provided to residents shortly. She said that the perception of residents was that vehicles were travelling more slowly through the village during the trial.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Cllr Lomer-Wood for organising the timeline which had been drawn up to document all the work that has been done so far by the Parish Council on traffic calming. Cllr Dudson said he would like to create a similar timeline for the work done by the Parish Council on seeking a new footpath.</p> <p>The Council discussed the possibility of sponsoring an independent speed survey through the village. Cllr Woolley will provide a cost for the survey for discussion at the next meeting. Cllr Lomer-Wood will contact Highways to request the possibility of installing the UK Sign 880 signage.</p>
<p>Jan 2022 Minute 1197</p>	<p>Cllr Lomer-Wood referred to the advisory 20mph advisory scheme survey which had been sent out to all residents to gauge the success of the three-month trial. These had been collected and will be returned to County Highways. First impressions from the surveys were that problems with tail gating had occurred when travelling through the village at 20 mph and that the signs, which were too small conflicted with the existing 30mph signs. The Council awaits the follow up from this.</p> <p>Cllr Lomer-Wood said she was still to pursue with NNC Highways the possibility of installing the UK Sign 880 signage.</p> <p>Cllr Wooley circulated details and a quote for an independent 7-day speed survey which would identify the total number of vehicles, their direction and speeds for a cost of £350. It was agreed to find out further information on the effectiveness of the data collected in terms of influence on NNC to provide traffic calming measures before making any decision to commission such a survey.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Councillors for their work with this.</p>

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<p>Feb 2022 Minute 1210</p>	<p>(i) Speed Survey – The Council considered the quote for an independent 7-day speed survey which would identify the total number of vehicles, their direction and speeds for a cost of £350. It was noted that County Highways could provide the same information via the fixed speed camera therefore it was agreed that it was not necessary to commission an independent survey at this time. Cllr Lomer - Wood will contact the Safer Roads team to request that the device be switched on to collect this data for a week at the end of March and reported that County Highways were in the process of analysing the data resulting from the 20-mph pilot scheme. Cllr Lomer-Wood referred to a fund available to the adjoining county to provide small scale highways improvements for rural villages NNC Cllr Tebbutt said he would pursue this to see if a similar fund was available in Northamptonshire. The Council observed that the 30mph signs by the Braybrooke Road junction needed cleaning – the clerk will report via Fix My Street.</p> <p>(ii) Additional 30mph Signage – The Council was pleased to note that NNC Highways had agreed to install the UK Sign 880 signage at either end of the village.</p>
<p>Mar 2022 Minute 1223</p>	<p>(i) Speed Survey</p> <p>Cllr Lomer-Wood advised that she had requested feedback from the 20mph speed survey but as yet had not received a response. She will contact the Northamptonshire Safer Roads team to request that the two speed signs in the village are turned on to collect speed data at the end of March.</p> <p>(ii) Signage</p> <p>It was noted that the 30-mph signage through the village had been cleaned. The new UK Sign 880 had been added to the Highways schedule of works.</p> <p>Cllr Dudson had circulated the latest timelines taken for both the Speeding and Footpath issues being addressed by the Council. These will be put on the website for access by the public.</p> <p>The Chair referred to the DMMO deadline, previously 2026, which had now been abolished.</p>

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<p>Apr 2022 Minute 1236</p>	<p>Cllr Lomer-Wood advised that she was still awaiting a response from NNC Highways Officer Sarah Barnwell regarding feedback from the pilot 20mph speed survey. She was also awaiting a response from the Northamptonshire Safer Roads team following her request that the two speed signs in the village are turned on to collect speed data at the end of April for three weeks.</p> <p>It was hoped that the new UK Sign 880 signs which had been added to the Highways schedule of works would have some effect in reducing the speeds of vehicles travelling through the village.</p>
<p>May 2022 Minute 1251</p>	<p>The Council was disappointed to note that still no feedback had been received from County Highways on the pilot 20mph speed survey. Cllr Lomer-Wood advised that not all the 30 mph signs had been cleaned and undertook to report those that hadn't on Fix My Street.</p>
<p>June 2022 Minute 1264</p>	<p>Cllr Lomer-Wood was pleased to report that the new UK Sign 880 signs has been installed at either end of the village.</p> <p>The Council was disappointed to note that there still had been no feedback from NNC Highways Officer Sarah Barnwell regarding the pilot 20mph speed survey.</p>

