

King's Sutton Annual Parish Meeting, April 2019

Traffic Calming Measures

The Parish Council continues to review traffic problems in the village, and possible measures to address them.

1. At the 2018 Annual Parish Meeting we reported on work in progress on: a) the planned replacement of the battery-operated VAS with a device which can draw power from a mains supply and from a solar panel for circulation between 3 locations (lamps 3 and 10 on Astrop Road (junction with Glebe Rise and towards west end of Astrop Road), and at the entrance to the village on Mill Lane; b) the anticipated introduction of a reduced speed limit (20mph) on The Knob, and Richmond Street from the junction with The Knob to the junction with Newlands. We can report further on each of these matters, as follows:
 - a. The introduction of the mains- and solar-powered VAS has been delayed by the need to ensure that the erection of a new pole on Mill Lane on which the VAS can be mounted does not interfere with services laid underground. The options for establishing this were either the digging of trial trenches for visual inspection, or the use of Cat and Genny radio signal-detecting technology. The former option would have entailed a significant cost to the Council. Cat and Genny testing did not entail such a cost, but was subject to an uncertain timetable due to heavy demand for the service. At the time of writing we are expecting the C&G work to be completed imminently (by no later than 8th April) and by the time of the Annual Parish Meeting may have received a report. We intend to complete the work required to introduce the VAS as soon as we have received this report.
 - b. The 20mph speed limit was imposed on The Knob and on Richmond Street between The Knob and Newlands, in early November 2018. New speed signs were erected accordingly. The Parish Council was informed by South Northants Road Safety Team that the Police would not carry out speed enforcement checks, but that monitoring would be carried out by the Road Safety Team, by way of data gathering. We await the data.
2. We have received further complaints about HGVs traveling down Red Lion Street, and either getting stuck and/or damaging parked vehicles on the east side and the wall on the west. The Council is considering possible means to address this problem.
3. We have noted in each of our reports since 2015 that grass verges at a number of places around the village are being damaged by vehicles parked on, or driven over, them. The problem continues. And we continue to appeal to village residents to act in ways which take due care of the appearance of our village, and to encourage visitors to do the same. We have started to look into possibilities for tree-planting on verges and green spaces in the village, both for its own sake, and with the possible benefit of deterring parking on grassed areas.

Councillor Richard Sykes, April 2019