

# BUCKLESHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs Ruth Johnson, Clerk to the Parish Council  
54 Levington Lane, Bucklesham, Ipswich IP10 0DZ



01473 655149

[buckleshampc@gmail.com](mailto:buckleshampc@gmail.com)

07854 712 734

## Meeting with Suffolk Highways Community Liaison Officer Justin Lewis and SCC Cllr Mulcahy

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> August at 9:30am

**Bucklesham Village (various locations)**

### Those in attendance:

Rhea Gardner – Bucklesham Parish Council

Rachel Rudge – Bucklesham Primary School Head Teacher

Jason Lewis – Suffolk Highways Community Liaison Officer

Ruth Johnson – Bucklesham Parish Council Clerk

Trevor Bickers – Bucklesham Parish Council

Sharron Scrutton – School Administrator

Patti Mulcahy – Suffolk County Council

The meeting was requested by Bucklesham Parish Council (BPC) following reported Highways issues faced by villagers which included complaints about speeding, parking, potholes, school parking, and passing places on Nacton Lane.

### The School:

The meeting started at the school with Cllr Mulcahy expressing her opinion that BPC needed to manage their expectations of what could be achieved. Cllr Mulcahy said BPC should request a survey – which would cost in the region of £15,000 – before possible solutions to any problems could be addressed, as this was correct procedure.

Cllr Mulcahy informed the meeting that she was not aware of any Highways issues in Bucklesham. The Clerk explained that she had requested Cllr Mulcahy's attendance at numerous Parish Council meetings following numerous reports of Highways issues from residents that we have asked for help with. The Clerk had also emailed Cllr Mulcahy with various issues and received no reply.

All in attendance talked at length about the issues at the school and received the following feedback:

BPC issue	Suffolk Highways answer
Parents parking on yellow lines	This is a Police enforcement issue, not Highways
Speeding	This is a Police enforcement issue, not Highways
Reduction of 60mph Brightwell Rd to 20mph	Will need to be investigated
Resurface layby opposite school	Probably not Highways land, will need to be investigated
Implementation of 20's Plenty Zone	Cannot be enforced as only advisory

No solutions were offered as to how BPC could solve any of the issues. BPC stated they believed the school teachers and staff had clearly done a huge amount to encourage parents to park sensibly but to no avail. BPC asked about widening the layby opposite the school and the reduction in speed limit on Brightwell Road but both suggestions were met with problems and rejected as probably unworkable. BPC requested further signs to encourage speed reduction such as the '20's Plenty' that many other schools have, but Highways and Cllr Mulcahy said this would only be advisory and could not be enforced so they felt it was probably not worth doing. They also stressed the point that there was no money in the Highways budget for what they deemed to be non-urgent. No other solutions were offered. BPC Councillors in attendance said BPC were after positive solutions not negative rejections of all their ideas.

### Nacton Lane (opposite Bob Nichols):

The meeting moved to Nacton Lane where BPC pointed out the issues and received the following feedback:

BPC issue	Suffolk Highways answer
Potholes	Need to be reported on Report It tool
Speeding	National speed limit applies on this type of road
Lack of passing places	There are enough existing passing places
Existing passing places not wide enough	Cant scrape away any more as probably not Highways land
Large holes in passing places and edge of lane	A good thing as will slow traffic down

Cllr Mulcahy said it was actually a good thing to have passing places full of holes as this slows the traffic down. Highways said there was not enough room on the bank to site 'Passing Place' signs. Cllr Mulcahy expressed her opinion that our perception of speed is very likely to be incorrect and that often when surveys are undertaken they show there really is no problem at all. The Clerk pointed out that often what the authorities tell local people the problems are is completely different to the lived experiences of the residents. Cllr Mulcahy informed BPC that she does have a Highways budget that we could have asked for. The Clerk stated that this was the first she knew of such money, and BPC Councillors in attendance suggested that if Cllr Mulcahy had attended any of the Parish Council meetings she could have told them about the money before.

### Levington Lane:

The meeting moved to Levington Lane where BPC pointed out the issues and received the following feedback:

BPC issue	Suffolk Highways answer
Double parking on both sides of road	Police Enforcement issue, not Highways
Speeding	Probably not as bad as we think
Parking on bends and opposite junctions	Police Enforcement issue, not Highways

The meeting moved to the parking issues in Levington Lane and Field View. The Clerk explained the issue of emergency vehicles not getting through and bins not being emptied on a few occasions due to double parking. Highways said that emergency vehicles would just push through, damaging vehicles if necessary and that this was a Police matter and not a Highways issue. Highways stated that a request for yellow lines or residents' parking permits would need to go to consultation and residents would probably object so it was unlikely to be permitted. No solutions were offered other than to say the problem is with human behaviour and not a Highways issue.

### Speeding:

BPC explained the problem of speeding through the village and were again told it is probably not as bad as villagers think. Cllr Mulcahy said they could offer to do a traffic survey which would cost £300 and she may be prepared to fund this. The Clerk explained BPC have data from the SID sited on Main Road in the middle of the village but Cllr Mulcahy suggested the survey should be taken up at the school. BPC explained that traffic does not necessarily speed at the school as vehicles are slowing down for the junction. BPC once again asked for some positive suggestions and solutions, to which there were none.

The Clerk asked if BPC could have some SLOW signs painted on the road. Highways said this was a possibility but that people would probably just ignore them. The Clerk asked if BPC could have any white lines painted as a traffic calming measure. Highways repeated the assertion that people just ignore them too but they would look into it.

Cllr Mulcahy said that many villages had similar issues and Bucklesham was not alone. She sited problems in Martlesham as being far more urgent. BPC informed Cllr Mulcahy that as elected officials they were only concerned with issues in Bucklesham and that they were trying to solve problems on behalf of Bucklesham villagers.

Highways will now complete a report and email the Clerk. The Clerk will send a map of where BPC would like the SLOW signs painted on the road. Highways Community Liaison Officer Justin Lewis and Suffolk County Council's Cllr Mulcahy were thanked for their time.

*Ruth Johnson*

Clerk to the Bucklesham Parish Council, 18<sup>th</sup> August 2022