

THORRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the
Extraordinary Parish
Council meeting held at
The Farrow Room -
Thorrington Village Hall
dated
Tuesday 30th January 2024
at 7.00pm



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14. Essex Highways and Councillor A Goggin have stated the B1027 signage is confusing due to all the varying speed limits. Essex Highways look at all signage plus the approved 5 planned changes and have stated that LHP post changes are classed as maintenance and is not set by the ECC Budget and that the posts are not included within the B1027 report.
15. The report has been updated 14 times and speed & volume surveys had taken place in April 2022 – 63,000 cars were surveyed across 7 days and the average speed in the 40mph zone was 35.7mph. Evidence states that most drivers are compliant with speed limits. If there had been more speeding or the average speed was over 40mph the survey would have gone from an LHP issue to a Police issue.
16. Letters were sent out in September 2022 regarding an informal consultation invite for people to comment and Councillor A Goggin has stated the 30mph speed limit was never to start from the roundabout.
17. If any objections had been received the project would come to a halt.
18. Public Consultation started 30/01/2024 and all Thorington residents had started to receive documents via the post to inform them of the public consultation.
19. Councillors A Sadler, P Sadler & A Dewar had been advised over varying periods of time that the speed changes were to start at Thorington Cross.
20. Councillor A Sadler has stated the distances are inconsistent as previously the speed changes fell to nearly 1km but has been reduced to 200m.
21. Councillor A Goggin has stated the feasibility report does not state distances.
22. Councillor A Sadler has stated he has never called Councillor A Goggin a liar.
23. Councillor G Krinks asked Councillor A Goggin why the speed reduction of 40mph for Tenpenny Hill was rejected and now understands why – it had been suggested to have concealed entry signs instead and this has also been rejected.
24. Councillor P Sadler stated she attended the TDALC meeting and was advised that if any objections are received that the project moves to the bottom of the pile and is then rejected and therefore if all proposals are to be accepted then why have a public consultation.
25. Councillor A Goggin stated if ECC ignored views then it would not be fair all as all opinions are considered hence the need to have a public consultation.
26. B1027 Project is within the final phase and as long as nobody has a meaningful objection the Project will be a success and a project that is entering its 4 year.
27. Councillor A Sadler asked the question of why can speeds go from 60mph to 30mph and not 50mph to 30mph when the B1027 should be 40mph or 30mph and Councillor A Goggin advised the speeds do not fit criteria and that this is currently not on offer but that the criteria is continually checked.
28. Councillor G Parks stated if speeds were left on the survey it does not show the extension to Avocet Place and has since changed. Councillor A Goggin states the data reports show the changes.
29. Essex Highways stated that the Safer Essex Partnership that deals with the data from Speed Surveys is inclusive to all police units across the UK.
30. The data from the speed survey dated April 2022 is almost two years old and Councillor A Sadler states he believes the speeds have since increased and evidence can be provided due to the installation of the Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) system and the data received from the VAS reports having been received from October 2023.
31. Councillor A Goggin believes the VAS unit within Thorington has made positive change and if a death was to occur ECC review to see if Essex Highways has made any errors.
32. Councillor A Goggin has stated that linking Thorington with the other 4 parishes to create the B1027 Project has been successful as if all items suggested along the B1027 had been presented individually that the suggestions may not have been accepted.
33. Councillor A Goggin has suggested getting a roundabout strategy in place to get all speeds reduced.
34. Councillor A Sadler suggested at some point prior to the roundabout that a 30mph sign be installed and Councillor A Goggin has stated it is unlikely to be agreed as the roundabouts at Cowdray Avenue, Colchester at set at 40mph.
35. Councillor A Sadler suggested a review of the Essex Speed Management Strategy and Councillor A Goggin has stated the Road Safety Engineering Team is reviewing the strategy.

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36. Cllr A Goggin stated that one complaint has been taken as a negative and would like it to be overturned – Complaint received due to the B1027 Project distances have been misleading. The one objection is stopping the Project from moving forward.
37. Essex Highways have stated the individual who has made the complaint should write to Essex Highways to withdraw the complaint - following the meeting and going through all paperwork and data to explain the Project has not been misleading and the meeting has cleared up any discrepancies.
38. The complaint affects Thorrington and all 4 local Parish Councils and the objection should be withdrawn prior to 16th February 2024.
39. Cllr A Goggin has stated he will liaise with the individual and the individual can be invited to the meeting regarding the project W/C 5th February 2024, if they would like to attend.
40. The complaint received by ECC regarding Cllr A Goggin being misleading appeared to be sent as a collective instead of an individual. The complainant has advised they will email ECC and withdraw the complaint following the meeting and consultation and now that communications are clear they will withdraw the complaint.
41. Cllr A Goggin suggested for Thorrington Parish Council to identify that 'WE' are now understanding of the B1027 Project.
42. Cllr P Sadler advised it was asked in September 2023 when the speed limit was being implemented at Avocet Place and Cllr A Goggin understood in September 2023 that Thorrington Parish Council understood where the speed limit changes would be implemented.
43. Cllr P Sadler thanked Cllr A Goggin and Essex Highways for attending the meeting.
44. Cllr A Goggin suggested for the B1027 Project to be added to the next Parish Council Agenda and for Thorrington Parish Council to review the consultation paperwork at the same time as all residents in Thorrington and reiterated that Thorrington Parish Council are in agreement with the changes for the B1027 Project.

Closure:

There being no further business to discuss the chairman closed the meeting at 8.50pm.

Date of next meeting 7th February 2024 at 7pm – Thorrington Village Hall.

Lynsey Ritchie-Fagg – Parish Clerk & RFO
4th February 2024



7.2.24