

The Parish Council respond to villager Peter White's open letter in March's What's On

Dear Landbeach residents,

Further to Peter White's letter, circulated to the whole village through *What's On in Landbeach*, and which was discussed at the latest Parish Council meeting, here is our considered response.

We started producing a simple Parish Plan about ten years ago. This has been presented each year to the Annual Parish Meeting, and updated continuously to take into consideration the views of the Council members and comments received from parishioners. We are currently seeking to update and expand this plan and all further suggestions for this should be addressed to David Metcalfe at 40 High St (david_metcalfe1978@hotmail.com) ASAP.

As Peter rightly points out, one of the major concerns is now the issue of traffic and speeding through the village.

After noting the three most recent accidents of cars hitting a tree in Waterbeach Road, the Old Rectory wall being hit for a third time in Green End, and a car which destroyed the bus shelter in the High Street, we obtained Landbeach traffic flow data for Waterbeach Road and for Green End/High Street from Urban & Civic who had procured the information. These data showed that:

Waterbeach Road (40 mph speed limit) – 1700 vehicles in weekday 24 hours.
400 vehicles in morning rush hours (0700 – 0900); 300 in evening rush hours (1600-1800).
Average speed 24 hours 39-40 mph with 20% exceeding 45 mph.

High Street (30 mph speed limit) – 3220 vehicles in weekday 24 hours.
800 in morning rush hour and 720 in evening rush hour.
Average speed 31-32 mph with 19% exceeding 35 mph.

84% of cars travelling southbound into the village in the morning come from the Cottenham road.

For comparison, the 24 hour traffic numbers on A10 Ely Road are over 10,000 northbound and 11,000 southbound.

In the light of widespread local concern, a meeting on the subject of Village Speed Control was recently convened by County Councillor Maurice Leeke and attended by Parish, District and County Councillors from Landbeach, Milton and Waterbeach, together with County Council Highways officials.

The Highways Engineer stated that the data quoted vindicate the existing speed limits and advised that the most effective remedies are:

'Gateways' at village entrances (which we have), White lines on the road - restricting width
Speed limit roundels (in an existing speed limit zone), Dragon's Teeth – painted on road
Chicane – forcing traffic to give way (to a stop) in one direction
Speed cushions (rubber, to reduce vibration, and placed sensitively)
Speed tables, Central island – requires a minimum road width of 7.8 m

The Highways Engineer also recommended Mobile Vehicle Activated Signs (MVAS) that can be put in one location for four weeks, then moved to another location. They have rechargeable batteries and light up green if the vehicle is travelling <30 mph, or red if >30mph, showing the speed. They have data-logging and weigh about 11 kg. and need to be attached to a fixed object. The evidence is that they have maximum impact in the first four weeks of installation in a given location.

If purchased by a parish or group of parishes (3rd party funding) a MVAS costs about £3,500 and Landbeach Parish Council has agreed to share in the purchase of such equipment, noting that Automated Number Plate Recognition cameras cost nearly 100 times more. It is also inviting the Highways Engineer to carry out a site visit to advise on other appropriate measures.

Finally, the Parish Council is awaiting the report on the A10 proposals, now due this Summer, which should give us the first indication of likely traffic plans affecting the village from the Waterbeach development. In the meantime we will be co-operating with Waterbeach in a Speedwatch programme now that the equipment has been re-calibrated.

Best wishes,
Landbeach Parish Council

Landbeach Parish Council

Parish Clerk - Maria Sylvester, Landbeachparishcouncil@gmail.com , 07724 047656

Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/landbeachparishcouncil>

Contacting us - Please note new telephone number for the Parish Council - 07724 047656. The Clerk is happy to ring people back if they are concerned about the cost of calls. Messages can be left and the Clerk will respond to these as soon as possible. Or you can email: Landbeachparishcouncil@gmail.com

New items

Public Consultation on Waterbeach New Town - visit www.scams.gov.uk/waterbeach to view the planning application and have your say **BY 10th APRIL**

Annual Parish Meeting is Wed 03 May; all Parishioners welcome. Speakers: Urban and Civic.

Play Area Mushrooms - are going to be replaced.

Speeding - The information already obtained forms a good basis for anything the Council want to move forward. The Council have contacted Highways with a request for interactive signs to be shared between Landbeach, Milton and Waterbeach and moved around the villages. They are looking into the possibility of getting 30-40mph stickers for residents to put on their bins. Waterbeach have a Speedwatch kit and have agreed to carry out a Speedwatch in the village. A parishioner who is a transport consultant is meeting with the Council.

From last month

A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon Improvement Scheme is now underway. See newsletter on Landbeach Village website.

Affordable Housing - There is a need to identify a blank area in the village that could be used for affordable housing. Please contact the Clerk with suggestions for venues, or if you know of elderly or younger members of the parish who would be interested in affordable houses.

Boundaries - Please could residents keep boundaries with the footpath tidy, with no overgrown bushes, leaves etc, which might make it difficult for prams, wheelchairs and scooters to get through. Please don't park cars on the pavement, as this obstructs pedestrians, wheelchairs and pushchairs.

Bus Shelter - As you know, the bus shelter was damaged by a car; this was made safe as quickly as possible. It has now been demolished and will be rebuilt in the near future.

Dog fouling - Please pick up dog foul and please do not take dogs on Recreation Ground. Thank you for your consideration for others.

Landbeach Helpline - contact the Clerk for contact details of groups/agencies who may be able to help.

Mobile Warden -

The new post of Mobile Warden for Landbeach and Waterbeach will be trained by Age UK and will assist frail, elderly residents.

District Cllr Ingrid Tregoing informs us that funding has been agreed for this. Landbeach would pay up to £1,000 a year (probably considerably less pro-rata'd amount in conjunction with Waterbeach) towards the scheme. This would be a commitment of 3 years with a minimum of 2.

The Parish Council would like to hear from, or of, Landbeach people who might appreciate visits (e.g. once a week). For more information, or to register an interest, please contact the Parish Clerk. Please see back page for more information. The cost to the client would be £5 per week, for which you would get a call every day and a visit every week.

Stagecoach - People can contact the Parish Clerk if they have any complaints about Stagecoach.

Landbeach Parish Plan - Your chance to contribute!

One of the roles of the Parish council is to create a plan for improvements in the village, and to focus on these areas throughout the year. The current plan needs updating, and the council would like to invite you to give your feedback on what you feel they should be focusing on. Some suggested areas could be: affordable housing, green spaces, facilities, etc.

The feedback is being collated by David Metcalfe, of the parish council; please send him your feedback, either by email to david_metcalfe1978@hotmail.com or by dropping a note through his door at 40 High Street.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Regards, Landbeach Parish Council