
Meeting: Delegated Decisions by the Executive Member for Community Services on Traffic Regulation Orders
Date: 4 February 2016
Subject: B1042 Wrestlingworth Crossroads – Petition and other correspondence requesting Speed Reducing Measures
Report of: Paul Mason, Head of Highways
Summary: This report is to note the receipt of a petition submitted to Central Bedfordshire Council and suggest a way forward.

Contact Officer: Nick Chapman
Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: Potton
Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

Financial:

There is no highways budget available to undertake any work in the current financial year.

Legal:

None from this report

Risk Management:

None from this report

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

None from this report

Equalities/Human Rights:

None from this report

Community Safety:

None from this report

Sustainability:

None from this report.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

It is recommended that the Executive Member for Community Services notes the petition and other correspondence and that the lead petitioner be informed of the outcome of the meeting.

Background and Information

1. A petition signed by 286 people and 30 other items of correspondence have been received. These draw attention to traffic issues and request action to reduce speeds in the village, particularly in the vicinity of B1042 Wrestlingworth crossroads. The petition specifically requests:-
 - a) A speed limit of 40mph or less in the Wrestlingworth crossroads area.
 - b) Measures to ensure that speed limits are enforced.
 - c) Steps to reduce the volume of traffic, particularly heavy goods vehicles.
2. The correspondence is from local people requesting similar action to that identified in the petition. They raise specific concerns about the speed of traffic travelling through the crossroads from Eyeworth to Tadlow and vice versa, and on that section of High Street from the crossroads to the existing 30mph limit. Local residents and regular users highlight the fact that the speed of traffic makes turning manoeuvres difficult and potentially hazardous.
3. In November 2014 planning permission was granted for 7 residential dwellings at Home Farm, which is located some distance north of the crossroads within the existing 30mph speed limit covering the main built-up area of Wrestlingworth. At the time of the original application, transport implications were fully considered by the Council. There has been a subsequent application for minor changes to that permission and it is this that has prompted requests for safety improvements.
4. The current application for minor changes to an existing permission for 7 new houses at Home Farm does not provide an opportunity to unlock developer funding for large scale safety measures at Wrestlingworth crossroads. The latest application for the site is for small modifications to the original proposal and it is not possible to use this to deviate substantially from what was originally requested. The addition of 7 new houses within the curtilage of the village will not add in any significant way to this issue, so we cannot reasonably ask for the applicant to fund this.
5. On the issue of safety on the junction, the statistics show that there is no record of collisions sufficient to justify action. We follow an approach advised by government which has resulted in the number of deaths and serious injuries on Central Bedfordshire roads dropping by 30% in the past five years and it would be wrong to depart from this now. This involves looking at sites with a significant number of collisions resulting in death or serious injury to see if there is a pattern that measures to reduce speed could influence. There has only been one collision which resulted in a serious injury at this site and this collision did not involve any vehicle coming out of the High Street, so there is no pattern for which we could currently justify action.

6. As regards to the speed limit situation, the main built-up part of Wrestlingworth is already covered by a 30mph speed limit. Given the sparse and scattered nature of the roadside development on the periphery of the village, including around Wrestlingworth crossroads, it is not practical to extend the 30mph limit to cover that area. Drivers would fail to understand the need for such a speed limit and compliance would be poor. On that basis, a 30mph speed limit is inappropriate and is unlikely to be supported by the police.

However, the Council has implemented a number of speed limits, often called buffer zones, on the edges of settlements. The feasibility of introducing such a restriction at Wrestlingworth could be investigated. The provision of other measures to moderate traffic speeds and enforce any speed limits would need to be fully investigated to determine suitable solutions. Wrestlingworth lies on a classified B road, so there is an expectation that it will carry a reasonable level of through traffic, including heavy goods vehicle movements.

At present there is no funding currently available to undertaken any work at Wrestlingworth. However, the Parish Council may wish to consider using the Rural Match Funding process to part-fund any improvement projects.

