

**Bures Joint Parish Councils Highways Working Party Meeting
Monday 7th February 2023 held via Zoom at 7pm**

Present: Jan Aries, Gill Jackson, Jenny Wright, Mo Baker, Richard Shackell,
Mike Welch, Kevin Money

Apologies: Carol Ellis and Tim Fairbairn

The Working Party resolved to progress highway matters arising from the parish council January agendas.

1. Mount Bures junction and associated issues

Cllr Aries gave a background history of issues at this location. Several meetings held on site with ECC, Colchester Borough, MBPC and BHPC with the previous LHP request to improve the junction refused. A number of minor accidents at the junction relating to poor sightline for vehicles pulling out from Hall Road onto the B1508. A LHP request for a bus stop hardstanding refused on the grounds of being unsafe with poor pedestrian visibility. A number of youngsters use the bus route daily to access schools in Colchester and Sudbury. The B1508 has a vehicle speed of 60mph.

Points raised:

Should Essex Highways be encouraged to follow Suffolk Highways stance for the B1508 Sudbury Road which has a 30/40mph speed restriction?

Should a restriction of 40mph be implemented from BH to Pear Tree Road, Mount Bures or beyond?

Should the pedestrian sign be upgraded to Pedestrian Walking 400 yards?

The integrity of FP33 along Hall Road should be protected.

The bus stop is a recognised bus stop.

Could the bus stop area be yellow hatched as traffic will then be legally obliged to reduce speed?

Will BALC give its support to a LHP for a speed reduction?

Can Speedwatch be undertaken on the central grass area of the junction? **JA stated that Essex Police dictate where a speedwatch team can operate and this location is not approved.**

If a LHP request is accepted then a speed survey will be undertaken by ECC.

The following is agreed:

a) BHPC to submit an ECC Local Highways Panel request to reduce the speed limit from 60mph to 40mph along the B1508 to improve the sightline, to upgrade signage plus yellow hatchings. Clerk to include all previous evidence of need currently held on file.

b) MBPC to lobby youngsters who frequent the bus to write letters of support as evidence.

c) BHPC to do a local letter drop to gain support for the LHP request.

d) KM to enquire if BALC will give support to the LHP request.

2. Possible sharing of BSM's SID along Colchester Road

BSMPC has assessed the costs of its SID currently managed by Sudbury Town Council on a rotation system for 3 locations in the parish. Speed data is retrieved from the SID and forwarded to BSMPC. BSMPC suggests BHPC could finance a 6 month usage for Colchester Road to thus share the annual costs.

Points raised:

Can STC work over border?

Can BHPC afford this extra cost?

BHPC currently has a VAS at Normandie Way and will this be needed or relocated?

Current Highway posts in place along Colchester Road could be used.

Sites and new poles will require approval from ECC Highways.

It is agreed to ask STC if they are willing to work over border before following up on this matter. To be discussed further at next parish council meetings.

3. Extension of 30mph along Nayland Road

BSMPC keen to extend the 30mph speed restriction to include Mill Cottages. County Councillor James Finch has been handed the recent speedwatch data to assess if this could be actioned. If not then parish council needs to consider a way forward to improve speeding along Nayland Road.

4. Speeding Colne Road/Parsonage Hill

RS noted that traffic slows entering the village from Parsonage Hall however traffic does appear to increase speed going up Parsonage Hill.

Could the VAS be resited to Parsonage Hill/Colne Road?

It is considered that traffic increases speed from the entrance into Ferriers Barn.

Could the 30mph speed restriction be moved further up the hill to near Parsonage Hall.

White lines need repainting at the junction of Station Hill/Parsonage Hill. **Agreed to submit a request to ECC Highways.**

Residents have raised their concerns regarding pedestrian safety when accessing under the railway bridge at Station Hill. This concern has been raised on numerous occasions over the years with costs involved to improve the situation being the main stopping point.

Points raised:

Could residents be encouraged to use the Water Lane route to access into the village?

Could there be a priority traffic system installed.

A LHP request needed to be submitted to ECC.

MB offered to clean signs around the parish. Offer accepted. MB to inform the Clerk when she intends to do this work.

Safety under the railway bridge to be discussed more fully at the next BHPC meeting.

5. Dropped kerb provision

RS and JA take photos of suggested locations for an improvement of dropped kerb provision and bring to the next parish council meetings.

6. Parking

JA asked if those present knew of any parking issues which are currently not being addressed by the parish councils. Nayland Road pavement parking and Claypits Avenue junction were raised. It is agreed parking is a constant issue for the village and extremely difficult at times to manage. Parish Councils need to consider if field parking is an option.

7. Signage for Smallbridge Entry

Smallbridge Entry residents are requesting improved signage. JA has driven the road and advised there are bend warning signs from both directions at Smallbridge. There are no passing places along the main stretch which can be an issue for drivers new to the road.

Residents keen for slow signs however it is considered that the 2 bend signs are sufficient.

Residents to be informed that no action to be taken.

8. Any other matters for next meeting

Concerns raised regarding the poor state of Bridge Street road surface on both sides of the village. **Clerk to report on the Highway Reporting Tools.**

It is noted that village gate entrances such as those at Little Cornard will require approval from Highways. Grants will also need to be applied for. Possible item for next meeting.

9. Date of next meeting - TBA