

GREAT WALTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Report of the meeting held with Vicky Duff, Essex County Council to discuss Highways issues on Monday 11th July 2011 at The Old Fire Station, Great Waltham

1. Record of Members present

Chairman: Mr A Micklem

Councillors: Mrs M Farrant, Mrs J Patch Messrs Braisby, Leyde, Steel, McDevitt, Blaber, and Huggins.

2. Apologies for Absence

Were received from Mr Bell, Mr Jackson and County Councillor John Aldridge.

3. The following matters were raised

Village Gateways/Speed reduction features at Ford End. – the site meeting had taken place on 5th July and as a result the Parish Council was preparing plans for gateways which would be submitted to ECC for approval. An application would be made to the Big Society Fund towards the cost of the gateways.

The Parish Council felt that further speed reduction features, such as mini roundabout at the junction of Church Lane, Variable message sign and yellow backing plates to the 30mph restriction signs should be considered. Vicky Duff reiterated that the B1008 was a strategic route and as such the features that could be installed were restricted.

Metal projections at Bury Lane Ford – the clerk pointed out that that an order had been raised for the works. These had been awaited since March 2010.

Potholes, Brook Hill, North End – reported on 22nd February 2011. To date no action or feedback.

There followed a general discussion regarding the delay in works being carried out and the lack of feedback regarding jobs. Vicky Duff agreed to feed this back to the Mid Essex Area.

Verge Opposite The Compasses Public House, Littley Green/ Verge and Flooding, Lucks Lane, Howe Street – these were given as examples of works which local people wished to attend to as part of the 'Big Society' initiative and to achieve savings for ECC. The lack of support for these ideas from the County Council was extremely disappointing. Vicky Duff once again referred to the Mid Essex Localism team and undertook to provide the names and contact addresses for the seven heads of department at Mid Essex Area Office to enable better contact.

Speeding and reducing the speed limits – the proposed speed restriction review areas put forward by the Parish Council are as follows:

1. 40mph Speed restriction at Chelmsford Road, Great Waltham between Ash Tree Corner (end of 40mph restriction) and Great Waltham Village (beginning of 30mph restricted area) – passing through the hamlet of Minnow End. (last letter from Louise Lockwood stated on 30th April 2008 that a public consultation would be held in late summer and if all goes well with the necessary democratic procedure the scheme could be introduced by the end of the year 2008- then delayed as either part of overall County Review of Speed restrictions – scheduled date 2011 or part of Localism agenda –decision time for Chelmsford area possibly September 2009)
2. 20mph speed restriction past Great Waltham and Ford End schools during starting and finishing periods.
3. Speed reduction features through Hatchfields Great Waltham 20mph
4. Speed restriction on the A130 at North End in the region of the dwellings around the Butcher's Arms area and Black Chapel Lane.
5. 40mph speed limit on Main Road from Great Waltham (30mph limit) to Howe Street (30mph limit) – to reduce accident rate particularly at the junction of Pleshey Road and Main Road (Penden Hill Corner).
6. Review of 30mph limit in Howe Street to include all of the dwellings along main road to Oak Lodge. (i.e.current 40mph sign).

Vicky Duff provided a spreadsheet which indicated that all items with the exception of item 2 were included.

Vicky Duff indicated that item 1 had been considered by ECC's consultants and had been rejected.

Vicky Duff explained that County Councillor Tracey Chapman was now the Cabinet member with responsibility for Highways and Transportation and that County Councillors could seek a meeting (surgery) with her to take up Highways issues.