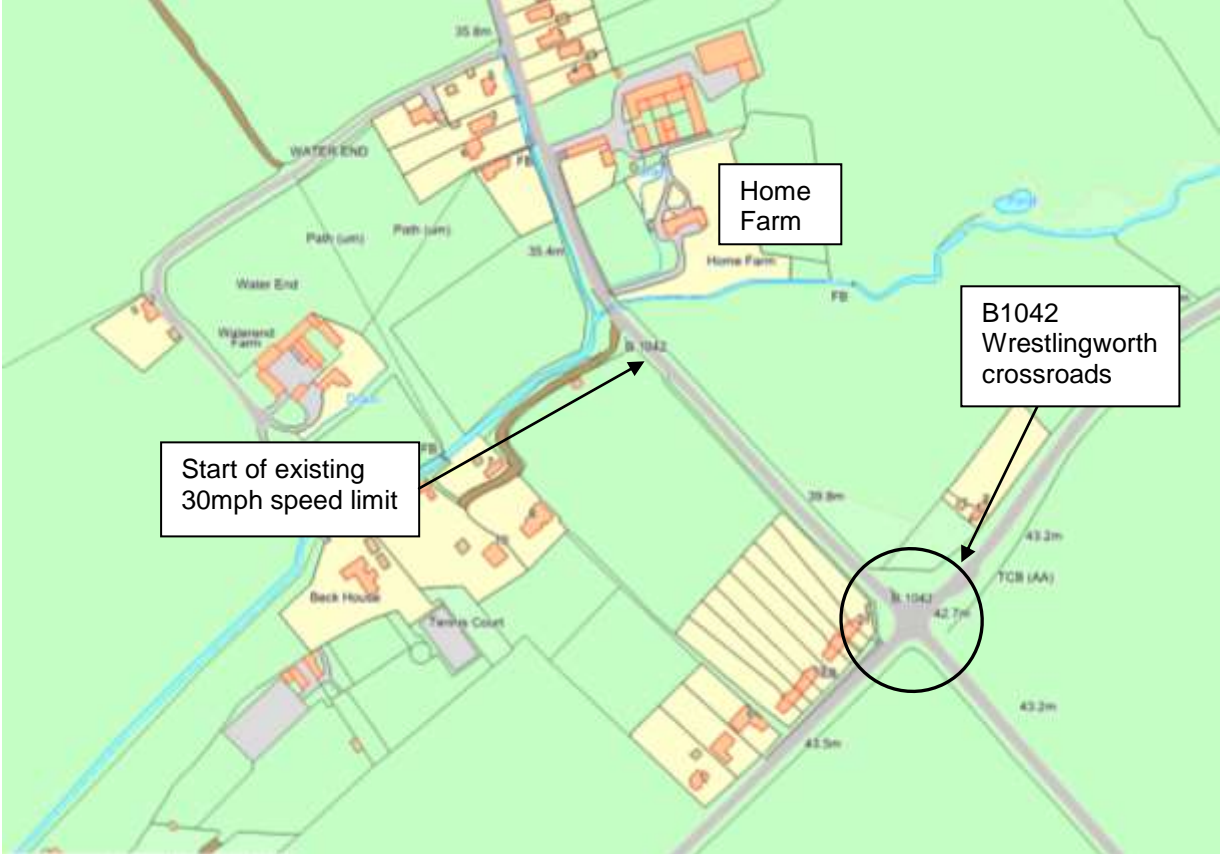
Appendices:

Appendix A – Location plan

Appendix B – Petition

Appendix C – Correspondence received

Appendix A



Appendix B

Wrestlingworth Road Safety Petition. January 2016.

To whom it may concern:-

This petition was set up with the aim of drawing attention to the traffic problems that exist on the section of the B1042 passing through the village. This includes the crossroads area, part of the High Street and Potton Road.

The Bedfordshire Police Traffic Management survey of September 2014 demonstrated that there was a substantial and growing problem within the village. Most of the traffic that passed the data point in that survey would have come from the crossroads area, or would be travelling to the crossroads where it would meet with traffic from other directions.

The petition was taken to as many properties as possible in the village itself over the course of a couple of weekends and a few evenings. One copy was left in the village pub. To the best of my belief there are 286 signatures from 217 different addresses in Wrestlingworth and 5 from outside the village. There were 7 who did not wish to sign the petition and there was no answer from about 31 properties when we called, (several of these are currently unoccupied).

Wrestlingworth Road Safety Petition. January 2016.

We, the undersigned, request that Central Bedfordshire Council :-

- 1) introduces a speed limit of 40mph or less in the crossroads area of Wrestlingworth, to include all properties in the village and to extend along the High Street to meet up with the existing 30mph limit,
- 2) introduces sufficient measures to ensure that all speed limits are enforced at all hours of the day and night,
- 3) takes all necessary steps to reduce the volume of traffic flowing through the village and, in particular, reduces the number of heavy goods vehicles passing through this and other villages.

Appendix C

I have followed your correspondence and comment with Adam Zerny regarding the speed issue at the cross roads and in the High Street Wrestlingworth for a number of years and have always been dismayed as to the lack of understanding regarding this issue.

The initial problem of vehicles moving at high speed on the Tadlow to Eyeworth stretch has resulted in fatalities and collisions in the 13 years that I have been living here. The fact that the number is not higher is down to sheer good luck rather than considered management.

