

Copy of email sent to CWaC Highways following meeting with the PC Highways Group on 23/08/21.

From: EARDLEY, Simon (Councillor)
Sent: 25 August 2021 11:31
To: BEGLEY, Sue; PARRY, Kay
Cc: brian.kerr@saughall.gov.uk
Subject: Saughall & Shotwick Park Parish Council - Highways Group
Importance: High

Dear Sue and Kay,

Saughall and Shotwick Park Highways Group proposals

You will no doubt both be aware, Kay certainly is, that Saughall & Shotwick Park Parish Council have a very active highways sub-group. The team have advanced a number of positive schemes on behalf of the parish around highways matters in the village with some success, the most recent being the VAS installation and adjustments to speed limit signage etc on Long Lane. I have been pleased to support some of this work in a modest way via my Ward Budget. This represents good progress but road safety remains a concern in the village and I also note from recent engagement with Cheshire's Police and Crime Commissioner, this is a priority for him too. At a meeting I held with the highways group recently, they asked me to engage with CWaC highways on a number of points which are summarised here and around which I would like to open a dialogue between the borough and parish councils, specifically with a view to arranging an in-person meeting to discuss further in due course.

1. Introduction of three 'raised island build outs' to the highway in specific locations – see images in the attached document and comment below.

In essence, the view is (and I strongly support it) that the strategic placement of raised islands as described, similar to those on Mill Lane, Upton, would have a beneficial speed calming effect but without necessarily impeding the safe movement of various forms of traffic. Some thought has been given to the locations and there is strong logic to them. A meeting would allow the team to expand more on them.

I appreciate that financial resources for projects like this are necessarily restricted. However, there is merit in them and I don't want to start off from the point that there is 'no resource' as the safety concerns which also need to be a priority require consideration too. I'm happy to try and build the necessary case to whoever that needs to be made and it may be that external support (including via the parish council itself) from wider afield might be possible. An indication of the potential cost of implementation of a scheme like this from your expert point of view would be most helpful.

2. Extension of the 30mph speed limit from Long Lane to a substantial part of Fiddlers Lane.

A resident recently made an approach to me and subsequently the parish council around the possibility of introducing a new footway to Fiddlers Lane which is a challenging road from a pedestrian point of view. He'd given some thought to various options but they are probably largely unrealistic. Whilst sympathetic to the ideas, the highways group (and indeed myself) believe a compromise might be possible which seeks to address some of the concerns and might be relatively easy to implement. Consideration could be given to the extension of the existing 30mph section of Long Lane to Fiddlers Lane. The optimum length would be from the junction with Long Lane and until just after Hey House (in the broad vicinity of Kingswood Lane). Again, a meeting as outlined earlier would be a useful forum to discuss this too.

3. Addressing 'rat run' traffic through Saughall at peak times.

There is a widely held view, again around which I have much sympathy, that highways infrastructure near but not necessarily in the village encourages road users to use it as a 'rat-run'. Easy access onto Sealand Road, for example, at Seahill Road is one area of concern. One possible idea to try and address this could be the installation of traffic lights on the junction of Western Avenue / Sealand Road. This could have a discouragement effect for road users, acting as a timed physical impediment to what is currently a through route to the village, bringing as it does considerable challenges around speed within it which well established. If such a scheme were to find favour, then we would clearly need to engage with councillor colleagues in the neighbouring Blacon ward too. Your comment on this, an indication of the costs of implementation etc, would be much appreciated.

I haven't been able to go into huge detail here but this wasn't my original intention. In short, I'd like to put these ideas on your radar and then seek a follow-up meeting to engage and reflect further with the relevant parties. Please can we look at this in the near future when we move out of the holiday season.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Regards,

Simon

Cllr Simon Eardley | Saughall and Mollington Ward

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