

Date: 06 August 2020

Title: Report Item 8 – Traffic Issues within the Village

By: Cllr P Seeley (Vice Chair)

Purpose: To outline issues facing the village and steps the PC are able to take

Recommendations: (a) To note the report
(c) To approve the setting up of a Working Group to include councillors, residents and any other interested bodies, to deliver the traffic survey and other items recommended in the report

Paper to the PC on traffic issues within the village and specifically Gilberts Drive round to Beachy Head and the A259 through the village

Since the village has been under lockdown it has become apparent to many that various roads are being used as a racetrack with little thought given to speed, safety, noise and volume of traffic. With many restrictions now lifted from lockdown and many of the public having free time due to Furlough being in place, our village and places including Birling Gap and Beachy Head are finding it very difficult to cope with the increase in traffic. The A259 through the village as well as the Birling Gap Road are being used as a racing circuit by drivers with little regard for local residents.

The issue was raised at the Parish Council meeting in June by members of the public including residents from Gilberts Drive and also by the PC at the SLR (county liaison) meeting with ESCC on 16th June.

The Vicar of East Dean, Friston and Jevington called a virtual meeting on Monday 6th July to which various parties attended including our MP, East Sussex County Council, National Trust, South Downs National Park, The Gilbert Estate, The Residents Association and the Parish Council.

The conclusion of this meeting was that there should be two strands of work undertaken. The strands being:

- Bottom up – Parish Council working with local residents on single issue problems such as speed checks, Operation Crackdown, traffic surveys.
- Top down – The MP, Gilbert Estate, ESCC, SDNP and other bodies including the PC to review and consider implementing changes in Traffic Highway Management via a Traffic Regulation Order.

The purpose of this paper is to bring to Councillors notice the issues affecting the village and the steps the PC are able to take.

It is proposed that:

- The PC work on a joint funded traffic survey with ESCC to ascertain the base data for any future highway improvements. This work will need to be agreed with ESCC and include for traffic movements at key times of the year.

- The PC set up a Speed Watch Group in the village, trained by the Police which will allow us to monitor speeds along Gilberts Drive. When this idea has been proposed in the past there was insufficient take up from residents to assist with the initiative. We believe that there will be greater interest this time.
- The PC advertise and promote the use of Operation Crackdown whereby all incidents are reported of dangerous, fast, noisy driving and inconsiderate parking to Sussex Police.

It is proposed that a small working group be set up to include Councillors, members of the public from the village and any other interested bodies to deliver the three proposals above. Some individuals have already shown an interest and these names will be made known to Councillors at the meeting.

Cllr Seeley

28th July 2020

Note on financial implications:

- Working Group – there is scope for Mrs Picknell to do the admin for a Working Group whilst the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group is treading water. There would need to be a transfer between budget heads for this, but no extra cost to the council.
- Traffic Survey - at the last SLR (county liaison) meeting the parish was told that the cost of collecting data (by black box radar attached to street furniture) would be £400 per site, with a possible discount for multiple sites. As yet the number of sites is not decided. There is no budget for such a survey in 2020/21, so the council would need to consider virement from another budget head, possibly in response to detailed proposals from the Working Group.