

## Eardiston Traffic Speed Reduction & Street Scene Improvement

### Update for May 10<sup>th</sup> PC Meeting

We have so far failed to achieve anything from Highways towards any significant traffic speed reduction measures and the RSP have abandoned traffic speed enforcement. Unless we experience a fatal or serious incident within the 30mph restriction in Eardiston it is unlikely Highways will agree to any expenditure and even then, as has been the case at Lindridge, it does not necessarily follow that a fatal accident leads to improvements.

However in the case of the withdrawal of traffic speed enforcement, despite the RSP having established that traffic is disregarding the 30mph speed restriction, we are now left with the situation that drivers are able to speed through Eardiston with very little chance of being caught. Our chairman and I think we have a case for demanding some further action and Councillor Ken Pollock agrees with us. We therefore intend to approach our MP and seek some assistance. In order to help our case we are approaching other parish councils along the A443 to establish a joint approach to what is, of course, a problem common to all the villages.

### VAS Unit

The unit is ready for dispatch and should be in place next month. I met with Roy and we identified suitable positions for the sign, the requirement is that it should not activate until traffic has entered the 30mph zone. There is a suitable existing post at the western end of the village and Highways are in the process of extending a post at the eastern end.

Stockton PC have approached us to enquire whether they could hire our VAS unit. I replied that I thought it unlikely in the short term as we intend to use the unit to maintain our campaign for Lind ridge. Obviously we would like to help Stockton and I wondered if we could let them have our slot for the sign we share.

### White Gates

I met with Roy to establish the size and position of the gates and he subsequently came up with a figure of £4K plus for Highways to supply and install. We can avoid this by buying the gates ourselves from Vinyl Fencing Ltd and using our lengthsmen to carry out the installation as was originally intended. The cost is a little more than envisaged, £255 plus VAT per pair, increased from the previous price I was working on of £160 plus VAT per pair, the total extra cost will therefore be £190. Vinyl Fencing are approved by Highways and we have permission from Highways for our lengthsmen to install them. I have contacted Welland PC with whom we corresponded previously - they have Vinyl Fencing gates in place and are satisfied with them. The essential difference between these and JAC gates is that they are hollow instead of solid. I see no problem with the cheaper gates, after all they are not a permanent fixture and have the advantage of having a smooth surface that is easier to keep clean. Interestingly Welland were informed by Highways to anticipate a 4mph traffic speed reduction - that seems a bit of a stretch to me and no mention of that came to us from Highways.

Personally I think we need white gates to back up the VAS unit and complement the village scene that we are seeking to achieve, Ken supports this and sees them as a relatively cheap solution.

As previously envisaged we can assume the lengthsman's charge for installing the gates to be no more than a day's work at his normal rate.

#### Grass Cutting

Chris has made a start by mowing the grass triangle at the top of Mill Lane and will be continuing with grass verge mowing although the Highways intervened with their very early flailing. Residents will be contacted to encourage the mowing of their verges.

#### Eardiston Sign Eastern End

Highways have replaced the damaged Eardiston sign at the eastern end. There is a damaged flower box in place here - can we ask Chris to take this away or is anyone prepared to replace and maintain it? If we are seeking to present a cared-for village we need to tidy this up.

#### Kerb and Roadside Gully Clearing

At last I thought we were going to get this done having received a request to provide details of where it is required ... still waiting but maybe soon.