

Speeding problem in Foulden

I contacted NCC Highways, The Road Safety Partnership, Norfolk Constabulary Community Speedwatch, Parish Partnership & Oxborough's Community Speedwatch Team coordinator. I also met with our local highways engineer to survey the village and discuss options.

With Highways and the Road Safety Partnership I highlighted resident's concerns about vehicles speeding within the 30mph limit on White Hart Street and School Road, also in the national speed limit section leading into the village along White Hart Street from Highmoor Drove/Beck Cottages/Foulenden Mill. I asked both for suggestions on how best to reduce the speeding problem.

- **Moving/extending the existing speed limit** would require a Traffic Regulation Order. This comes at a cost of £4500 - £5000 and is likely to fail because White Hart Street up to Foulenden Mill does not meet the minimum density requirements for either a 30mph or 40mph limit.
- **Village gates** could be installed. Positioned correctly, these can encourage drivers to slow down by enhancing the feeling of entering a residential area. Village gates cost around £1500 installed. Highways prefer these to be procured through the Highways Dept. I initially saw this as a possible option to slow vehicles as they get to the first properties entering the village from Diddlington, by Highmoor Drove. Unfortunately, having surveyed the position with the highways engineer, it's clear that, to avoid obstructing visibility, these would have to be positioned too far away from the 1st properties to have any meaningful effect.
- **SAM2** is a pole mounted digital sign that monitors vehicle speed and displays speed and a message to speeding vehicles to encourage drivers to reduce speed. The SAM2 also has the capability of recording vehicle speed allowing data to be downloaded to form reports on the effectiveness of the equipment. They are placed in suitable locations where speeding is prevalent. To prevent them being considered permanent they should be moved between two or three locations every few weeks. The cost of the SAM2 is around £3500 installed. The sign will be the property of the Parish Council and a person must be appointed to monitor and relocate the signs on a regular basis. A survey identified three suitable positions; on White Hart Street on the verge opposite Rowan House facing South East, on White Hart Street on the verge fronting a property between School Road and Tallon Street facing North, on School Road attached to the existing 'bend in the road' sign outside no. 48 facing South West.
- **Community Speed Watch Scheme** is sponsored by Norfolk Constabulary. They provide equipment and training to a team of volunteers who commit to using the equipment to monitor the speed of vehicles at certain locations in the village. The details of vehicles exceeding the 30mph speed limit by a certain margin are recorded and passed to the police who will follow up with a warning letter. The police community enforcement team will use the information gathered to justify periodic attendance which could result in prosecution. This would require a minimum 6 volunteers to form a team who would be required to spend an agreed amount of time each week, in groups of 3, monitoring vehicle speeds at locations agreed with the police. The team at Oxborough was formed around three years ago and currently has 7 volunteers. They generally work in 1 hour sessions and commit to a minimum average of 1 hour per week. The team sometimes struggles to get 3 volunteers available at the same time. They receive monthly feedback detailing how many warning letters were issued, whether or the action of the

community enforcement team was triggered, and the results of such action. Speaking to the coordinator, they feel it is effective, but only while monitoring is in progress. Unfortunately, currently all equipment available has been issued and there is a waiting list of communities wanting to introduce the scheme.

- **Temporary signage** has already been offered to us by our County Councilor. This comprises an portable sign on an A-frame with a general message asking drivers to slow down and to THINK. The sign can be positioned at suitable locations anywhere in the village.
- **Funding** for highway safety measures is available from The Parish Partnership. They provide match funding for equipment such as Village Gates and SAM2. Applications for the 2020/2021 period closes on December 6th 2019 with successful applicants notified in March 2020. Funding is on a 50/50 basis.

Conclusion/Recommendations

I feel the village would benefit from the installation of a SAM2 sign positioned, on rotation, at the three locations identified by the highways engineer. The cost is as follows:

SAM2 c/w 2 batteries, charger, bracket and 1 set of clamps -	£2800
Data addition, software and leads (required to record data) -	£250
Bluetooth add-on for easier download of data to phone or Tablet-	£100
Spare brackets (2no.) (for ease of movement between locations) -	£100
Supply and installation of suitable pole (2no.)	£178
Total	£3428 + vat To be made up of

£1714 from parish partnership funding, £1714 from the parish precept.

I would be happy be the person responsible for regular relocation of the SAM2, battery change and data reporting.

If someone can be found to take on the role of Community Speed Watch Coordinator, and the likelihood of a further 5 volunteers identified, I would recommend we request Foulden be added to the waiting list for the Community Speewatch Scheme.

The Parish Council should specifically request Fabien Eagle provide the use of 1 of his portable signs to be positioned in the area of Beck Cottages/Foulden Mill periodically.

Because of the restriction on location, I don't feel the installation of village gates will provide a speed reduction solution.

I don't believe there is any mileage in progressing the possibility of extending the current 30mph restriction until such time as there is a significant change in the street scene.

Neil