

ROADS WORKING GROUP – REPORT MAY 2024

The Roads Working Group met in the grounds of Haysel House on the evening of 2nd May 2024. Two Coddendam parish councillors, Cllrs Denning and Whitehead were present, along with three group members from Coddendam and one group member from Hemingstone.

Cllr Denning reported to the group that from his discussions with County Cllr Matthew Hicks, he was confident that the proposed road signage and road markings, based on the drawings and illustrations created by SCC Highways, would be agreed and financed by Suffolk County Council. These new road signs and road markings would be placed on the B1078 at its junction with Rectory Road, Hemingstone, facing in an easterly direction, with the objective to ensure that HGVs travelling west on the B1078 would turn left into Rectory Road, following the designated route along Rectory Road and Sandy Lane to rejoin the B1078 south-west of Coddendam village. The Hemingstone resident in the group agreed that this new signage will simply be directing the HGV traffic along the routes that they are supposed to be taking but he felt it would also serve to highlight in future just how unsuitable Rectory Road is for such traffic.

Other matters discussed at the meeting were:-

It was questioned whether the priority of traffic going over the bridge by the Three-cocked Hat should be changed to prioritise traffic leaving Coddendam village rather than traffic entering Coddendam village. The consensus of the meeting was that this seemed a sensible idea but would need wider public consultation.

It was suggested that raised ramps (but not speed-bumps which are shorter and more severe) might serve to slow down traffic in Church Lane and the High Street. It was agreed that this should be investigated and again put out to wider public consultation in due course.

The group is aware that there is another group, based in Hemingstone, that is pushing for an extension of the 40mph limit westward from its existing end to the west of the Ashbocking crossroad to extend to Rectory Road, thus making the B1078 a 40mph zone throughout Hemingstone – and indeed from Otley Bottom. Most members of this Road Group favoured working with this Hemingstone Group to see if the 40mph zone could extend further, up to the present 20mph in Coddendam village plus also continue beyond the Coddendam village all the way until the A140 junction. Such a long 40mph stretch might encourage a lot of the HGV through traffic as well as smaller vehicles to seek out alternative routes, other than the B1078, for their cross-county journeys. One member of the group felt this would be a big ask of the authorities given the open nature of most of the B1078 to the west of Coddendam village, where 50mph might be more appropriate than the current 60mph national speed limit.

It was agreed that a present major hinderance to achieving any significant improvement of the traffic situation through Coddendam village and along Rectory Road, Hemingstone, was the ongoing insistence of Suffolk County Council Highways that the B1078 retains its Designated Lorry Route (DLR). The signage and road marking changes presently proposed for the B1078/Rectory Road junction should work better to ensure westward HGVs do not cause congestion and hold-ups within Coddendam village but the de-designation of the B1078 as a DLR would be the ideal solution.