It is a daily event for bad tempered drivers to be shouting and using their vehicle horn as they remonstrate with other drivers who are simply trying to pull out on to the highway. The key issue is the approach from Tadlow is blind and vehicles travelling at 60 mph and more are suddenly on you without warning. This cross road is a serious accident waiting to happen and with the increased traffic use on all roads it is just a matter of time at which point regrets at not taking action will be useless to the victims.

Reference has also been made regarding the short stretch of access into the village on the High Street. Unfortunately many drivers seem to think this is a challenge to seeing how fast you can go in such a restricted area. If you are in doubt about this you only have to stand and listen to the acceleration particularly to motor bikes as they come into and leave the village.

The Home Farm site is just beyond the current 30 mph sign in the High Street but as most vehicles are well over 30 when they pass through the restriction sign which means they are still at speed when they pass the access road to the farm development.

The previous owners of the site now number 2 High Street have their access road directly opposite the restriction signs which now means we will have 10 dwellings (7 of which will be Home Farm) affected by this speeding traffic in addition to the pedestrians that are forced to cross the road twice within a 50 metre stretch due to the lack of pavement area. Some of these pedestrians are walking children to school and this really should be seen as a risk. Unfortunately the residents with children are forced to cross this road three times on their way to school .

I believe that we should be looking at a moving the speed restriction signs to the cross roads with further prompts regarding speed on the downhill section from the cross roads to the bridge as an absolute minimum. The ideal would be to have the current restricted area reduced to 20mph as in Potton where they are taking more or less the same volume of traffic as we are taking in Wrestlingworth.

As you consider the matter in your meeting on Tuesday 20th I hope you will take a pre emptive position rather than view it as a wait and see situation which may come at some cost.

Living in Wrestlingworth I fully support the idea of a speed reduction at the B1042 Crossroads. Every morning leaving the village on the High Street up to the crossroads the bend where the 7 houses are being built is a game of chicken with the 40 ton lorries that thunder into the village round that bend, often cutting across the middle of the road.

Then we have to negotiate the crossroads, which at certain times of day can be a very frustrating wait, before crossing with traffic approaching at 60mph.

We have a number of pupils including my own children attending Steeple Morden, Biggleswade and Bassingbourn Schools who have to use this route in and out of the village several times a day.

If the traffic was slowed to 40mph at the crossroads and 30mph into the village we would all feel a lot safer.

The 7 houses on that bend will have 19 bedrooms, so a potential 19 cars negotiating a blind bend with traffic coming round at 60mph. Also due to this development Home Farm now has an entrance right on the bend.

Changing approx a dozen speed signs and painting some signs/instructions on the road would not cost a lot of money but would make the area a whole lot safer.

I believe using some of the 106 money from Home Farm will allow the council to keep quoting "the low number of recent fatalities" but if something is not done I'm afraid the headlines will be very different.

We look forward to hearing your decision of support for these measures.

Dear Mr Coiffait, I am writing with regards to the review of the speed limit on and around Wrestlingworth crossroads on (B1042). As resident for over 10 years who uses this junction on a daily basis I have repeatedly requested for the limits to be reduced. The junction is a menace and I regularly see near miss collisions and feel that whenever I use the junction I'm taking a risk. Road users on the B1042 rarely abide to the 60MPH limit and every day I see cars and more often motorbikes going through this junction at much higher speeds.

I understand that there is some funding available from the new housing development in Home Farm and I urgently request that an appropriate amount of this funding is used to either reduce the speed limit at the junction or force people to adhere to the limit. This road is going to get much busier not just to the new houses in Wrestlingworth but by those in the Kings Reach estate who will use Wrestlingworth as a cut through when Baden-Powell Way junction with Potton road opens.

A failure to take steps to reduce the risk of accidents at this junction would be a failure of duty so please can this be reviewed again.

I understand that there is an opportunity to improve the safety at the aforementioned cross roads as a large sum of money has been made available via the new development in the village.

I also understand that only a small portion of the funds have been allocated to the project. The reasoning behind this I understand is there haven't been enough fatalities to warrant spending a large sum of money. It is unacceptable that Mid Beds DC roads and highways are taking such a view especially when the funds are not even from the taxpayers pocket.

I would like to see the cross roads have a 4 way roundabout built and the limit entering the village reduced to 30 miles an hour.

I don't see the addition of a roundabout added to calm speeds as over the top and also believe that the speed limit on the B1042 in front of all the houses should be 40 miles an hour.

I hope that you take these suggestions seriously and that we see some improvements very soon.

