

Summary

The 2021 Coddendam Annual Parish Meeting was held on the 6th May and three parishioners raised concerns about plans to address safety and congestion issues in the High Street and the possible impact on the village shop and residents parking.

The Parish Council were grateful to the parishioners that attended and raised these concerns. If there has been a misunderstanding the Parish Council wish to make this statement to clarify the situation as follows:

1. There are no plans to change the parking or the road markings in front of or opposite the village shop.
2. There are no plans to change the parking or road markings in the High Street (other than Crown Corner) or anywhere else in Coddendam.
3. In response to a number of potential public safety issues the Parish Council has requested Suffolk County Council (SCC) to consider a small section of double yellow lines on the inside of Crown Corner (at the bottom of the High Street and shown for illustrative purposes as the red line in Figure 1 below).
4. Any changes of this nature are complicated and will require public consultation. The Parish Council will communicate details in the future once SCC Highways have completed their surveys and SCC Leader Matthew Hicks has agreed to fund further progress.
5. The Parish Council is actively seeking the removal of the abandoned Ford Ka near the bottom of the High Street to free up a parking space.
6. Matthew Hicks has agreed to fund the repainting of all existing white lines in Coddendam village.

Figure 1 – The inside of Crown Corner (shown by the red line) where double-yellow lines are being considered



Further Details

The Parish Council has been working with residents, District and County councillors, Police and LorryWatch for many years because of issues of safety, congestion and speeding. Of particular concern is the B1078 through the village.

There have been a number of incidents recently that have highlighted the risks. This year an ambulance with blue lights flashing was gridlocked on the High Street and another ambulance had to be sent, more recently a cyclist was recently knocked off her bike at Crown Corner and two police cars rushing to an emergency could not get through the High Street and had to turn around. In the past there have been a number of car accidents, pedestrians nearly hit by vehicles mounting the pavements and people on bikes being knocked off.

Last December the Parish Council met with Suffolk County Council Leader Matthew Hicks to request SCC Highways help in making recommendations to a range of options to address these issues.

It is important to note that the Parish Council is not proposing changes that impact the village shop or parking for residents on the High Street. The Parish Council have requested SCC Highways to consider double-yellow lines on the inside of Crown Corner (the junction of the High Street with Church Road shown in red on Figure 1, for illustrative purposes), to improve the condition of the current road-markings throughout the parish and to look into the approach to Coddendam on Needham Road at the junction with Sandy Lane, where there have been accidents and, sadly, fatalities.

To reiterate, there are no plans to make changes to the School Road Junction with the B1078 (either in front of or opposite the village shop). However, there are safety concerns, evidenced by a number of accidents and near misses, on the inside of this corner as a result of vehicles parking too close to the corner which causes traffic travelling down the High Street to swerve into the path of oncoming vehicles. This not only impedes the flow of traffic in the High Street but also presents risks to the safety of cyclists, other drivers and pedestrians crossing at this point (because line of sight is often blocked by parked vehicles).

Please note that funding for any improvements will come from Suffolk County Council.

The Parish Council does not want parishioners to have incorrect information and is therefore making this immediate response. As previously stated, this process involves public consultation. Therefore, there will be an opportunity to seek the views of all parishioners prior to any decisions being made when the time comes.

If you have any immediate comments or concerns, please contact Sue, our Parish Clerk, by email at clerk.coddendampc@gmail.com

Coddendam Parish Council

7th May 2021