

Fern House
The Street
Little Totham
Maldon
Essex
CM9 8JQ

01621 890809

20th February 2018

Little Totham Parish Council – Road and Traffic Concerns

Dear Priti

It was very good to meet you again at the beginning of the month and talk to you about some of the issues that we are dealing within the Parish.

As mentioned, the key issue that the village has faced for the longest and that has got worse over time - is the type, speed and volume of traffic that uses the main road through the village. During the week and at peak times, it affects the environment and safety of residents. Over the past 6 months the Parish Council and the subcommittee – formed by the Parish council - **The Traffic Working Group** - have introduced several initiatives, which have started to tackle some of the problems and are short term interim solutions. These now need to be built upon, with further actions and to build long term solutions.

Actions Taken

During October 2017, over 2 weeks, members of the traffic working group conducted a traffic survey. The survey was used to consolidate an electronic Essex Highways survey conducted in September 2016 and to establish the type and volume of vehicles that travelled through the village. The results confirmed previous data and also highlighted discrepancies in the electronic survey. It also confirmed the increase in the volume of HGV's, compared to a survey conducted in 2006.

Type of Vehicle average per day	2006 – Physical count	2016 – Electronic survey	2017 – Physical count
HGV – Large	No distinction in the type of vehicle	42	144
Van or smaller than 7 tons	was gathered in this year		276
Total Goods Vehicles	257	42	420
Car	No data collected	1358	1000
Total Number of Vehicles		1400	1420

Based on the surveys the number of good vehicles has almost doubled in just over 10 years. Although the electronic survey was meant to be able to differentiate between HGV's and cars, it is obvious that the equipment is not sensitive or sophisticated enough to truly establish the type of vehicle.

Using the data, we had conversations with the local businesses based at the business park, requesting that all good vehicles travel at a voluntary speed limit of 25 mph through the village. This has had mixed success and was followed up by a letter 2 months later, reminding them of the request. The Parish council is endeavouring to build positive relationships with the business, as this will help enable longer term solutions.

The survey also highlighted the speed of the school buses and how their excessive speed levels. Separate conversations were held with the relevant schools and bus companies, to highlight the problem and to ask the buses to be more aware of the speed of their vehicles

Due to the initiatives taken by one member of the traffic working group – who is a police officer – we now have regular Essex police speed safety checks. The checks have resulted in the prosecution of numerous drivers when they have been conducted and have highlighted the excessive speed of drivers. We have also agreed to implement the Trucam speed checks, which the Community Officers at Maldon District Council, are now trained to conduct. Once this is implemented, we hope to have speed checks at least twice a month.

The next step for the traffic working group, is to be trained to conduct community speed watch operations. This training should take place within the next month or so, and will add to the Police and Maldon District checks. The group will be able pass details of any speeding motorists to Essex Police.

Next Steps

The next step is to progress measures to slow traffic within the village environment and to also conduct a district review into the routes that HGV's take in the Witham/Maldon area. To enable this to happen we would ask you to request a forum with all those with responsibility for the highways and transport and anyone who can implement or influence changes within the village.

The areas we would like to review are as follows:

Introduction of traffic calming measures

Due to the proven excessive speed of vehicles – especially cars and vans – as they travel through the village, traffic calming measures need to be designed and implemented in the village. The type of measure needs to be those that naturally slow vehicles through the village and using pinch points. Creating points of entry to the village, which cause vehicles to slow.

These type of measures have been proven to be the most effective and less costly approach to traffic calming.

Currently there are water works in the village which has created narrower roads and traffic lights to control the flow of traffic. It is noticeable whilst the work is going on, how much slower and less noisy the traffic has become.

Routes to Beckingham Business Park

A review of the routes to the business park ensuring that all designated roads to the business park are utilised. The current routes were established a few years ago and have never been reviewed since implementation. Traffic from the business park is directed through our village and the other designated route is less utilised. The routes need to reviewed due to the increase in volume and the increased size of the vehicles.

It has also been noticed that whilst the water works take place, the HGV's are taking the other routes to the Business Park. This proves that the other routes are practicable and need to utilised.

Review of routes across the Maldon and Witham District

The volume of traffic in the area has increased dramatically as more houses have been built and businesses have been expanded. Braxted Road and its hazardous bends, its junction with Colchester Road and Appleby Bridge, are notorious accident spots. The design of the roads cannot cope with the increased population of Tiptree. This will only increase with the new houses being built in Maldon and Heybridge. The Parish council understands that this encompasses a wider remit, however we feel that as the route of the widened A12 is established, other routes also need to be reviewed so that HGV's are directed onto the most effective routes and avoid bottle necks and reduce congestion.

We greatly appreciate any support you can provide the village and if you are able bring relevant representatives to address the issues, that would be very beneficial. I would also welcome you at any time to the village in a more informal situation or if you wanted to have a tour of the common and our other amenity the village pub. We had the support of Chairman Henry Bass who attended our last Parish council meeting. It was very beneficial to my fellow councillors, as Henry supported my approach to business and that I was only taking the right and legal approach to decisions and processes.

I look forward to getting your feedback and the approach and next steps we need to make, to progress actions.

Yours sincerely



Handwritten signature of Richard Siddall in blue ink. The signature is cursive and reads 'R Siddall'. Below the signature, there are faint, illegible markings that appear to be a stamp or a watermark.

Councillor Richard Siddall
Chairman, Little Totham Parish Council

Cc: Rowena Collins, Parish Clerk, Little Totham Parish Council