

## **Note for Environment Committee on Road Safety**

I raised this at the January full Council Meeting and the Chairman, quite rightly, said that this was a matter for the Environment Committee.

Over the last two years, I have been approached by a number of residents of Rushlake Green and other passers by, who have voiced their concern about road safety.

I guess that I have attracted comments by wearing a Hi vis jacket and by using a speed gun, but their concerns aren't just about speed, nor am I, of course, the right person to action them.

Obviously road traffic has increased in volume, weight of vehicles and, of course speed. Increasingly, of course during the pandemic, but also before, there are a great number of walkers and children and dogs, cyclists, and horse riders.

With no footpaths or lighting leading into the village, it isn't surprising that many are also wearing Hi Vis clothing to protect themselves.

The roads around the Green have become very dangerous with the increased use of the village shop and parked cars. In the last few months there have been 3 accidents at the junction of Rookery Lane, the Green and Bodle Street road, and very recently a couple of very near misses near the shop as vehicles racing down the Rookery Lane side fail to look for traffic coming from the direction of the pub. It has become a treacherous area for walkers, especially residents of Osborne House.

As you know, Speedwatch statistics (some 2,500 speeding vehicles recorded a year) have attracted the attention of the Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner. Their view is that, as far as speeding is concerned, RG is a hot spot and their advice has been to speak to Highways to get a traffic survey with a view to implementing other traffic calming and road safety measures. At the meeting Jackie attended recently, the Police confirmed this and asked for data from Speedwatch (which they can access themselves anyway).

Many of you will remember the last SLR meeting with Highways when the Highways rep failed to turn up and we were left with a brand new Highways steward. As you have heard, I asked Jackie to see when we should and could have another SLR meeting to draw Highways attention to the problem.

We are devoting a fair amount of our time discussing rewilding the verges, and I think that this is as important.

It is interest that many of our Parishioners do too. In the recent CIL survey, a traffic

survey came a close 4<sup>th</sup> in the list of suggested CIL spending priorities and when asked what else would they like to be considered, 10 out of 45 responses mentioned road safety/speeding.

So I am proposing that Road Safety in RG and, of course BSG where I don't have so much experience, becomes a priority for the PC and that the Environment Committee formulates an action plan to deal with it

Mike Smythe  
23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021