

Email to Nick Timothy MP 20th March 2025

Dear Nick and Ben,

We would like to thank you for organising a petition about speeding. We hope you received a good response. Moulton Parish Council has tried on many occasions to engage with Suffolk County Council about speeding but without success and we would like to ask for your support in raising this issue with Suffolk County Council. We completed a survey in Moulton to try and find out how residents felt about speeding and whether they would support a 20mph limit near the primary school and village centre. The responses showed that speeding is a serious concern in Moulton. I have attached a summary of the survey results for your information.

Following the survey, we drafted a report to Suffolk County Council asking for a review of speeding in Moulton and for their support in tackling the problem. We submitted this in December and have had no response at all.

We have attended some webinars organised by 20s Plenty and have discovered that many other county councils are proactive in reviewing speed limits and supporting communities to tackle the problem. One such county is Cambridgeshire where the County Council takes the lead to help communities bring in 20mph speed limits where people and cars mix.

The latest webinar I listened to gave an update about Wales. Contrary to what the media are saying, it was not a blanket introduction of 20mph limits but the focus was on residential roads and roads near schools and community facilities.

The data coming out now is that collisions have reduced dramatically and people are walking and cycling more. Most interesting was the presentation by the insurer E Sure who have seen a 20% reduction in claims and as a result have reduced premiums. The speaker said he had never seen such a dramatic reduction. Basically, evidence is mounting that 20mph speed limits work even without traffic calming and there are positive benefits to communities and drivers. Even if not enforced, driver speeds reduce.

It is very disappointing that Suffolk is falling behind the national trend to make roads safer and hope you will be able to help us.

Kind regards

*Joanne Kirk
Clerk to Moulton Parish Council*

Response from Suffolk County Council via Nick Timothy MP 12th April 2025

Dear Nick

Thank you for your email dated 3 April concerning speeding issues in and around Moulton, along with the attached resident survey/speed limit request from the Parish Council.

The enhanced signage to the "Boys Grave" crossroads were unfortunately delayed due to issues with traffic management requirements; the original plan was to carry out this work under a single set of 4-way traffic lights. Due to the distances on the ground, this was not possible, so the works had to be rebooked using 2 x sets of 2-way lights and 1 x set of 4-way lights -which as you'll appreciate, complicated the logistics of the task somewhat.

I'm pleased to be able to report that this has now been raised with Suffolk County Council's (SCC) contractors and has a current date scheduled on or before 20/06/25.

SCC will of course attempt to expedite this, if possible.

SCC, and in particular, the Community Liaison Engineer (CLE) has received multiple emails, online reports and telephone calls from Moulton Parish Council and residents with speeding concerns in the village and immediate surroundings, but the CLE is not aware of a request for a speed review from December of last year. The only matters he can recall from that time were around the site meeting at the Boys Grave crossroads.

If Moulton PC has the details of the date this was sent, who it was sent to or any reference numbers etc, the CLE is happy to look into this and chase the response (or provide one if this has been overlooked).

Moulton Parish Council has previously requested a speed limit change on Moulton/Newmarket Road. This was to either extend the existing 30mph limit or to introduce a 40mph buffer between the start of the village, proper and the cluster of properties at the top of the hill towards Newmarket.

This request was fully investigated, and a formal speed limit report was produced by Suffolk Highways for this and ultimately, SCC denied this request. The final decision from this is copied below:

"Noting this recommendation is finely balanced, it is not considered that the case for reducing the speed limit has been fully demonstrated. It is noted that the Police have concerns over poor compliance. With the lack of frontages, even with additional signing, there would still be a significant length going through open countryside without sufficient visual clues to signify a lower speed limit is appropriate. It is therefore not felt that a reduced speed limit can be justified in this location."

If the Parish Council wished to investigate the possibility/potential of a 20mph zone within the village centre as suggested in your email, I'm afraid they would have to begin the review process afresh. This would require multiple speed surveys within the areas under consideration as well as a new formal speed limit report.

These reports are produced by the speed limit panel at Suffolk Highways and comprises of members of SCC's Safety and Speed Team and Transport Strategy Team, as well as input from local officers, Suffolk Police and 2 SCC Cabinet Members.

They review multiple aspects of all speed limit change requests, including (but not limited to):

- Road(s) type, geometry and physical environment/appearance – including junctions/footways and other features of the highway.*
- Development, number/type of properties adjoining the carriageway.*
- Speed/traffic surveys.*
- Collision/Incident data.*
- Parish and Residents comments/views.*
- Comments/views from Suffolk Police.*
- Summaries/Conclusion*
- Ultimate decision from the Portfolio Holder and Heads of Transport Strategy/Safety and Speed departments.*

The area in question as described in your email: "...from the primary school in the north of the village (at the junction of Kennett Road and School Road), down Chippenham Road and The Street to Church Road in the south, as well as a short section of Newmarket Road..." would require multiple survey points to determine the traffic volumes and speed in the first instance.

The CLE would suggest that Kennett and School Road each receive a survey before the school, a single survey on Chippenham Road, a single survey on The Street towards Church Road, and a single survey on Newmarket Road. The CLE would also suggest adding an additional survey point on Bridge Street to this so that data for the entire of the village centre can be captured, as this will take in all the "through roads".

Once SCC has this initial data, a speed limit report can be produced using the report from Moulton PC and residents that you have supplied.

The cost of these surveys and the report will need to be identified before this can proceed:

Speed surveys using surface detection radars (SDR's) cost £415 for the first installation and additional surveys installed in proximity on the same day costing £165. For six survey points in Moulton, the total cost of the surveys would be: £1140.

In addition to this, the formal speed limit report costs in the vicinity of £750 (although some are closer to the £1000 mark).

This does not include any of the costs to physically implement a speed limit change (production/design of the required Traffic Regulation Order, consultations and legal framework, installing new/additional signs and road markings etc). It is tricky to give an estimate of this as all locations vary, however, the CLE would suggest a figure of £8000-£10'000 as a very approximate guide. These costs would also need to be covered as I'm afraid SCC is not able to contribute towards these either in full or in part.

I must offer a note of caution. Funding the relevant speed surveys and commissioning a formal speed limit report does not guarantee that any change in speed limit or additional traffic calming measures would be considered or approved.

There is a chance with all these applications and reports that the full process is carried out and the speed limit change is denied – as has happened previously for the report/review on Newmarket Road.

It is of course entirely at the discretion of the Parish Council whether they wish to proceed with this, however. The CLE is more than happy to meet with the PC to discuss this in more detail before they commit to any expenditure if that would be of benefit.