

VILLAGE TRAFFIC SURVEYS

In response to concerns raised by various residents regarding the number and speed of vehicles travelling through the village the Parish Council has commissioned a series of traffic surveys to accurately record vehicle numbers and speeds. With two new housing developments underway it was also felt prudent to have some base data to refer to once these developments are completed.

The Traffic Survey Section at Suffolk County Council carried out the surveys over the period 13th-19th July using radar-based vehicle detection equipment. These unobtrusive 'black boxes' were attached to utility poles at the following four locations:

- 1) Whatfield Road – The west end of 'The Green' opposite the pond.
- 2) The Street – East of 'Old Chapel' opposite the school.
- 3) Ipswich Road – South of 'Wall Farm'.
- 4) Hadleigh Road – Opposite 'Snowton House'.

A summarised form of the resulting data for each site is given below. The figures are based on averages over the seven-day period.

| Whatfield Road | Average Total Daily Traffic Volume | Mean Average Speed (mph) | Number of Vehicles Exceeding the Speed Limit | % of Vehicles Exceeding the Speed Limit |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|--|---|
| Eastbound | 249 | 28 | 75 | 30% |
| Westbound | 253 | 29 | 108 | 43% |
| Combined | 502 | n/a | n/a | n/a |

| The Street | Average Total Daily Traffic Volume | Mean Average Speed (mph) | Number of Vehicles Exceeding the Speed Limit | % of Vehicles Exceeding the Speed Limit |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|--|---|
| Eastbound | 371 | 25 | 39 | 10% |
| Westbound | 363 | 25 | 33 | 9% |
| Combined | 734 | n/a | n/a | n/a |

| Ipswich Road | Average Total Daily Traffic Volume | Mean Average Speed (mph) | Number of Vehicles Exceeding the Speed Limit | % of Vehicles Exceeding the Speed Limit |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|--|---|
| Southbound | 297 | 25 | 39 | 13% |
| Northbound | 312 | 24 | 28 | 9% |

| | | | | |
|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Combined | 609 | n/a | n/a | n/a |
|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|

| Hadleigh Road | Average Total Daily Traffic Volume | Mean Average Speed (mph) | Number of Vehicles Exceeding the Speed Limit | % of Vehicles Exceeding the Speed Limit |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|--|---|
| Southbound | 414 | 27 | 99 | 24% |
| Northbound | 403 | 27 | 93 | 23% |
| Combined | 817 | n/a | n/a | n/a |

Vehicles numbers are consistent with what would be expected for a village of this size and its location within the local road network.

In general, the number of vehicles exceeding the speed limit are lower than national averages but this will also depend on site conditions and any speeding must be considered as unacceptable and needs to be dealt with.

Following consultation with the Police Road Safety Team none of the above sites meet their criteria to set up an enforcement site but nevertheless we have concerns regarding both Hadleigh Road and Whatfield Road and would like to see the number of speeding vehicles reduced. A further survey in Whatfield Road, but sited further west, will be undertaken in October.

The Parish Council would value your comments and any suggestions as to how we deal with this.

Watch this space and WATCH YOUR SPEED!