I would like to indicate my strong feeling that the speed of east-west traffic at the crossroads at Wrestlingworth is dangerous and that I would like to see a reduced speed limit in this area. With the addition of 7 large houses in Wrestlingworth and an increase in commuting to Cambridge

this would seem to be a high priority application of the S106 contribution from the developer of Home Farm.

In support of the Parish council view, as well as the views of the residents of Wrestlingworth as notified to yourself separately, and councillors who have taken time to contact you, I urge Mid Beds Council to review their decision to NOT release S106 affordable/social housing monies to assist in speed reduction in the village.

I think the following points have merit:

1) The residents have expressed their concerns and wishes for speed reduction in the village, through the Parish council, and Mr Adam Zerny (Independent councillor) for at least four years, but nothing has yet been achieved

2) There are now monies available, which apparently is ear-marked for affordable housing, despite no plans for provision of any such housing. The council, on behalf of the village, has expressed a wish that more than 5% of this be used to improve road safety in the village

If the council is unwilling to review their decision, I think the following questions should be raised.

1) At what point will Mid Beds council give this matter the serious consideration, i.e. Investment, that your customers would like ?

2) If Mid Beds council is determined to hold on to the vast majority of the money for affordable housing, against the wishes of the village, could you indicate where and when this money will be used for said housing ?

I understand that you are currently considering the Wrestlingworth Crossroads area with a possible reduction in the speed limit funded by monies from the Home Farm site.

I am fully in favour of this as any reduction in the speed limit in that area will have, in my opinion, some effect on the current speeding problem in the immediate vicinity of the entrance to the Home Farm site and the High Street in general.

I would also welcome consideration being given to other road safety improvements affecting the High Street (the B1042 section in particular), the entrance to the Home Farm site and the area around the crossroads. I am sure you are aware of the Bedfordshire Traffic Police surveys carried out in 2010 and 2014 which indicated the scale of the traffic problem in Wrestlingworth in the immediate vicinity of Home Farm. Using the data from those surveys I have constructed graphs attempting to show the hour by hour use of the road for the week of the 2014 survey, along with an indication of the scale of the speeding problem, and a comparison with the 2010 survey. If this is of any interest I would be more than happy to bring such information to you for your consideration.

I have been a resident of Wrestlingworth since 1981. During this period, myself and other residents have petitioned on many occasions about the dangerous junction at the south end of the High Street with the B1042 Potton Road, Tadlow Road and Eyeworth Road (co-ordinates 52.105716, -0.161368).

Although your statistics do not reflect the urgency of rectifying this dangerous intersection I know of three fatalities here. This is three too many, especially if they could have been avoided.

It would appear to me, and many others, that the funding made available to you, our representative in this matter, by the Local Area Transport Plan - Section 106 with respect to the

Home Farm housing development, is a golden opportunity to fund an important safety aspect of the route through our village at no cost to Central Bedfordshire.

I would respectively remind you that the residents of Wrestlingworth pay a considerable sum every year to pay salaries and other fringe benefits to manage the highway estate in Bedfordshire. I would suggest that we are not getting good value for our money. It is your responsibility to correctly manage this estate and not just to shuffle amounts of money at your disposal so that their existence eventually gets lost in the mists of time.

I understand that as little as 5% of the S106 funds becoming available as a result of the Home Farm development in Wrestlingworth are allocated to speed reduction measures.

Earlier this year we circulated a Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire to which a majority of Wrestlingworth residents responded. In these replies the vast majority indicated that speed reduction measures were of importance. Both on the High Street leading down to the Village and on the High Street/Tadlow Road crossroads.

Apart from this recent documented evidence of residents' views we have heard the same thing over number of years.

Only a minority took this view with housing provision.

I urge you to consider changing the allocation of funds to accurately reflect the views of our residents.

Residents, including myself, of Wrestlingworth have been waiting **YEARS** for the council to take action to reduce the speed limit on the Wrestlingworth crossroads and the approach to the village safer for us all to use.

I understand that the housing development at the Home Farm site is now generating £105,000 of Section 106 funding, a perfect opportunity to address the problem but I understand your department won't back it on the grounds the money has to be spent on projects immediately next to the development itself.

I believe there are plenty of examples of Section 106 money being spent on projects which are not immediately next to the development itself. The new development will have 7 large houses all of which will have vehicles leaving the development right next to the current speed limit on the edge of the village just 100m from the crossroads. I understand that the council have acknowledged they will not be forcing the developer to build social housing on their site and that the £100,000 can be spent anywhere near Wrestlingworth which makes a mockery of the argument that roads spending must take place immediately next to the new development.

I regularly use these roads and walk the pavements nearby and experience the speeding traffic first hand. I would ask you to seriously reconsider your decision to avoid any unnecessary fatalities particularly as the funding is there to do so.

