

WALTON PARISH COUNCIL
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT MEETING – 20 JULY 2021
SUMMARY NOTES

The meeting was held to explore residents' concerns in relation to speeding and traffic management. The meeting was attended by Parish Councillors, Cllr Cummings (Wakefield MDC ward councillor), Graham West, Head of Highways & Transport (Wakefield MDC), PC Craig Steel (West Yorkshire Police) and 12 members of the public. This is not intended as a set of minutes for the meeting, but a summary of the issues and potential action points raised.

Key points raised by Wakefield MDC Highways & Transport

- A summary of data from the recent traffic survey undertaken on Greenside, Shay Lane and Oakenshaw Lane (<https://www.waltonparishcouncil.org.uk/policing-in-walton/>)
- Safety works or highway alterations will be prioritised by the council where people have been killed or seriously injured and will be strongly guided by traffic data
- The overall volume of traffic in the village is increasing and returning to close to pre-pandemic levels
- Speed camera location is not the responsibility of Wakefield MDC, but the West Yorkshire Casualty Prevention Partnership
- Any additional traffic calming measures would legally require consultation with Walton residents
- The Parish Council have the legal power to fund traffic calming measures

Key points raised by West Yorkshire Police

- Summary of the Walton SAFE scheme
- Focus on parking enforcement in proximity to the school and this has identified parking problems
- The siting of speed camera vans/cars has been identified – safety considerations need to be taken into account for the siting of the vehicles
- Periodic speeding enforcement activity has been undertaken, but overall resources are stretched
- Enforcement is only one part of the solution – driver behaviour sits at the heart of the problem

Key questions/issues raised by members of the public

- **Road signage on Common Lane** – the existing signage on the bend on Common Lane is insufficient. There needs to be black/white chevron signage erected in the lead up to the bend to warn drivers
- Will the **traffic survey** be undertaken again (due to concerns about the relevance of the existing data undertaken during lockdown and possible siting issues of the data strips)?
- **Walton Colliery Nature Park exit** – the line of sight on the Shay Lane exit is obscured by the existing tree line. The tree line needs to be pruned back to improve line of sight.
- **Driver behaviour** on Shay Lane – recognition that the majority of drivers are within the speed limit but the minor of drivers driving at excessive speed is still a real issue of concern.
- **Shay Lane existing traffic calming measures** – are the existing lane restriction measures towards the top of Shay Lane (approaching Greenside) in reality causing some drivers to drive more dangerously?

- **Speeding on Greenside** – this is often well in excess of the 30 mph speed limit and is dangerous
- **Reality of speeding on Oakenshaw Lane** – although the data did not really show it, excess speeding is definitely taking place along Oakenshaw Lane, particularly along the Common Lane section and the section from Doncaster Road to the viaduct
- **Parking on Shay Lane** – particularly in proximity to the school at school opening/closing times is an issue
- **Shay Lane/Cherry Tree roundabout** – the data likely masks a number of unreported incidents. The existing mini roundabout is often disregarded and measures to improve its usage to be considered could include; stop/give way lines at the roundabout, raising the visibility of the roundabout or the insertion of yellow rumble strip lines
- **30 MPH zoning** – should the whole length of both Shay Lane and Oakenshaw Lane/Common Lane now be a 30 MPH zone? This may well help lower the overall speed of all drivers and deter excessive speeders
- **The siting of a future traffic survey** – the location of the data strips should be reconsidered if the traffic survey is to be re-commissioned to take in more appropriate locations where speeding is likely to occur
- **Traffic pledge** – might the village want to consider the introduction of a 20 MPH traffic pledge to encourage better driver behaviour?

Issues to explore and progress

- **Road signage on Common Lane** – commissioning the installation of black/white chevron signage in the lead up to the bend: *to be explored jointly with Wakefield MDC and Walton Parish Council*
- **Walton Colliery Nature Park exit** – pruned back the sight line on exit from the Nature Park onto Shay Lane, to improve line of sight: *to be progressed with Wakefield MDC*
- **Parking on Shay Lane** – particularly in proximity to the school at school opening/closing times for parking enforcement/dangerous parking or speeding: *to be progressed with West Yorkshire neighbourhood policing team*
- **Shay Lane/Cherry Tree roundabout** – measures to improve the usage of the mini-roundabout: *to be progressed with Wakefield MDC*
- **30 MPH zoning** – examining the feasibility of the whole length of both Shay Lane and Oakenshaw Lane/Common Lane becoming a 30 MPH zone: *to be explored jointly with Wakefield MDC and Walton Parish Council*
- **A future traffic survey** – examining the suitability of undertaking a further traffic survey with relocated data strips: *to be explored with Walton Parish Council*
- **Traffic pledge** – consideration of a 20 MPH traffic pledge/communications campaign to encourage better driver behaviour: *to be explored with Walton Parish Council*

Further information

Walton Parish Council: <https://www.waltonparishcouncil.org.uk/policing-in-walton/>

West Yorkshire Camera Safety Partnership: <http://www.safetycameraswestyorkshire.co.uk/>

Wakefield MDC Highways: <https://www.wakefield.gov.uk/roads-and-transport>