

COUNTY COUNCILLOR UPDATE FOR CHOLLERTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 15/1/25

1) I've finally got my hands on the **traffic speed survey results** for Colwell and Gunnerton. The average speeds on the B6342 at Colwell seem to confirm that there is a speeding problem. The average speed was 33.7mph northbound and 35.6mph southbound, and the 85th percentile speed (the speed which 15% of vehicles were exceeding) was 41.5mph northbound and 42.9mph southbound. I've asked Highways Programme whether they agree with me that the results confirm a speeding problem, and whether they'll look into possible solutions or whether it'll be up to the parish council to request traffic calming measures through the LTP programme for 2025/26. I'll let you know what they tell me.

By the way, Community Speedwatch reopened to applications on January 2nd but will close again on Sunday – go to <https://careers.northumbria.police.uk/volunteering/police-support-volunteers/#speed> if you're keen to help.

The speed survey results for the C221 through Colwell appear to show a speeding problem in the eastbound direction, but I think they've accidentally given me the speeds in kph but told me that they're in mph. I've asked for clarification and I'll let you know what they tell me.

The traffic speed survey results for Gunnerton don't show a speeding problem. The average speed was 20.3mph up the hill and 21.8mph down. The 85th percentile speed was 24.1mph up the hill and 26.2mph down. I think we'll be told that a lower speed limit isn't required, but I've asked them whether a 20mph speed limit could slow the fastest vehicles without inconveniencing the motorists travelling at an average speed and therefore might be worth implementing. I've reminded them that Gunnerton has very few usable footways, so people and motor vehicles tend to share the road space. However, I was told last year that 20mph speed limits are no longer allowed on through roads in villages, so the answer is likely to be no. I've asked where this new rule came from, and I'll let you know what they tell me.

2) No decision has been made on whether to include **the resurfacing of the footway between Barrasford and Barrasford Quarry** in the 2025/26 Local Transport Plan programme. The draft LTP programme will be discussed at LAC on February 11th, and I hope to find out then.

3) I had an excellent response to my request for **suggestions for bus service improvements**, and I've now put them into a logical order and submitted them to the public transport officers. I'll let you know if they provide me with any interesting feedback.

4) Neighbourhood Services didn't manage to cut the grass on **the "Barrasford Bs" species-rich grassland site**, which was very disappointing. I've spoken to Christine from the RHS and we've decided that it shouldn't be cut until the spring now. We're hoping that if we give it an early spring cut we'll then be able to resume annual cuts in September. I'm inclined to ask the farmer to cut it in future, and to rake the clippings ourselves. It's hard work, but at least we'll retain some control over the timing of the cuts that way.

5) The Warmer Homes scheme is still open for applications but will be closing as soon as the funding runs out. The council's applying for government funding to extend the scheme though, and apparently the rule that tenants aren't eligible if their landlord owns more than four properties might be lifted. I'll keep you informed of developments.