**Parish Council Update – Ford End Average Speed Camera (ASC) Scheme**

This is a summary of a more detailed update available on the parish website (e-voice.org.uk/greatwalthamparish). We received 241 responses to our recent consultation. 66.0% of respondents were in favour of an increased precept to repay a loan needed to acquire an ASC system. We have agreed this gives us a mandate to seek a loan.

Match funding for the scheme was made available by Essex Highways four years ago, but this commitment lapsed two years later. The arrangement moved an agreement for match funding to be *considered* if the Council should show it had raised its half of the costs. However, Highways have recently indicated they believe the cost of the scheme has significantly increased since 2019, possibly doubling.

In addition, we have also received notification via our county councillor that the new Highways cabinet member is unable to reconfirm the previous commitment because, given the current financial pressures, funds are not available, and that furthermore, he is also not of a mind to overrule the Highways’ view that Ford End does not meet the criteria for an ASC (that is, the speed of vehicles through the village is not considered sufficiently excessive), although he is open to reconsider this if a safety case can be made.

Both your county councillor and the Council have looked to further engage with the new cabinet member and the Highways design manager, but currently without success. We will be giving consideration to whether the Council can fund the scheme without ECC financial support, but to do so, we need further details on current costs.

Steve Gilbert, Chair, Great Waltham Parish Council