

Hilton Parish Council

Report from the Meeting of the Council dated Monday 5th October 2020

Trim Trail Survey

Hilton Parish Council would like to thank those parishioners who completed their recent survey regarding a trim trail. A copy of the survey results are available on the website (www.hiltonparishcouncil.com) and a summary is below:

Would you support a trim trail in the village?

Yes – 48% No – 52%

How often would you use it?

Daily – 8% Weekly – 19% Monthly – 7% Not at all – 68%

Would you support the cost of the trail coming from the PC precept if alternative funding cannot be found?

Yes – 34% No – 66%

Would you support the equipment to be placed in the Wilderness?

Yes – 38% No – 62%

Considering these results, the Parish Council have resolved to take this proposal no further.

Website

The new accessibility compliant website is now live and can be viewed at www.hiltonparishcouncil.com.

Emergency Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO)

At the meeting of the Cambridgeshire County Council's Highways and Transport Committee, the members discussed the request to include a 24-hour HGV ban on the B1040 through Hilton in their latest batch of ETROs. The decision of the Committee was:

It was unanimously resolved:

1. a) To ask Officers to take away the B1040 Lorry ban proposal and consult with the Department of Transport for further consideration of whether it, and any further schemes, are appropriate for inclusion in the current tranche 2 list, with any final decision on the B1040 proposal, to be in consultation with the Vice Chairman, with the involvement of Councillor Harford.

The Parish Council has since received the response from the Department of Transport to state that officers spoke to the relevant team in the DfT, and confirmed that this proposal would not be compliant with the EATF (Emergency Active Travel Fund) guidance, and would not therefore be eligible for funding from the EATF.

Further information was received from Cambridgeshire County Council:

The root of the problem with this proposal in the context of the EATF is in relation to the statutory guidance for local authorities at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/reallocating-road-space-in-response-to-covid-19-statutory-guidance-for-local-authorities>, which sets out the expectations of government and the types of measures that they expect to see coming forward with the funding that they have provided.

The “Reallocating road space: measures” section of the guidance starts “Local authorities in areas with high levels of public transport use should take measures to reallocate road space to people walking and cycling, both to encourage active travel and to enable social distancing during restart... ...Local authorities where public transport use is low should be considering all possible measures.” It then goes on to list the types of measures that can be implemented from the EATF. Limited restrictions to vehicular access such as HGV bans are not included on this list. The expectation is that measures to improve conditions for cyclists on road will reallocate road space with physical segregation, or very significantly reduce vehicular traffic by use of measures such as modal filters that prohibit through movements by all motor vehicles.

The emergency procedures document sets out amendments to the procedures for Traffic Regulation Orders in the context of implementation of schemes under the EATF. It does not add to or amend the statutory guidance. The third bullet you note is applicable to proposals covered by the statutory guidance that would need a Traffic Regulation Order to restrict traffic, such as a modal filter or bus gate. It does not broaden the guidance to cover any traffic restriction that would require an order.

In terms of the underlying reason that this type of intervention is not included in the guidance, the EATF is expecting local authorities to “make significant changes to their road layouts to give more space to cyclists and pedestrians.” An HGV ban does not do this, and leaves the majority of traffic on the B1040, meaning the benefit to cyclists is marginal at best. It does not reallocate road space, segregate cycle movements or significantly reduce vehicular traffic. Other potential benefits of an HGV ban on the B1040 locally are not covered by the aims of the EATF funding.

The above does not remove the local imperative to look for ways to improve traffic conditions in Hilton, but it does confirm that DfT do not consider that the EATF would be an appropriate funding source for measures needed to implement an HGV ban. I hope that this clarifies the position in relation to the EATF.

Thank you to those parishioners who wrote to the County Council in support of this action.

2021/22 Local Highways Improvement Bid

The bid to request a 24-hour traffic regulation order to prohibit heavy commercial vehicles on the B1040 through Hilton has been submitted.

A14 Legacy Fund

Parishioners may remember that the Parish Council were successful in their bid for works to improve the ponds at both Reeve Ditch and the Ware in Graveley Way. Design work is continuing on these projects and the Parish Council hope to receive a detailed programme of works this month.

Streetlights

The Clerk continues to receive reports of streetlights in the village that are not working correctly. In most cases, the lighting maintenance contractor can repair these lights quickly. Unfortunately, they were unable to repair PC4 at the corner of Westbrook and New England and the Parish Council have resolved to replace this lantern with a new LED lantern. If you notice any streetlights in the village that are not working correctly, please report them to the Clerk (clerk@hiltonparishcouncil.com) together with the number on the streetlight which will start with the letters "PC".

Planning for Future White Paper

The Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government has opened consultations on a white paper regarding the planning system. Hilton Parish Council have resolved to send a detailed response to this consultation.

Bonfire Service

As they will not be holding the traditional annual bonfire and fireworks night, Hilton Parish Council have resolved to offer a bonfire service to those parishioners that rely on the bonfire to dispose of their garden waste. Further information will be available on the Parish Council website, Facebook page and the noticeboards.

Christmas Lights

Hilton Parish Council have resolved to spend up to £200 to place Christmas lights on the cricket pavilion. The Council would like to encourage parishioners to make a special effort with their Christmas lights this year in the absence of the traditional community events.

Parish Plan

A working group has been formed to review the action points from the 2005 Parish Plan.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 2nd November 2020 via Zoom. Agendas will be issued in advance on the village notice boards and the Council's website www.hiltonparishcouncil.com. Parishioners are welcome to speak at council meetings on agenda items.