

Agenda Item Request - Cllr Nicholls

Agenda Item

Road Safety Review and Traffic-Calming Measures – ‘Main Road’ Downhill Approach and Stretch Road into Great Waltham Village.

What Three words: ///reward.rationed.purest – **Grid reference:** TL 69537 13638
LAT:51.795696 **LON:**0.45709

Proposed by: Cllr Mark Nicholls

Purpose

To seek the Council's support in requesting that Essex Highways undertake a formal highway safety assessment of the ‘Main Road’ downhill approach and the adjoining stretch of road through Great Waltham village, with a view to identifying and implementing appropriate measures to improve road safety.

Background

The previous transverse rumble strips located on the downhill approach into the village were removed during resurfacing works and were not reinstated (resurfacing work 2024). Since their removal, there is no comparable traffic-calming feature to encourage motorists to reduce speed before entering the village.

Road safety concerns have continued to be raised by residents and road users. Cllr. Nicholls is responding to the concerns of residents on this matter by bringing it to the council’s attention

On **14 July 2026**, a serious road traffic collision occurred in which a cyclist riding an electric bicycle at great speed collided with the side of a motor vehicle, resulting in the rider being thrown into the carriageway. Fortunately, the injuries were not believed to be life-threatening; however, the incident has heightened local concern among residents about road safety along this stretch. This is not the first incident involving a bicycle in a collision along the main road, and it is a concern of local residents.

In addition, enquiries have identified a number of reported incidents over recent years involving cyclists and motor vehicles along the same section of road. While the precise causes vary and are matters for the appropriate investigating authorities, the frequency of reported collisions indicates that the location would benefit from a formal engineering review.

Given the downhill approach into the village, vehicle speeds, the increasing use of electric bicycles, and the interactions among motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians, it is considered appropriate that Essex Highways undertake a comprehensive assessment of the location.

Considerations

Great Waltham Parish Council is not the Highway Authority and therefore cannot itself install traffic calming measures on the public highway.

However, the Council is able to:

- Formally request a highway safety assessment by Essex Highways.
- Present and start collecting evidence of local concerns and reported incidents.
- Support and lobby for appropriate highway improvements.
- Consider contributing towards any approved scheme where appropriate.

Possible measures arising from such an assessment may include, but are not limited to:

- Reinstatement of transverse rumble strips.
- Enhanced village gateway features.
- Permanent Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS).
- Additional speed management measures.
- High-friction surfacing.
- Improved road markings or warning signage.
- Any other engineering solution considered appropriate by Essex Highways.

Financial Implications

There is no immediate financial commitment arising from this proposal.

Should Essex Highways recommend a scheme requiring Parish Council funding or a financial contribution, a further report will be presented for Council consideration.

Proposal / Resolution

I am proposing that Great Waltham Parish Council resolves:

1. To formally request Essex Highways to undertake a highway safety assessment of 'The Main Road' downhill approach and adjoining stretch of road into Great Waltham village, taking into account recent reported collisions, historical incident data, vehicle speeds and the removal of the previous traffic-calming rumble strips.
2. To request that Essex Highways review whether additional traffic-calming, speed-management or highway engineering measures are necessary to improve safety for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians.
3. To authorise the Clerk to liaise with Essex Highways, Essex Police and the relevant County Councillor to obtain available collision data, speed information and technical advice, and to report back to the Council with recommendations, estimated costs and any available funding opportunities.
4. To request that this matter be treated as a priority in the interests of public safety.

5. Ensure that there are adequate funds made available either in the present year or in the budgeting and precept meeting, whereby funds can be raised for 2027/28, and if necessary, earmarked to complete any intervention