The Parish Council of Wrestlingworth & Cockayne Hatley agreed that their preference was for any section 106 monies from the new development at Home Farm to be diverted from social housing to highways. This view was taken following the results of a neighbourhood plan questionnaire, in addition I continue to receive regular comments from many residents concerned by the speed of traffic from the crossroads, through the High Street and out to the Potton Road. I request that you take into account the views of the vast majority of Wrestlingworth residents and reconsider the use of these funds for speed control measures throughout the village.

I understand that you've acquired £105,000 that can be used for road improvements. Wrestlingworth Parish Council have requested that the money is spent on road safety.

I too would like that money spent on road safety. In particular I would like to see a roundabout placed at the crossroad where the Potton-Guilden Morden road (B1042) meets the main road from Dunton-Cambridge. I regularly use this section both as a motorist and as a cyclist. I'm aware there have been fatalities at this junction and have been involved in a number of near misses. As a cyclist it is very frightening when vehicles pull out or turn across at speed.

If a roundabout is not possible, then a speed reduction to 30mph would help enormously.

I feel these measures would

- be in the interests of road safety
- be in the interests of avoiding danger to persons using the road

I look forward to hearing about your decision on Tuesday. It would seem that people's lives are in your hands.

I understand that it is proposed that S106 monies released from the Home Farm development are intended by CBC to be allocated to housing.

As a resident of Cockayne Hatley I often use the crossroads on the main Cambridge to Dunton Road, either to or from Cambridge, the A1 or through to friends in Wrestlingworth. Frankly the junction is a nightmare whichever way we travel, **especially as the days have now shortened and with a lack of speed signs and lights those travelling from Cambridge often do not slow down putting those turning right into Wrestlingworth in danger (likewise those travelling from Dunton and turning left into Wrestlingworth).**

As a councillor I am aware that representations have previously been made to CBC, the general response being that we need a few more deaths to justify speed restrictions (and lights) on this road and into Wrestlingworth itself. I cannot believe in a civilised society that we behave this way when funds generated within the community are clearly available to spend on these improvements consistently demanded from the villagers of Wrestlingworth & Cockayne Hatley and those travelling through.

I trust that after a thoughtful consideration of the views presented to you proposals will be amended. You are, of course, most welcome to attend a council meeting to hear these views first hand.

We would like to voice our agreement with the parish council that some of the new section 106 money should be used to introduce speed limits around the Wrestlingworth crossroads, especially considering the proximity of the new Home Farm development.

The argument that there have not been sufficient number of fatalities is not appropriate as surely the aim should be to prevent such accidents in the first place and does take account of the number of near misses which may have occurred.

For many years we have expressed our wish for speed limit restrictions in various surveys, including the recent local plan questionnaire.

Referring to Cllr Adam Zerny's recent Facebook update on securing some safety measures for at the crossroads and between the crossroads and Wrestlingworth village , I ask 3 simple questions:-

1. If as stated that given the low number of recent fatalities the council would only look at it if extra funding became available via the council's Local Area Transport Plan (now being phased out) or Section 106, then how many fatalities is considered by the Council as being sufficient to warrant action ?
2. "Section 106 is the money a developer has to pay the council to compensate the local community when a new housing development is built" – so if this is for the local community – then surely the local community should have a part in deciding how it is best used to serve the community itself? The Parish Council has, I believe, made this a clear preference for safety measures
3. If the council allow the developer to not include social housing on this development (why ?) then when and how will this 106 money be spent? Or will it disappear into council funds?

It seems to me there is an opportunity for the council to achieve what the local community requests by the application of a little common sense. Will you?

I understand, via Adam Zerny, that the Central Beds county council is discussing the use of Section 106 money from Wrestlingworth Home Farm development for purposes of speed control at and around the crossroads.

I am writing to add my voice to those arguing in favour of speed measures. While there not have been many recent fatal accidents, there have been some in the past and several near misses which never make it into the official records. Most people travel at a reasonable speed, but with the hill towards Eyeworth blocking view (and occasionally parked vehicles) while turning left towards Cambridge I have had a number of cases with cars barrelling down on me having apparently appeared out of nowhere.

While it could be argued that such cases are likely speeders who will speed regardless, the cost of putting up extra signage and some double solid white lines to indicate no overtaking is a relatively cheap operation. So please consider implementing a simple, but hopefully effective, traffic control via additional speed restrictions.

I write to you in my capacity as Chairman of Wrestlingworth & Cockayne Hatley Parish Council on behalf of all residents in regard to the road safety issues that put all my residents at risk.

