

Melbourn Road Safety Initiative

This initiative, being undertaken by the Melbourn Futures Working Party (MFWP) of the Parish Council, is examining road safety issues relating to vehicle speed and routing, pedestrians, disabled users, cyclists and new housing and highway developments.

In February 2020 MFWP commissioned a traffic survey the results of which are to be made available on the Parish Council web site. The survey identified the following areas of concern.

1. High vehicle speed violations in 30mph restricted Cambridge Road (60% exceedance), Station Road (92%), Royston Road (36%) and Back Lane (73%).
2. Significant heavy goods vehicle use of Beechwood Avenue (8%).

This paper addresses vehicle speeds with Beechwood Avenue being the subject of a separate paper.

Analysis of accident statistics up to and including 2018 showed no particular black spots or trends, but subsequent data will be monitored as and when available.

The Melbourn Greenway scheme, which has been approved, will introduce a 20mph speed restriction through the High Street. The scheme has yet to be designed in detail and MFWP will liaise with Greater Cambridge Partnership Greenways team in regard to safety measures to be incorporated in the scheme and in particular those relating to vehicular speed transition at the entry points to the 20mph restriction. These could include sequenced decreasing speed restrictions, road marking and narrowing, speed humps and cushions and village entry signs and gates.

MFWP will also consider such measures for Station Road and Back Lane. If appropriate, recommendations will be made for Local Highway Initiative (LHI) grant applications to fund approved improvements.

Excessive speed is largely due to vehicle power and comfort, lack of concentration on the part of drivers and road conditions. The speed reduction measures detailed are designed to stimulate driver response to speed. This can also be achieved by use of Mobile Vehicle Activated Sign (MVAS) which display vehicle speed in green for compliance, red for non-compliance and other information such as 'Slow Down', 'Thank You' etc. The equipment also records vehicle numbers in both directions which can obviate the need for and cost of future traffic surveys.

In order to encourage a much needed reduction in excessive traffic speeds and condition drivers to the introduction of future speed reduction measures, it is recommended MVAS equipment is utilised at locations in Melbourn where speed is of concern. The cost of a unit, including spare rechargeable batteries and six mounting brackets is between £3 – 4k. The units can be mounted on existing street furniture and relocated by the Parish Council's wardens using a step ladder and hand tools and the batteries recharged at its' garage.

An LHI grant application can be made to meet the cost but this will take time and may not be successful. Alternatively the equipment can be purchased by the Parish Council justified by immediacy of use and saving in future survey costs.

Recommendation

That Council approves the sum of £4k for the purchase of an MVAS unit and accessories.

DT 10.9.20