

AN UPDATE ON TRAFFIC CALMING PROPOSALS FOR BILLINGSHURST VILLAGE

Residents may remember that earlier last year, a consultation exercise was held online and at the Billingshurst Centre where councillors and officers were available to discuss traffic calming proposals.

As a result of the consultation process, a few tweaks were made to the proposals and a scheme submitted to West Sussex County Council (WSCC). Unfortunately, in early December 2022, the Parish Council was informed that its application had been turned down. The response from WSCC was reported in a Village Tweet article and is also noted below.

Since receiving the rejection from WSCC, Councillors and officers from the Parish Council have met with officers from another WSCC department who are tasked with improving walking and cycling routes within the parish (which of course BPCs plans would have assisted with!). That was quite a positive meeting, as was a meeting with Horsham District Council (HDC) officers last week where the availability of funding for projects in Billingshurst was discussed. It is important to note that Mrs Amanda Jupp, West Sussex County Councillor for the parish of Billingshurst, fully supports Billingshurst's objectives. As soon as there is a further update, we will let you know!

RESPONSE FROM WSCC

I am sorry for the delay in providing you feedback on your application for a Community Highways Scheme at this location. I regret to inform you that your application was not successful on this occasion and has not been included in the 2023/24 design programme.

West Sussex County Council develops a programme of works by considering all community requests against a pre-determined scoring matrix. The matrix assesses schemes against defined criteria such as: Alignment with the West Sussex Transport Plan, Deliverability and Adherence with Technical Standards/Policies. All assessments are moderated to ensure the criteria is applied consistently by officers and this approach ensures the County Council invests limited resources in the highest priority projects around the County.

However, I can inform you that your application was not progressed as we feel the existing problems are from the volume of traffic rather than speeding issues. We would advise you to apply for a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to progress a 20mph zone in Billingshurst. We would also combine another application to apply for the S115 process of the Highways Act 1980 to install village gateways as you enter Billingshurst. We also spoke with our traffic signals team who confirmed that removing the existing roundabout and replacing with three-way signals would not comply with National Guidance as there isn't sufficient room on the public highway.