The crossroads to the south of Wrestlingworth has long been a high risk site and it is only down to good fortune that there haven't been any fatalities in recent years. For numerous years there have been many calls to reduce the speed limit and introduce other speed reducing measures at the crossroads, which have gone unanswered.

I find it very disappointing that this is the only point along the entire route from Cambridge to Biggleswade where the speed limit at a junction is still at the national level viz 60mph. This is without taking into account the fact that a number of residences are located along this stretch and are faced with pulling out from a standing start onto this busy road with traffic travelling at 60mph or, as is often the case, more. Do CBC not consider the safety of my residents, not to mention other road users, as being important?

I fully appreciate that funds are limited however the availability of S106 funds from the development of 7 new residences only some 100m from the crossroads would seem to be an opportunity for CBC to, finally, do the right thing and reduce the limit to 40mph, or as a minimum, 50mph. The Parish Council has already declared that the division of funds to road safety matters would be acceptable to it.

A reduction in the speed limit along the main road would also allow the 30mph limit that currently comes into force some 75m down the road into Wrestlingworth, to be effective as soon as traffic turns towards Wrestlingworth, greatly improving the safety of the road through the village.

I would ask that you, on behalf of CBC, consider these points and implement reductions in the speed limits.

Having read the email from Mr Zerny about the crossroads . I think it is ridiculous that has to be a fatality before there is a lower speed limit at the crossroads surely it would be more sense to change it before hand.

I have lived in the village for over fifty years and it has been said many times something needs doing about the x roads.

Surely with the new houses being built at randalls creating even more traffic in the village!

I hope you don't mind my contacting you directly, I received your e-mail address from Adam Zerny (copied).

It has come to my attention that the traffic measures at Wrestlingworth crossroads are being considered and I wanted to add my thoughts to the argument.

I have lived close by the cross roads on Eyeworth Road for almost 6 years and have to say that the traffic that goes past my house is extremely dangerous. I believe that a traffic study was done a while ago and so hopefully you know that cars (and particularly motor cycles) routinely travel past the cross roads and my house well in excess of the national speed limit. This makes the cross roads extremely dangerous.

As I am sure you also know the cross roads is very close to a bend which means that cars coming from Cambridgeshire are not seen by anyone exiting Wrestlingworth until very late - with the speeds in question this is extremely dangerous.

I am the father of a young family and there are many other young families on Eyeworth Road and it makes me very annoyed that while I see reduced speed limits everywhere else to protect young children - reductions to 20 mph in Biggleswade and Potton, much of the road in Cambridgeshire reduced, 40mph in Eyeworth and even 50 mph on the A1 whenever the road goes past a slightly built up area that no one seems to be bothered that cars often pass my house and the others in the street at over 80 mph. Please come around to my house for coffee on any Sunday when the sun is out to see for yourself the motor cycles hurtle by. I have myself called the police on several occasions to complain in the hope that something can be done but have never received a response.

I know that by some strange stroke of luck we haven't reached the required number of fatalities to warrant additional investment but I would really hope that with:

The speeds routinely done on this stretch of road.

The limited visibility of pulling out of Wrestlingworth The young families that live on Eyeworth road The new development meaning many more cars will use the cross roads Not to mention the large and dangerous bends close by towards Eyeworth

That we would be top of the list for traffic calming measures to protect the lives of our residents before a tragedy occurs.

As such I really urge you to consider the merits of this investment.

I also very much hope that when we do reach the number of fatalities needed for investment - as with all of the points listed above we no doubt will when our luck runs out - that it is not mine or one of the other young families that supplies the required head count.

I am happy to discuss this further and provide further information whenever required.

Of course the speed limit needs reducing – nobody takes any notice!

Of course the money should be spent on roads!

**Why oh why is there no affordable housing in the building works on Home Farm?
Another missed opportunity!**

I would like to urge the council to introduce speed reducing measures at Wrestlingworth crossroads and the road into Wrestlingworth. I have known of many accidents at the crossroads, it is a fast road with limited visibility. People have been killed there a few times, for example one tragic fatal accident a few years ago happened to a lady there who was on her way to visit her sons grave in Cockayne Hatley. There have been other accidents too. In addition, the crossroads has homes with young children living in them. As a residential area I feel this is another reason for a lower speed limit and speed reducing measures.

As parents of a young family living in Wrestlingworth, we have serious concerns regarding the speed at which the road traffic travels along the Eyeworth Road through Wrestlingworth. We have found that the current speed limit is very rarely adhered to with cars, lorries and motor bikes driving way beyond 70 or 80mph. Given that the road is in a built up, residential area and more significantly, with a number of young children, we urge that the current speed limit is reduced or the village has traffic speed reducing measures along this residential stretch and at the crossroads.

