

I was very sorry to hear of the accident on the Green last Saturday, I am glad that the little girl involved was not badly injured.

As a long standing member of the Parish Council Highways Committee I take Road Safety very seriously. The committee have been lobbying for many years for traffic calming and reduction measures for the village.

We have been successful in obtaining wig wag lights by Hylands School to reduce the speed limit to 20mph, and are monitoring these to ensure that they work. We also have a new lay-by at the Doctors Surgery. These took over 2 years to achieve.

Through Essex County Council's Local Highways Panel we have also asked for traffic calming build-outs on Ongar Road and Lordship road to encourage drivers to travel more slowly and stagger the flow thus giving time to cross, and easier access from Mayfield Road. We have also asked for traffic calming at this junction, and for the 30 mph area to be extended to the hump back bridge.

These measures were put on the Essex County Council's list for investigation in 2016/2017 but unfortunately had to be postponed until 2017/2018 due to funding issues. To date only Preston's/Mayfield area has been looked at, this should result in a refuge opposite Orchard close to give easier crossing to the Doctors Surgery and calm and reduce traffic speed. All traffic and speed control measures have to be approved and implemented by Essex Council.

This year we have also requested a survey of The Green to see if we can have a Zebra Crossing, although this has not been allowed in the past.

We have taken up the issue of the bus stop by the Co-Op, but First Bus have said they are unable to move it as the sight lines are not good enough.

We also have measures in mind for alterations at Bulimers Way roundabout and Margaretting Road roundabout to reduce the speed of traffic entering the village.

Overall our Speed Indicators on Ongar Road and Lordship Road (which despite many telephone calls we had to wait 2 years to get installed), show that most drivers do adhere to the speed limit, but we need to put measures in place to stop those who don't, and any help we can get from villagers would be gratefully received.

We did start a Speedwatch Group when the Parish Council had purchased two speed guns; but we were very disappointed that after a few months a lack of volunteers caused this to cease.

Pressure can work as with our 45 bus service which was very unreliable, but now gives us a good service.

All Parish Council meetings are open to the public and the minutes are published on our website, the next Full Council meeting is on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30 and our Highways meeting on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February at 8.15.

It may take years but if we keep up the pressure, with your help we can make our village a much safer place.