

# Great Waltham Parish Council

The Parish Office, The Pavilion, South Street, Great Waltham.

Clerk, W J Adshead-Grant.

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20<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Dear Cllr. Cunningham,

## **Ford End Average Speed Camera (ASC) Scheme**

Thank you for your follow up letter of 21<sup>st</sup> February following our surgery meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> February. Unfortunately it did not arrive in time to be discussed at our February monthly meeting, but it has now been considered at our March meeting (yesterday) and this is our response.

1. For our parishioners' information, a copy of your letter and this reply will be posted on the Great Waltham parish public website.
2. As mentioned at our meeting, the Council is disappointed with your decision not to support the scheme and I can confirm that our Ford End residents in particular feel badly let down by how things have developed.
3. The Council wishes to place on public record the length of time since the project was first suggested (in 2016); that in 2019 it was supported by the then lead member for Highways; and that it has devoted a considerable amount of time and resource as it looked to fulfil its part of the arrangement to engineer a matched funding scheme.
4. The Council notes that your decision has been informed by current Highways officials' objections. We also note that previously officials had indicated an ASC scheme was the only measure to which they would not object and that in meetings they had indicated they would in fact support the scheme and pay for maintenance. We also note that the then head of Essex road policing had indicated his support.
5. The Council is aware that your decision not to proceed also includes an assessment that, in any event, ECC funding is no longer available. We also understand that even if funding were available you would still accept the objections of your officials and not be prepared to waive policy requirements.
6. We acknowledge Essex Highways' confirmation at the meeting that there remain concerns with traffic volumes, weights and speeds on the B1008 at Ford End, even though they are currently unable to offer any meaningful practical solutions.
7. The Council has an expectation going forward that Essex Highways will continue to work with it to identify acceptable traffic calming measures and to implement them as soon as policy decisions and finances permit.
8. Please can you confirm whether the timeline for LTP4 shown on p.50 of the Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee meeting agenda of 23/11/2023 (referenced in your letter) is correct. That is, was there 'consultation with districts' in November 2023 and a public consultation in December 2023? If not, when can these be expected, and will parish councils be included in the 'consultation with districts' phase?

Yours sincerely,



Steve Gilbert  
Chair, Great Waltham Parish Council