

Great Wilbraham Transport Working Group

End of Year Update

We last wrote to you at the end of September, to report the outcome of the Residents Survey to which so many of you contributed by completing a questionnaire. As Christmas approaches and with the end of the year beckoning, we thought that we'd provide you with an update on developments that have taken place over the past couple of months and remind you of our plans for 2022.

We are fortunate to be able to report events related to traffic and roads, as they happen, on the Wilbrahams' website, where the TWG has its own area. If you're not familiar with the site, you might like to use (and bookmark) the following URL to find it:

<https://www.wilbrahams.co.uk/councils/great-wilbraham/parish-projects/transport-working-group-twg/>

Alternatively, as there is no link on the front page of the Wilbrahams website, look under Local Information/Clubs and Societies, or enter "TWG" into the search box. Both will take you to the place where we post reports of our activity.

Not everyone uses a computer of course, so here's a brief summary of the reports that we've posted on the website since the end of September:

Road signs – Herrings Bridge. Responding to a request from the TWG, championed by our Councillor Claire Daunton, three additional road signs were put up by the County Council adjacent to the dangerous bridge on the road to Fulbourn.

Local Highways Improvement (LHI) application. An important success was the development and filing of an application, on behalf of the Parish Council, for additional 'Your Speed' devices and 40 mph limits on the approaches from Fulbourn and the A11 with the County Council on 14th October.

Accident on Station Road. Echoing the application for 40mph limits, a car driving from Fulbourn came off the road just before the 30mph limit, hitting the post, damaging the sign, scattering vehicle parts over the verge, and knocking down a blue sign advising that Station Road would be closed for road works in November.

Replacement of a road sign. The sign warning of the road to Fulbourn narrowing, immediately prior to the bridge, was repositioned after the rusty post on which it was attached fell over.

The County Council's 20mph speed limit policy. As we've previously mentioned, the 'new' County Council administration declared that they would review and revise the policy which currently makes it almost impossible for villages to secure 20mph speed limits. In early November, the issue was discussed by the Transport & Highways Committee, and a recommendation is likely to be made to the Council in December or January.

Replacement 'Give Way' sign. Within 2 days of the TWG reporting the collapse of yet another sign, a replacement 'Give Way' sign was erected by the Council on the exit from the A11 bridge.

We continue to build up a substantial 'body of evidence', including photos and videos, to illustrate the danger and damage that HGVs are causing in our village. If you can help with this, please let us know.

The Plan for 2022

The TWG will continue to be guided by your opinions, so please let us know about your concerns and how these might be allayed. Contact us via hgvs.wilbraham@gmail.com or by posting a note through the letterbox of either 18 Church Street or 52 Station Road.

We have 2 principal objectives for next year:

- To gain agreement from the companies that own, operate or benefit from HGVs that use Great Wilbraham as a through route, to voluntary measures that would reduce the impact of the vehicles on the village and its residents
- To obtain a reduction of the speed limit in the village from 30mph to 20mph: a speed more appropriate to the nature of roads, the needs of those living along the main through-routes and the safety of pedestrians, cyclists and other road users

Commercial Covenants

Cambridgeshire County Council has developed a Covenant which sets a voluntary code of conduct to help reduce noise, pollution and increase safety. The Covenant between local communities and commercial vehicle operators has been developed to benefit local parishes and community groups concerned by the impact lorries and other large vehicles are having on their villages.

In the New Year the TWG will be seeking agreements with companies, both hauliers and those receiving or despatching goods on HGVs, in a bid to moderate the behaviour of drivers. To take just one example, we will seek agreement about night-time movements, which disturb those living in houses adjacent to the main roads through the village.

20mph Speed Limit

We are anticipating that the County Council will change their current policy and, as a result, look favourably on applications for speed limit reductions from villages affected by large volumes of traffic – particularly HGVs. Our intention is to propose to and support the Parish Council with the development of a Local Highways Improvement application for a 20mph limit next year.

The support given to this proposal by those who completed the questionnaire in September was overwhelming: 148 households in favour, compared to 8 against. 130 respondents said they would be prepared to drive at 20mph now and it has been evident that many people are doing just that. If you are not, please consider doing so.

You can help!

In closing, we'd like to thank everyone who has helped us to develop what is proving to be a very effective campaign. We continue to need your active support: for example, to help with traffic surveys and manning our stalls at the Farmers Markets. We'd be grateful if you would display a "20s Plenty" poster or sticker; also please let us know of any incidents that we could use to illustrate the need for change. Contact us at hgvs.wilbraham@gmail.com: we'd love to hear from you. Happy Christmas and a safe and healthy New Year.