

Highway Maintenance report

On Tuesday 29th September Cllr Follows and the clerk met to discuss highways maintenance, with Cllr Herbert and Cllr Taylor joining to review the Long Road West/East/Ardleigh Road project.

The following key points were covered:

Long Road West/East/Ardleigh Rd etc. Cllr Herbert.

DPC are currently waiting for the speed and volume surveys to be carried out. This will give us quantitative data on the speeds, number and type of vehicles using the Long Roads. Additional anecdotal/qualitative evidence will need to be gathered both during the survey and outside of it. (things to be recorded include the number of cars parked near the survey strips, as these may have an impact of speeds)

Meetings will also be held with Cllr Brown and the LHO officer, and a detailed, evidence rich LHP application will be put forward.

We are also requesting further detail on why Long Road West does not meet the speed strategy criteria, and the difference between Long Rd East and Long Rd West.

Update on general speeding issues and to consider a way forward. Cllr Follows

Following a discussion it was agreed to look into the possibility of having a speed and volume survey carried out at the following locations:

Birchwood Road
The Heath, by Anchor Lane
Grove Hill before Stratford Road

Speed Watch- as the Dedham Community Speed Watch is currently no operational (due to COVID restrictions on upper age limits) it was agreed to look at pooling speedwatch teams across the area. Other parishes may be in the same position, with only 1 member able to carry out surveys, and would be willing to team up.

Update on verges /footpaths /hedges and ditches. Clerk

Ditches- will Essex Highways cut the drainage grips in the verges? No, EH no longer cut grips. These are generally done by adjoining land owners.

Grass verges will be cut by Mortimer Contracts (Lamb Corner, Crown Street by East Lane).

Highways verges will only be done once a year going forward, to encourage wildflower verges.

The letters to landowners for ditches and verges are now going out.

Particular hedge issues at:

Coles Oak Lane- Langham end.

Woodland on Ardleigh Road.

Opposite The Grove

The clerk will arrange for the Brook Street and Crown Street hedge to be face and topped.

Grove Hill issue. We will continue to work with Cllr Anne Brown on the footway condition and overgrown hedge issues along this stretch. One section is being managed by the ECC enforcement team, where a landowner is refusing to carry out maintenance.

Update on outstanding and ongoing issues and updates required on VAS Sign, Tru cam, highways maintenance issues Clerk.

The VAS/SID forms part of the current LHP application and is in hand.

Cllr Follows reported that a new tru-cam trial, started in July, with the equipment costing £10,000. Maldon and Brentwood have the equipment, and further investigation will be carried out on the new device.

The footway condition Meadowcroft to Shelly Glebe Barn is very poor. This will be reported to Essex Highways for repair.

The clerk will carry out a speed limit signage review, checking that all limit change signs are in place.

Blackbrook- Cllr Smith's email to councillors on the clearing of Blackbrook was noted.

AOB

Gigaclear.- Their welfare site should be closed very soon . A number of their sites have been shut down due to poor traffic management, and they have been told to return to other sites to redo some poor reinstatements.

Stephen Redmond reported a number of highways issues via email and at the last meeting, as follows:

Grove Hill issues- being addressed as stated above.

Sign on Birchwood sign, slowly through our village. To consider an LHP application. Further investigation required first

Purchase of a SID- LHP application in hand

30mph limit change to Stratford Rd. This is very unlikely due to the rural nature of the road.

Grove Hill speed check police. Completed

Speed watch- awaiting training.