

LONG MAN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes from the Strengthening Local Relationships meeting with ESCC Highways Tuesday 17th December 2024 at 10 am, Wilmington Village Hall.

Attendees: Claire Church (chair – LMPC), Ann Osborne (LMPC), Helen Baulcombe (LMPC), Michael Bridges (LMPC), Councillor Stephen Shing (ESCC Highways Lead Member), Wayne Gibbs and Lily Hodgson representing ESCC Highways/Balfour Beatty.

Apologies: Tyler Butterworth

1. Chair welcomed all and did introductions. The meeting looked at the issues raised by LMPC and the responses from ESCC Highways/Balfour Beatty. Photos of problems were shared with ESCC Highways ahead of the meeting and ESCC Highways had visited the sites identified.

RESPONSES TO ISSUES RAISED:

2. **Bayleys Lane, Wilmington:** coming south and just before the double bend.– job has been raised and erosion has been logged and will be monitored.
Bayleys Lane: Hidden double bend sign coming south - vegetation cleared and sign visible.
3. **Blocked culvert – Arlington Meadow, Milton Street** – Ditching job raised in system and 2 gullies need clearing.
4. **Milton Street signage both entrances to village** – ESCC have information that was previously shared with Ian Johnson and this will be looked at again but currently low priority, costings to be sought again with supplier – estimated timeframe during next financial year April 2025/March 26.

ESCC has confirmed since the meeting that they are aware of the agreement from Ian Johnson to have 'Milton Street' signs erected at either end. Due to construction costs going up, they have had to prioritise works where we have killed or seriously injured. However, they will endeavour to obtain costs for the works in the new year, ready to place on order with contractors in the new financial year.

5. **Thornwell Road/Robin Post Lane bend** – roadside reflectors – job for 7 new bollards has been raised.
6. **Railway crossing signage on Thornwell Road** – Ann raised poor visibility of the road narrowing of both sides approaching the tracks and said there used to be fluorescent bollards which have now gone. Lilly recorded this and will ask Jo to come back on this point.

ESCC has reported since the meeting that the correct update on this is that land searches have not yet been carried out to find the registered ownership of the overgrown hedges for cut back. The issue was passed to Enforcement on the 4th December 2024, so unfortunately still waiting land searches.

7. **Discharge point/drain issue end of Milton Street near A27** – ESCC will liaise with the drainage team and report back.
8. **Wilmington blocked drainage** – 4 gully jetting jobs have been raised in the area.
9. **Speeding** – see information being sent by Wayne re Jo's email address and her information about 30 mph signage and smiley face signs we can get licences for. To be discussed further as cost implication for smiley face flashing signs – February onwards if we want to order 30 mph signage for Milton Street and Wilmington, but black and yellow posters likely to be available at no cost. All at the meeting agreed this was a good starting point.

The Road safety team have confirmed since the meeting that they have black and yellow road safety posters that can be put up at sites where there is concern over speeding, such as 'Remember 30', 'Speed Kills', 'Slow Down. These posters stay up for a maximum of three months, to highlight to drivers the need to slow down. ESCC then take them down and use them at other sites across the County as after three months, it is felt that the signs lose their effectiveness. If there are any sites that the PC would like to see these signs, please let us know which locations, and these can be added to the next batch order for around February time.

The Parish Council may be aware that they can obtain a licence for a semi-permanent vehicle activated sign, which again, can be licenced at several locations within the Parish and again, would stay up for a maximum of 3 months and then moved to another approved site. This can be anything from the happy/sad face to showing the speed of what the driver is doing. Depending on what device you purchase, some devices also collate the speed and traffic flow to allow the Parish Council to review the data. A copy of ESCC working practice has been sent to the PC, should the PC be interested in this.

10. **AOB** – raised re Box junction and National Highways taking down flashing sign on A27. Discussion and all agreed best to get as much information and specify what we want done with supporting documentation plus copy in MP and Stephen Shing. The more people who raise this the better. To take forwards.
11. Next meeting booked for Tuesday 17th June at 10 am – in person at Wilmington Village Hall. – Also to note we don't have to wait till then to raise any other issues and to contact ESCC Highways when things arise, keeping Stephen Shing informed.