

## Highways and Road Safety Update

For background, see previous reports [WPC.24.01.02](#); [WPC.25.02.03](#); [WPC.25.04.03](#) ; [WPC.25.05.06](#) , [WPC.25.09.03](#) and WPC.25.11.02.

At its Nov meeting (Min. **25.11.7.4** refers), the parish council agreed the final report to Suffolk County Council requesting a reduction in speed limit from 40mph to 30mph at Wickham Street, which was submitted in early December. The invoice from SCC in respect of the formal request was paid in December, but to date, despite requests for an update, no communication has been forthcoming from the team commissioned to carry out the review.

The application submitted by the clerk to Passenger Transport, Suffolk County Council under the BSIP funding for bus stop improvement works clerk has been acknowledged. Passenger Transport have advised that straightforward applications (e.g. installations of bus shelters) have been dealt with and that the parish council is likely to be contacted in the next fourteen days for a site visit to be arranged prior to its application being considered in full. To date, despite requests for updates, no further information has been provided.

At its meeting in February (Min. 26.02.08.1 refers), the parish council noted:

*the existing parish VAS is 9 years old, and although recently serviced, it would be likely to require increased maintenance in the future (for example a replacement LED will cost £111 plus VAT).*

*The meeting asked the clerk to look at options for funding a replacement in the medium term, together with a proposal to replace the VAS laptop (at the April meeting), which does not have sufficient memory for the necessary software and other functions.*

As the parish council does not currently know whether funds set aside for a reduction in the speed limit at Wickham Street will be called upon, it would be prudent to await the outcome of this report before considering in more detail the options for replacement of the VAS and a supporting laptop. A move to a web-based and solar powered Speed Indicator Device could mean that a lighter tablet option for downloading data may be more appropriate. In the meantime, the clerk will look into options for transferring older data stored on the current VAS laptop to parish cloud storage, which may improve the operating speed of the existing device.

At the same meeting, the parish council noted that

*The Shared VAS, purchased in 2016, required repairs that were not considered cost effective (£968.50 plus VAT) by Lidgate PC (councillors agreed).*

*The meeting asked the clerk to approach Cllr Bobby Bennett for funding of a new shared VAS, or, as an alternative, to request this under s.106 funding from the proposed new development at Land West of Bunter's Road when that is being considered.*

Both Wickhambrook PC and Lidgate PC having agreed that the existing shared VAS should be decommissioned, Lidgate PC undertook to arrange this. The parish clerk has approached Cllr Bobby Bennett for funding of a new shared VAS, but this matter cannot be resolved within the current pre-election period.