



SWAFIELD AND BRADFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

SPEEDING AND ROAD SAFETY MEETING 23RD JANUARY 2024 NOTES

**Present. Boris Konoshenko, Timothy Payne, Mick Starling
Peter Neatherway, North Norfolk District Council
Duncan Baker, MP (Virtually)**

Note Taker : Denise Revell

Public: 26

The meeting was introduced by Boris Konoshenko, Chairman of Swafield and Bradfield Parish Council.

A presentation was received detailing road safety in the area, a copy of which is available on the Parish Council Website

https://www.swafieldandbradfieldpc.info/files/ugd/adcce4_7c6efb00f5d247c2ac6c1ac4390569c3.pdf

Improvements in the area have been started, new reflective posts by the bridge, additional road markings, cutting back the hedgerow around existing signs and new Safety signage has been installed, but more work is due to be carried out by Norfolk County Council's Highways team. They have also carried out traffic monitoring and the results of this are due soon.

Duncan Baker, MP, explained that road safety is incredibly important, the delay in receiving the outcome of the coroner's report was holding up some of the work that needs to be carried out by Highways. On completion of the traffic monitoring data Highways will produce a report that will identify actions that need to be addressed and this will take into account any recommendations from the coroner.

Duncan explained that he had told the Central Government that more money is needed for improvements to the roads.

Questions raised by the members of the public, directed to Duncan included;

Who was responsible for improvements?
How will they budget for this?

Duncan responded that Highways are responsible for improvements and they will set their budget in March

A representative from the local Speed Watch group reported that non compliant drivers decreased when they were on duty, he asked for more volunteers and Duncan Baker, MP said that he would write to all of the parishioners to ask for more volunteers on behalf of the group.

Peter Neatherway, District Councillor, addressed the members of the public in order to gather their opinion regarding road safety

He explained that changes to speeds on roads (TROs) are very costly, changing signage is a relatively cheaper option and Engineering works, which probably are not needed, are very, very expensive. The cost for installing traffic lights was in the region of £150,000, to install chicanes would be in the region of £20,000.

It appears that there were three issues in the area; Signage, the Bridge and Speed. If improvements to roads are suggested by Highways, they pay. If the improvements are made by the village, they have to find the money.

The SAM 2 sign could only be used on roads with a speed limit of less than 60MPH. The results from the SAM 2 were analysed and passed onto the police who assess the data and could put in speed traps in problem areas. The SAM 2 data will be added to the Parish Council Website in the future. The Sam 2 sign registered that there were 260,000 vehicles that came through Swafield in the last period.

Suggestions from the public included,

- White lines from the bridge, through the village to stop overtaking.
- Traffic Lights permanently on the bridge
- 20mph through the village
- Physical restrictions needs
- Narrowing of the road Near the Village Hall
- Preferential one way system for the bridge and the street
- Speed bumps
- Reduction of the Knapton Road to Swafied to 40mph
- Widening the Road from Knapton to Swafield

The majority of the people present at the meeting agreed that permanent traffic lights on the bridge and a preferential one way system for the bridge and the street would be the preferred road safety measures for the village.

Mick Starling reported that a reduction of 20 mph had previously been requested for the village but Highways had rejected it but in light of other villages, in North Norfolk being granted 20 mph restriction, Swafields request may now be reconsidered

Parishioners are also concerned about the impact the increase in housebuilding will have on the roads for not only Swafield but also the other coastal villages. And that no provision for road improvements has been factored into the plans for the new housing

Other comments received from parishioners included;

- Concerns about vehicles entering onto the street from Bradfield Road as visibility in this area is poor
- Walking on the street, unsafe, parishioner reported being hit by a car whilst walking
- Could Village Gates be installed
- Signage cut back so it is visible

Boris Konoshenko thanked the parishioners for attending the meeting and the meeting was closed at 9:15pm