

REPORT TO PICKMERE PARISH COUNCIL

6th April 2021

AGENDA ITEM 8.5 – SPEEDING ISSUES IN PICKMERE

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Three aspects of this topic are raised here:

- Feedback from a meeting organised by CHALC with parish and town councils in Cheshire about the speeding problems and the difficulties of dealing with principal authorities and the Police;
- A proposition that Cheshire Police should be asked to train further volunteers to carry out community speed checks in the Parish;
- A proposition that the Council should pursue further the possibility of traffic calming measures on Pickmere Lane.

2. CHALC MEETING

2.1 Cllr Shore and your Clerk attended an online meeting organised by CHALC on 16th March. It was attended by representatives of many parish and town councils in Cheshire East and was aimed at discussing problems relating to speeding vehicles in each council area, and how Cheshire East Council and Cheshire Police help, or do not help, in dealing with these problems. The meeting arose out of a survey of Cheshire councils carried out by CHALC which aimed to discover how important this issue was, the conclusion being that it was almost universally one of the most important and frequent topics discussed by parish and town councils.

2.2 A short introductory Powerpoint presentation, and the notes of the meeting have been circulated by CHALC, and have been circulated to members, and they are available to parish residents if they contact your Clerk.

2.3 The problem of speeding vehicles is almost universally experienced across Cheshire, and from the discussion at the meeting, many small councils have more serious problems than Pickmere in terms of the scale of their roads, the volumes of traffic and the speeds involved, and other factors such as the existence of schools on busy roads.

2.4 However as universal as the problems are the difficulties that councils have in trying to get assistance from CEC and from the Police to try to resolve them. These problems are mirrored in Pickmere. Attached as an appendix is a report presented to your council in July 2019 which contains the comments of CEC in response to a request for a vehicle speed survey on Pickmere Lane. This type of response is apparently typical.

2.5 CHALC's objective in organising the meeting was to assess the kinds of problem that councils have in dealing with CEC (and indeed Cheshire West and Chester Council), together with Cheshire Police about these issues. As a result of the meeting CHALC intend to go forward to seek dialogues with those bodies to try to press them to allocate more resources to dealing with these issues and these criticisms, and to bring about a change in approach.

2.6 There must remain some scepticism as to whether any progress can be made in this respect, but one can only hope that CHALC will be able to secure some improvements in the current systems.

3. COMMUNITY SPEED CHECK

3.1 Coincidentally with the organisation of that meeting, your Chair has suggested that it would be beneficial to seek further volunteers to carry out periodic speed checks in the parish. Several years ago two parish councillors together with a local resident who is now a parish councillor were trained and authorised by Cheshire Police to operate a Community Speedwatch checks. Several such checks were carried out, but it is evident that if more volunteers could be trained, then a Speedwatch initiative could be operated more intensively and continuously.

3.2 Any such volunteers would need to have the appropriate training, provided by Cheshire Police, and therefore authority is sought to seek further potential volunteers and to request the Police to carry out their training.

4. TRAFFIC CALMING

4.1 Cllr Bold has proposed that your Council again seeks the implementation of further traffic calming measures in the parish, in association with a village-wide review into signage. This topic has been discussed at various points with CEC but with no success to date.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 That the report be noted.

5.2 That a request for further volunteers to carry out Community Speedwatch be publicised and that Cheshire Police be asked to provide relevant training.

5.3 That Council is minded to revisit “gate style” village entrance / speed identification signs or devices as part of a village wide review into signage at this time and to request CEC for its assistance in this respect.

J Steel

Clerk to the Parish Council