

BURWASH PARISH MATTERS, JANUARY 2021

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This is a summary of the Report of Burwash Parish Council's Survey on Traffic Calming for Burwash Village.

The full report is available at burwashparish.org.uk

Introductory Summary

Two feasibility studies carried out by traffic engineers have recommended the introduction of traffic calming measures in Burwash Village. As part of the Parish Council's application for match funding from East Sussex County Council engineers advised that consultation be undertaken to establish the level of community support v potential objections to their recommended measures. The outcome would inform the final wording for the Parish Council's community match application and the appropriate process to be followed by the County Council in its application for the required Traffic Regulation Order [TRO].

The Parish Council was also keen to ascertain the community's views on the funding it had agreed to contribute towards the measures and to gauge opinion on some style ideas for village gates. The Parish Council undertook a survey in November 2020 notifying every resident via personally delivered letters, inviting both e' and hard copy responses.

346 people responded. In the introductory letter, those who chose not to respond were assumed to have no preference in favour or against.

The Survey

Q1: At present, the Council has £25,000 available for work needed to implement traffic calming measures through the Village High Street. It is seeking a similar amount from East Sussex Highways.

If ESCC provide the matched funding, do you agree that the Council should go ahead with traffic calming procedures?

82.2% of those who responded agreed with the amount of funding the Parish Council has set aside and 17.8% were against.

Q2: There should be a 20mph speed restriction from where the 30mph sign is now on the Etchingham side of the Village to near the entrance of Highfields. There would be a combination of signs and road markings, together with the use of coloured road surfacing and white 20 mph roundels.

Do you support the introduction of a 20 mph limit in Burwash Village on the A265?

80.1% of those who responded were in favour of 20 mph and 19.9% were against.

Q3: You will be aware of many different ways of warning drivers of a change of speed limit, or the need to be aware that they are entering a residential area. The design, number and siting of "Gates" has not been decided and will depend on the necessary funding being available and the response from residents.

79.1% of those who responded were in favour of village gates and 20.9% were against.

Q4: There are many ways that traffic is controlled through narrow roads, known as Pinch Points. At present, traffic flow is 'controlled' by cars parking on one side of the road, so that a 'voluntary' priority system has to apply, using the good will of drivers.

Do you agree that, after the 20 mph scheme, the next priority is the 'pinch point' at the western end of the village?

62.7% of those who responded agreed that the pinch point is a priority and 37.3% were against.

While the community supports the planned measures for 20 mph, and priority working signage at the pinch point, further thinking by the Traffic & Transport Working Group will help inform the Parish Council's process for deciding the most suitable design style for the village 'Gates'.

The full report, including responses to the individual examples of 'Gates' and Pinch Point management are available on the Burwash Parish website: burwashparish.org.uk.

Strand Meadow Development

The Council are continuing to object to the Development at Strand Meadow, particularly focusing on;

- o **The massed appearance of the development, the hard landscaping, layout and scale of the site,**
- o **Access to the site through Strand Meadow which presents, in the opinion of the Parish Council and that of the community, a serious hazard,**
- o **The Footpath link, which forms an integral part of the Access conditions,**
- o **Continuing and serious concerns about the run-off not just from the impact of the built form but in relation to the land itself which has both running water through it and natural springs which are not static,**
- o **The parking provisions do not reflect the evidenced pattern of car ownership in rural locations,**
- o **We strongly object to the concept of an estate which would potentially exclude those with young children, and those with mobility difficulties, including the elderly,**
- o **The absence of any mention of Affordable Housing in the Planning, Design and Access,**
- o **Damage to the AONB,**
- o **We consider the significance of the ancient woodland has not been adequately assessed,**
- o **The site remains deeply unpopular within the Community and continues to register large-scale objections.**

The detailed letter of objection is available on the Burwash Parish website.

Lighting up Burwash

Our thanks once again to Ann-Marie and Matthew for hanging the lights in the High Street, the residents, cafes, shops, pubs and others who decorated their windows and to the Flower Arranging Club whose trees adorned St Bartholomew's Church. The Christmas Tree Festival would usually raise over £9,000 for the church but of course as there was no festival this year, the amount raised will be considerably less. If you would like to make a donation to support Church Funds, please contact Chris Woodburn, PCC Treasurer at Oak House, Heathfield Road, Burwash, TN19 7HN or call on 01435 883196.

Burwash in Bloom

At the next meeting of the Community and Communication Working Group on January 21st we will be discussing the Burwash in Bloom competition, so if you are an early bird when designing your summer baskets, troughs and front gardens, you may wish to take this into consideration.

Happy New Year to all our Parishioners

The Councillors and Officers of the Parish Council would like to wish all parishioners and their families a peaceful New Year and a more hopeful year than the past one. A particular thank-you to all those who continue to support others in the Burwash communities for whom this has been a particularly difficult year. Thanks also to all the shops, pubs and cafes for meeting the needs of residents beyond their front doors and to those social groups who have endeavoured to keep going despite the obstacles along the way.

Cllr Brian Newman