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<p>Sept 2022 Minute 1286</p>	<p>Members of the public addressed the Council on issues of speeding and the volume of HGV's travelling through the village and asked what action the County Council was taking to mitigate these speeds, damage to property through vibrations and effects on personal wellbeing. Residents asked what solutions could reasonably be put in place.</p> <p>NNC Highways Sarah Barnwell stated that engineers will be looking at putting in double white lines on the bends and dragon's teeth at each entrance to the village and a further collection of speed data will be carried out. She will ask the question of Highways to see if chicanes could be used.</p> <p>Residents responded that an average speed camera would be the best solution and that even an inactive camera would act as a deterrent. It was suggested that the Police Commissioner and NNC Highways Portfolio Holder be lobbied for a change in policy to reintroduce these.</p> <p>Cllr Howes will take all this back to the Highways Portfolio Holder Graham Lawman to see what can be done in terms of speed cameras.</p> <p>The unsuitability of the national speed limit on Sutton Lane and Braybrooke Road was raised. Ms Barnwell responded that the 'Speed Limit Review Panel' could look at these.</p> <p>The absence of adequate footways through the village and the concern that pedestrians are forced on to the main carriageway was also raised and a request was made that NNC look into both rerouting the heavy vehicles along the A6 which was designed a trunk road and to provide a footway through the village.</p> <p>The Chair thanked the visitors and stressed once again to the NNC representatives the strength of local feeling on these matters and that people are expecting something to happen.</p>
<p>Oct 2022 Minute 1301</p>	<p>NNC Cllr Tebbutt provided the recently collected speed data from the traffic report which had surveyed 47,346 vehicles passing 21 Harborough Road from 8th to 15th September 2022. This showed the average vehicle speed as being 31 mph with the 85th percentile at 35mph. A discussion took place on the response from NNC Highways which was looking at various speed deterrent options including double white lines and dragon's teeth markings to be laid leading to the 30 signs. The Council felt that the problem lay not so much with speeding traffic but with the width of the road being too narrow for HGVs to pass. It agreed to refer this back to NNC Highways reiterating the need to reroute these heavy vehicles away from the village and along the A6.</p>

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<p>Nov 2022 Minute 1316</p>	<p>The Council discussed at length the recently collected speed data from the traffic report which had surveyed 47,346 vehicles passing 21 Harborough Road from 8th to 15th September 2022. This showed the average vehicle speed as being 31 mph with the 85th percentile at 34mph. The Council is still awaiting a response from NNC Highways on the available speed deterrent options including double white lines and dragon's teeth markings to be laid leading to the 30 signs. 40mph prior to the 30 signs and lower speed limits on Braybrooke Rd/Sutton Rd are being considered by the speed limit review panel.</p> <p>Whilst it welcomed this additional road furniture, the Council re-iterated that the problem lay not so much with speeding traffic but with the dimensions of the A427 being too narrow to accommodate passing HGVs. Cllr Lomer-Wood will pursue with Highways, focusing on the volume and size of vehicles.</p>
<p>Feb 2023 Minute 1329</p>	<p>Cllr Lomer-Wood advised that works to install the 40 mph buffer prior to the 30 mph signs have been scheduled and that she will report to NNC Highways the damaged feign gate at the Market Harborough entrance to the village.</p>
<p>Mar 2023 Minute 1343</p>	<p>It was noted that the works to install the 40-mph buffer prior to the 30 mph signs at both ends of the village had gone out to final public consultation stage. The Council confirmed that the existing 30mph speed limit in the village did not apply to the unadopted Church Lane. It was suggested that the feign gates at the entrances to the village be painted to improve visibility and hence encourage motorists to slow down.</p>
<p>Apr 2023 Minute 1356</p>	<p>The Council referred to recent correspondence regarding available grants of between £500 and £5000 for initiatives to improve traffic calming. A discussion took place on options available to Dingley that would meet the grant criteria. It was agreed to revisit this again once the 40-mph buffer prior to the 30 mph signs at both ends of the village was in place. Cllr Lomer-Wood undertook to contact NNC Sarah Barnwell with regards to repairing and painting the feign gates at the entrance of the village.</p>
<p>Sep 2023 Minute 1386</p>	<p>Cllr Lomer-Wood also advised that the works for the 40mph buffer zone were still awaited and that she would report again to NNC Highways the feign gate which had now all but disappeared.</p>
<p>Nov 2023 Minute 1399</p>	<p>Cllr Lomer-Wood advised that she would be reporting all incidents of passing contact between HGV's resulting in wing mirror damage to NNC. A discussion took place on the impact on Dingley of the proposed West Corby SUE in terms of extra construction vehicles through the village and whether this could be used as a means to re-route all heavy traffic along the A6. The Council will keep a watchful eye on this.</p>

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<p>Jul 2024 Minute 1453</p>	<p>Highways Update – Cllr Lomer-Wood advised that she had reported the feign gate at the entrance to the village which is in need of repair.</p> <p>It was noted that two new speed activated signs had been put up on the A427 through the village.</p>
<p>Aug 2024 Minute 1466</p>	<p>Highways Update – Cllr Lomer-Wood expressed concern again with the size and speeds of the HGV's travelling through Dingley, particularly with the inadequate width of the road. She noted yet again another incident of lorries hitting each other's wing mirrors as they passed each other in the narrow parrs of the village. Cllr Lomer-Wood also expressed concern at the narrow width of the footpath and the vulnerability of pedestrians so close to passing lorries.</p> <p>Cllr Lomer-Wood will record all incidents arising from this problem and undertook to pursue again the possibility of an axel weight limit through the village.</p> <p>It was thought that the two new speed activated signs put up recently on the A427 will replace the old ones.</p>