

Moulton Parish Council

C/O J Kirk

Clerk to Moulton Parish Council

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FAO

Steve Jupp

Chief Constable

Suffolk Police

26th January 2022

Dear Mr Jupp,

We contacted Police and Crime Commissioner Tim Passmore to request a meeting with rural communities in West Suffolk to discuss the problem of speeding in rural communities. He replied saying that it is not within his remit to do so as it is an operation matter for the Police and that we should contact you.

We believe that the issue of speeding needs a dramatic rethink, and this has to come from the top. Rural communities are always low priority when it comes to speed enforcement and despite numerous requests enforcement rarely takes place. We recognise that resources are stretched but there needs to be a discussion about how to tackle this problem in other ways, for example through a wider use of technology (ANPR cameras), but where the offenders are prosecuted as a result.

Communities were encouraged to purchase VAS and SID signs with the promise that the data would be used to help the Police target areas which show that there is a problem with speeding. This has never happened, and parishes have been told that there is no point submitting the data. This is disheartening for communities and in particular for the volunteers who move the signs around and analyse the data.

Drivers can speed through rural communities with impunity, knowing that they will never get caught. Whilst you understandably focus on areas with a history of accident/injury, this also sends out the message that you will not act unless a person is killed or injured. It is great that you carry out enforcement in some areas, but we are talking about our small communities, many of which don't have pavements where residents put themselves in danger on a daily basis because of speeding and at times aggressive drivers.

Unless drivers know that they will get caught, they will speed. That is clear from the lack of impact VAS and Community Speedwatch has had. Yes some drivers will be reminded that they are in a 30mph zone and reduce their speed but there is a sizeable minority who don't. The only way to stop this anti-social and dangerous behaviour is for drivers to know that their actions will have consequences.

In a recent speed survey carried out by Suffolk County Council along Newmarket Road in Moulton, 161 drivers were recorded driving speeds in excess of 60mph. This is a country road, with some housing along it. With the recent changes to the Highway Code giving priority to drivers, cyclists and horse riders, how will they be protected from drivers like this unless there is adequate enforcement?

We ask that you engage with communities to take their concerns seriously and send a clear message that the lives of people in rural areas also matter and that speeding will not be tolerated.

Yours sincerely,

Joanne Kirk

Clerk to Moulton Parish Council