

County Councillor Report for Melton Parish Council Meeting 14th March 2006

1. Spillage of salt in Dock Lane

Following our previous meeting where concern at the grit spillage was raised, I asked highways to investigate. They have raised the issue with their contractors and measures have been implemented to ensure gritters are not overloaded and that grids on the top of the gritter are brushed before they leave the depot to remove any excess salt.

2. St Audry Park Road speed restrictions.

Following a site meeting and a speed detection radar survey at St Audry Park Road, the results show that the average speeds in both directions was below 30mph. This being the case, the preferred solution would be to leave the road as it is ie derestricted. Highways department feel that implementing a speed limit is unlikely to result in a reduction in actual traffic speed and putting up repeater signs would increase roadside clutter. A letter has been sent to Hopkins Homes asking them to ensure their staff drive at an appropriate speed.

3. Traffic problems at Bredfield Road/Woods Lane junction

I now have a response from highways regarding this.

The Road Safety Engineering team treated the Bredfield Road junction in the financial year 2002/2003. I have checked the accident record of the Woods Lane junction with Bredfield Road scheme, before the works were carried out there were 5 (2 serious 3 slight) injury accidents in 3 years. Since operation of the scheme there has been 3 (all slight) recorded injury accidents, in 31 months. At present this shows a reduction in terms of accident numbers and severity, however we will continue to monitor this location.

Regarding your question concerning reducing the 40 mph speed limit to 30 mph on Woods Lane. There are a few houses either side of the Bredfield Road that could be counted as roadside development, but not enough to justify a 30 mph speed limit on these grounds. If the whole of Woods Lane was 30 mph we would not be able to sign the speed limit with 30 mph repeater signs, as the limit would be 30 mph 'by virtue of street lighting' which forbids the use of repeater signs. In addition we would have to take down the large 30 mph sign at the beginning of the current 30 mph speed limit which may reduce compliance with the speed limit throughout the more densely populated centre of the village, where the limit is required.

4. Timings of traffic lights on Lime Kiln Quay Road

The comment was made at the previous meeting that the timings at the junction of this road with St Johns Street were not quite right. I have been advised that the timings on the signals had been changed to reduce the overall queuing at the junction in order to reduce the air pollution in the area. The findings of the survey have recently

concluded that nitrogen dioxide levels are sufficiently high enough to make this area and Air Quality Management Area . On 3rd March SCDC made such an order and this comes into effect 3rd April. SCDC will now look at ways at improving air quality.

5. Safety Scheme A12/C3909 Bredfield – Saddlemakers Lane

A detailed map of the proposed changes will be brought to the meeting.

6. Woodbridge Primary School

The Woodbridge Primary School move from New Street to Pytches Road appears to be finally progressing. The target date for opening is Spring 2007 with work on site due to start this month.

7. Council tax Rise of 4.5%

Suffolk County Council agreed a council tax increase of 4.5% for 2006-7 on 21st February. An indication of how this will affect each council tax band is shown below.

<i>Council Tax Band</i>	<i>2005/6</i>	<i>2006/7</i>	<i>Weekly Increase for 2006/07 (full level of council tax)</i>
	£	£	£
<i>A</i>	631.98	660.42	0.55
<i>B</i>	737.31	770.49	0.64
<i>C</i>	842.64	880.56	0.73
<i>D</i>	947.97	990.63	0.82
<i>E</i>	1,158.63	1,210.77	1.00
<i>F</i>	1,369.29	1,430.91	1.18
<i>G</i>	1,579.95	1,651.05	1.37
<i>H</i>	1,895.94	1,981.26	1.64

Whilst no increase would have been welcomed it is worth noting that the 4.5% tax increase is (according to the survey in "The Times" 20th Feb) likely to be one of the lowest among English county councils.

Clare Aitchison