

STEVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: HIGHWAYS - SEPTEMBER 2023

[This update reiterates an increasing/ongoing list of (mainly) Outstanding Actions - there are several previously recorded actions still requiring priority progression in partnership with Borough Councillors and Borough Highways. For clarity all actions are highlighted at the end of each relevant item].

1.1 **7.5T Weight Limit (Silver Street):** The 12 month Borough Council's formal review period ended August 2023. To assist BBC in establishing evidence-based findings SPC traffic incident log (for year prior to and during review period) submitted for incorporation. Means of review assessment and timings requested by SPC. **Action status: Outstanding - BBC yet to advise SPC of 7.5T review methodology criteria, outcomes and timescales.**

1.2 **20mph Mandatory Speed Limit Scheme:** As above. **Action status: Outstanding - BBC yet to advise SPC of 20mph review methodology criteria, outcomes and timescales.**

1.3 **Mobile Speed Indicator Device (SID):** The Morelock SID unit remains operational in Park Road. However, battery life appears circa 5 weeks and if a discharged (connected) battery is left in place for around 2 weeks it becomes permanently depleted and unusable. A H&S risk assessment has been carried out ref SPC volunteers working at the live roadside every few weeks throughout the year with no pavement separation and the working height of this pole 3m+ from ground level. The risk assessment conclusion is the current working practice is unsafe and presents unacceptable risk - the frequency of visits, risk of battery depletion and roadside safety risks were not fully appreciated when SPC decided during 2021 to purchase a battery powered SID. There is a proposal the SID should be converted to maintenance-free solar power (an option the manufacturer offers) - as a priority - and as soon as further funds allow, an additional SID unit with solar power will be purchased for permanent deployment in Silver Street. **Action: SPC to consider purchase of solar power supply and agree purchase of additional unit for Silver Street as soon as funds allow.**



1.4 Other Matters:

1.4.1 West End and Park Road – alteration of current speed limits: Borough Council confirmed at 8th Feb EPM the outward extension to the 30mph and 40mph mandatory speed limit extents/introduction at West End/Pavenham Road and Park Road. **Action status: Outstanding - formal Borough confirmation required ref timescales.**

1.4.2 Village Entrance Roads – 3 x Pairs Entry Gates (& 'Pedestrians in Road' Signage), Dragons Teeth Road Markings: Borough confirmed at 8th Feb EPC this would align with end-of-year timings ref intended lowering/moving of the mandatory speed limits (see above). Allocated funding

confirmed in place by former Borough councillor during 11 May and July 2023 SPC meetings. **Action status: Outstanding - formal Borough confirmation required ref timescales.**

1.4.3 Bottle Bank, Stevington Country Walk, Park Road: This is considered by SPC to present a significant risk to road safety. A comprehensive safety-based report was provided to Borough councillors during May 2023 - Borough councillor advised SPC verbally that BBC had agreed the bottle bank would be removed. July 2023 SPC meeting - Borough councillor advised BBC had visited site and was not fully convinced of safety risks. **Action status: Borough councillors requested to formally establish Borough Highways' intentions and advise SPC of response.**

1.4.4 February 2023 Highways EPM - Silver Street/Cross Junction - Commercial Vehicle Damage: Mitigation Measures: During the EPM a number of topics were discussed with the majority of actions covered elsewhere in this report. Also, however, the subject was raised by residents of Borough Highways assessing any opportunity for the protection of historic buildings at the Silver Street/Cross junction by means of pavement bollards for example - agreed for formal consideration by Borough. **Action status: Outstanding - Borough councillors requested to again formally raise the matter to Borough Highways and advise SPC of response.**

1.4.5 Missing Road Sign - Silver Street: This sign, at the Cross junction, became detached from its concrete support posts several months ago and the matter was raised with BBC for repair. However, the sign disappeared several weeks ago - SPC have been seeking to establish if Borough Highways removed it for repair/replacement or whether it had been stolen (therefore replacement needed). **Action status: Borough to confirm whether they have the original sign and will repair/replace, or provide a new replacement if it has been stolen (with reporting to Police).**

1.4.6 Community Speedwatch: Stevington Traffic Action Group (STAG) has formally partnered with Bedfordshire Police and following mandatory vetting of individuals and formal training, regular roadside speedwatch camera sessions continue to take place with data submitted to the Police. STAG has also been invited to access/make use of speed data available via Bluetooth from the SID (para 1.3 refers) in support of evidence led speedwatch deployment and improved road safety. **Action status: Ongoing.**

Report Ends

20 September 2023