

AGENDA ITEMS 12, 13 & 15

12. TO AGREE THE CILL RECOMMENDATION TO COMMISSION A TRAFFIC SURVEY FOR RUSHLAKE GREEN

Cllr Smythe's previously written report which also features on the upcoming SLR agenda:

Over the last 10 years the traffic flow through the parish in general and Rushlake Green in particular has markedly increased in terms of volume, speed and weight of vehicles.

At the same time, there has been an increase in the numbers of walkers, cyclists and horse riders, particularly during the pandemic period.

Rushlake Green has limited footpaths and no street lighting making the roads even more perilous during the hours of darkness.

For the last 3 years including Covid stoppages, the Rushlake Green Speedwatch Group has been attempting to educate drivers to adhere to the 30mph speed limit. During that time, from 2 x 1 hour daylight sessions per week, some 9,000 vehicles have been recorded speeding which indicates a potential total of c400,000 speeding vehicles during daylight over 3 years. A high proportion are at over 40mph and a significant number over 50 mph.

These statistics indicate that we have a traffic problem and the police agree, as evidenced by the extra police presence in the village.

It would appear that extra speed calming measures are required, and some signage needs relocating.

However, whenever Cllr Smythe has approached the Police for help and funding, he has been directed to Highways with the suggestion that we need to formally quantify the traffic flow before any action is taken.

A 7-day traffic survey has been agreed at the CIL committee, it should be noted the request for a traffic survey was the 4th top suggestion in the recent parish survey for CIL funding.

The cost of a temporary 7-day speed and volume survey would be £410+VAT. The equipment used would be attached to a piece of street furniture and would record vehicle numbers in both directions and the speeds they are travelling. The equipment would also record vehicle lengths, not weight. Vehicle lengths would give you a good idea of the type of vehicle.

East Sussex do have a network of permanent traffic counters and there may be a permanent counter on the stretch of road we are interested in. Some of these counters also record classification data.

Currently the Parish Council has approximately £1,800 of CIL funds to be spent before October 2022 and a total balance of £10,900 plus the recent CIL payment of £19,191.51.

13. TO CONSIDER COMMISSIONING A TRAFFIC SURVEY FOR BODLE STREET GREEN

This item has gone straight to Full Council as there will not be another CIL meeting until February 2022.

Previously a Speedwatch group had been set up in Bodle Street Green but due to lack of members had to stop.

Cllr Iremonger has reported speeding vehicles in the village on numerous occasions in recent months and the CIL Committee acknowledged the community survey's top forth suggestion of speed surveys was not specifically related to Rushlake Green. The committee felt it was important to note CIL spend is for the local community as a whole and not just for specific areas and it was AGREED a speed survey in Bodle Street Green should also be considered by the PC.

15 3 CUPS PUB UPDATE

This item was on the agenda at the request of the Chairman. I have emailed Stacey Robins at Wealden and requested information on the following:

The Parish Council has serious concerns regarding the current safety of the structure of the 3 Cup pub as well as needing clarification the site will not be under threat of future housing developments.

Would an empty dwelling management order be relevant to the Parish Council going forward?

Who is responsible for making the building safe? And who is responsible for ensuring this action has been carried out?

I have not received a response so far but ESCC Bob Bowdler has passed on the following information:

The latest information I have is 1 week old, and I have no reason to believe there has been any change since then:

"The original owner, the owner at the time of the application for domestic units on the land to the rear, remains the legal owner of the property and states that he has not yet made any decision on his future intentions for the property or the land."

However, as far as I am concerned, as a previous 'structural surveyor', I do not believe the property can now be salvaged as the deterioration is too great and has become structurally unsound.