It is with total disbelief that we learn that the council will not address this issue until a specific number of fatalities have been reached. We consider this a case of shutting the door after the horse has bolted and pray that none of our children become casualties or worse fatalities before something is done.

It is also with great surprise that we find that a far smaller villages of Edworth and Mill End, only a few miles from Wrestlingworth - with far fewer houses and a less busy road has a 30mph speed limit and that Eyeworth has a 40mph limit, we think that volume of traffic along the Eyeworth Road at Wrestlingworth well justifies an urgent review for the safety of the road users and local residents.

Please let us know how we can reduce the danger to local residents and our children.

As the neighbouring home to the Home Farm exit I can honestly say that, at times, it is very difficult to enter/leave the High Street. When the farm was operating the farm hands, driving tractors with trailers, would comment strongly at the difficulty of entering the High Street at times. Traffic entering the High Street from the crossroads too, on a downhill run, are quite often exceeding the '30' limit which is sited only a short distance before the bend commences. With a small estate being established, virtually after the actual bend, there will be considerably more vehicles, both private and trade vehicles, using the 'new' road into/out of the site. Parking for around 10/12 vehicles is being arranged. In the circumstances surely some form of reduction in speed should be installed?

For a number of years now I have endeavoured to put forward a case for the reduction of speed, and the installation of '40' limit signs installed on the B1042 before and after the actual crossroads. It is, at times, a very busy road and traffic, from observation, exceeds the '60' limit in both directions. I regularly use the crossroads towards/from Tadlow/Guilden Morden and Eyeworth and, at times, experience this frantic traffic. Along the entire stretch of the road, as far as the roundabout for Royston, most is controlled by a '50' limit with a '40' limit at Tadlow. This latter section has fewer than 6 exits/entrances onto the road whereas Wrestlingworth has around a dozen homes fronting the road each with families, some with little children who have to be walked to school each day. Surely the cost of installation is

minimal compared with the risk of accident, both bodily or vehicular? It seems that assessment is from experts from outside the area surely we local inhabitants are the ones who observe the situation daily. Is no value placed upon that factor?

Please consider very carefully our requests.

I have recently been in correspondence with Clive Parker, my letter dated 2 July and his reply dated 16 July refers, with regard to the road safety aspects of this high speed road junction. I have also corresponded and met with Chris Smith and he has carried out some remedial work to improve the visibility at this junction as set out in your rural grass cutting specification (from April 2013).

I have always been concerned with the road safety aspects of both the "T" junction and more particularly the cross roads in Wrestlingworth. As long ago as 24 October 2006 I wrote to the then Highways Manager with regard to my concerns. I suggested at the time to extend the current 30 mph limit in the village to include all the properties on either side of the cross roads and move the existing speed camera in the High Street to the south side of the B1042 facing in the direction of Tadlow. I also suggested that road safety would best be served by creating a roundabout (not mini) at this junction, this would alter the priorities of the vehicles approaching this busy junction and may or may not require a speed limit change.

Bearing in mind the following a) Eyeworth has a 40mph limit. b) Millow, next to Dunton, has a 30mph limit. c) Dunton has a 30mph limit and a roundabout. All of which are on "C" roads. In addition the cross roads on the B1042 at Bury Hill in Potton is within a 30mph area. In view of the new housing development in the vicinity of the cross roads, Wrestlingworth needs to be brought in line with the other towns and villages in the area. I am sure you will give these proposals to improve road safety serious consideration.

Wrestlingworth & Cockayne Hatley Parish Council is in the process of developing a Neighbourhood Plan. To this end, a questionnaire was circulated in the parish in February of this year. The topic of speeding traffic and road safety at the Wrestlingworth cross roads brought a greater response than any other questions we asked.

284 questionnaires were distributed in Wrestlingworth and 149 were returned - 52%. The relevant question is set out below:

Concerns have been raised about road safety at the High Street and Tadlow Road cross roads. How far does **your household** agree or disagree that steps should be taken to increase road safety at the junction? (Please tick as appropriate)

Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
95	27	13	11	1

Respondents also made 104 written comments, the consensus was that a reduction in the speed limit to 40mph or 50mph and an extension of the 30mph limit to the top of the High Street would go a long way towards improving safety. These views were reiterated by the Parish Council in their response to Cllr Adam Zerny's request for its comments on how the s.106 funding from the Home Farm development should be apportioned. You should also be aware that the Parish Council is in the process of setting up a Speed Watch Group with training being undertaken by volunteers shortly.

Please take the views of this community into consideration and take this opportunity to reduce the speed of traffic at Wrestlingworth cross roads.

