

AGENDA ITEM 14

To: Great Shelford Parish Council

From: Councillor Lyn Disley (GSPC)

Date: 13th January 2021

Increasing risk and impact of Traffic on the village

1.0 Purpose: To highlight high risk traffic issues on Church Street/High Street, Great Shelford and recommend consultation to identify other problem areas in the village and elicit public views on our priorities. E.g. public safety, village character, speed of access and egress to and through the village.

2.0 Background: Over the last eighteen months, the amount of traffic, the number of commercial vehicles, the speed of traffic and the driving attitudes of many passing along Church Street and into the High Street has become a significant concern. Perhaps this is due to housing development in the local area, or the growing employment numbers at the Addenbrookes biomedical campus? With more residential building planned, and ever-increasing employment opportunities in the area, the situation does not look like improving. I am a resident in Church Street and declare a personal interest in the problem, having brought it to the attention of GSPC before becoming a Councillor. To my knowledge, since June 2020, three Church Street residents have independently written to GSPC, and the School, the Church and the local bus company and Little Shelford Parish Council have all approached us, expressing high levels of concern.

I have prepared a presentation to share my personal observations and learning, in order that GSPC can agree how to move ahead. I can only speak with authority on the Church Street issues and whilst I do see this as a local pinch point, please note that I am fully aware that the impact of the generic traffic issues is more widespread and affects the whole village, hence the recommendation that we undertake urgent consultation with all of our residents, before prioritising action.

3.0 Key Issues:

Risk: To pedestrians, cyclists, vehicles, passengers, property, resulting from increased amounts of commuter, business and commercial traffic and speed of travel on roads that are historically residential, back-road routes.

Changing nature of village: Great Shelford currently retains a village feel, with a largely respectful, community-minded ambiance. Road-users who do not recognise the nature of this are treating the village purely as a route from A to B, and expect the roads to provide speedy and unhindered access, perhaps driving with less appreciation of other road-users and residents, and possibly irritated by the inherent activities of the village e.g. deliveries to shops, travel to and from school, church and social and recreational activities, parking, etc. This has led to CCC and GSPC taking some restrictive traffic measures, which inevitably alter the visual appearance of the village and potentially the village "feel". Nationally, there are an increasing number of initiatives that seek to empower communities to manage their environment and apply psychological traffic management and community focussed options that we might explore?

Community Priorities: We have submitted a pragmatic LHI, suggesting traffic calming measures on Church St and the High Street but this does not seek to address all issues or provide a long-term plan and if approved it will take some time to implement. Any measures have a cost, all have some benefit and some negative impact on our community, and my conclusion is that we should undertake consultation, not on specific traffic measures but on general priorities.

4.0 Recommendation: That GSPC agree to engage with local residents via consultation to define village priorities relating to highways, in order to inform the position of GSPC, obviously recognising that GSPC is not the only stakeholder when it comes to traffic management and urban planning.