I write to you concerning the dangerous cross roads in Wrestlingworth. I was the Parish Clerk from 2000 to 2002 and was very concerned with the number of accidents that occurred during that time and since.

The junction involves a large number of vehicles turning into Wrestlingworth High Street on the way to Potton. This short patch of road is between the exit from a 50 mph limit at the border with Cambridgeshire and just before a number of very sharp bends towards Eyeworth. There are also houses adjacent to the junction.

Fortunately, there have been few fatal accidents but numerous collisions and injuries, most of which are not recorded except through insurance companies. I would welcome any review of the speed limit along this stretch of road.

Below is a copy of mail sent today to Adam Zerny. I also see that Mr. Warner has mailed you on the same subject. Wrestlingworth High Street coming in from the Cambridge road crossroads has mainly elderly residents and the speeding in and out of the village makes it very dangerous. The current 30mph signs and the flashing 30mph indicator are too far into the village and should be positioned closer to the crossroads. In addition, in the last couple of weeks I have seen police camera traps at the other end of the village. They are at the wrong end of the village – the problem at the Cambridge Road end is far greater.

The following is absolutely fine, but as you know, I (and many of the people who live at that end of the High Street) see a worse problem with the speed of traffic coming into Wrestlingworth from the crossroads in question. Please advise what actions could be considered. I.E. moving the 30mph signs and the flashing 30 mph indicator closer to the crossroads; a proper speed camera; chicanes; anything!

You've been successful in Potton with the 20mph zone, so let's see something for Wrestlingworth.

We were pleased to hear that there is a possibility of speed restriction measures at Wrestlingworth Crossroads. We have been residents here for 10 years and are alarmed at the speed traffic approaches the crossroads when we want to join the road. Traffic is also diverted through Wrestlingworth to go to Potton, Sandy and Bedford and the speed continues down Wrestlingworth High Street although they should go to 30 mph at Water End they do not. Large lorries as well as cars speed down the road causing damage to the old properties along the route.

Speed restrictions at the crossroads – ideally a roundabout - would reduce speeding though the village as well as improving safety to the people living on the Cambridge/Biggleswade road and make it safer for vehicles joining from Wrestlingworth.

We do hope you will give favourable consideration to this request for safety measures at the crossroads.

I would like to place on record my view on how a new safer road speed limit could be put into operation around the crossroads in Wrestlingworth

At this time the speed limit in Eyeworth is 40mph. This could be extended to the edge of Wrestlingworth village on the Cambridge road at which point it could further reduce to 30mph through to the current 50mph

limit on the Cambridge Road. This would reduce speed around the "S" bends between Wrestlingworth and Eyeworth (a place of regular accidents)

As the limit would then reduce from 40mph to 30mph as vehicles entered the village it would be more likely that those speeds were maintained through the village. At this time vehicles regularly exceed 30mph as they are entering the village at 60mph.

The national speed limit would then apply only on the road from the crossroads to Guilden Morden

Should you require further clarification I would be happy to discuss further

I understand the issue of introducing a new speed limit at Wrestlingworth crossroads may still be subject to consideration. If so, I would like to add the names of my wife and I to those villagers who feel that this has long been required to reduce the potential dangers of the junction to all road users and making the approaches to our village safer.

We have lived here for more than thirty years and believe that such a change would be of considerable benefit, and good use of any available resources, especially as the number of local users will be increased by the new development.

I am writing to you regarding the dangerous situation that exists at the "Wrestlingworth" crossroads; the junction at which the B1042, having passed through Wrestlingworth, turns east. Eyeworth and Dunton are to the west, and the Mordens are to the south.

I have lived in Wrestlingworth approximately 20 years and in that time have learnt how to negotiate the junction however, it does seem that it is just a matter of time before a serious accident occurs at the crossroads.

A common scenario is a vehicle pulling out of the Wrestlingworth road to turn right (west) and a vehicle is parked on the hard standing to the right hand side. The vehicle that is turning right has to "nose out" slowly in order for the driver to see around the parked vehicle and ensure there are no vehicles travelling in an easterly direction. Whilst doing so, the driver also has to look left to ensure there are no vehicles heading in a westerly direction. Because the view to the right is obstructed, in the time the driver takes to look left a vehicle travelling from his right is on the junction before he has seen it and an accident is likely to occur.

Most of us in Wrestlingworth believe the junction is dangerous and would ask that something be done to remove the danger.

If I can help in any way, I would be pleased to do so.

As a keen cyclist I would like to point out that going straight across at the crossroads is like playing Russian Roulette. I have managed to survive so far but anything that could be done to slow down the traffic would be appreciated by all walkers and cyclists. Why do we have wait until there is a fatality. Surly prevention is better than the cure

Appendix C

