

## COUNTY COUNCIL: 17TH OCTOBER 2023

### Agenda Item No. 11d) – Motion from Councillor Bill Hunt – Amendment

Proposed by Councillor Dupré      Seconded by Councillor Shailer

Additions in bold and deletions shown in strikethrough

The Council notes that:

- the A1421 runs from Haddenham crossroads to Witcham Toll which is a distance of about 2.48 miles. This short A road links the A1123 at Haddenham to Witcham Toll which is on the A142.
- the villages of Wicken, Stretham, Wilburton and Haddenham suffer from vehicles (some Heavy Commercial Vehicles (HCVs)) "rat-running" from Stretham to Witcham Toll to avoid the congestion on A10 and A142 at Ely. **The A1421 is also on the Council's advisory freight route network and HCVs are thus encouraged to use this unsuitable road.**
- the parish councils along the A1123 and A1421 are supportive of any moves by this Council to reduce volume and speed of traffic through their villages.
- parked vehicles have been hit, houses have been damaged and parents are often forced to drive their children to school (and other activities) because of safety worries. The A1421 starts in Haddenham and Station Road is steep downhill with a very narrow and unsafe foot path. It is not uncommon ~~from~~ **for** large vehicles to get "wedged" as they join Station Road in opposite directions. The footpath actually crosses Station Road at its most dangerous point half way down the hill. **A new residential development on the A1421 at an already dangerous junction will add to the problem.**
- **as part of the council Vision Zero project all A roads in the county will be assessed and graded for safety via the International Road Assessment Programme (IRAP) system.**
- over the last 20 years, parish councils have worked with District and County Councillors to introduce crossing points, new speed restrictions, illuminated signs, Speedwatch action groups etc. Working from home has helped but the need for more volume/speed reduction measures remains.
- a motion to re-classify the A1421 and A1123 from "A" to a "B" was passed in December 2020. The new administration rescinded this motion in 2021 despite all the relevant parish councils supporting the move, **because no evidence was presented that the reclassification would achieve the desired outcomes.**
- **reclassifying the A1421** ~~this proposed motion would have minimum incur~~ **recurring cost in lost maintenance funding.** It is believed **however** that **if the**

**move were to result in reduced traffic would reduce and wear and then this cost might represent worthwhile expenditure.**

- ~~the re-classification of the A1421 would be noted by Sat Nav systems and a reduction of Stretham to Witcham Toll "rat runners" would logically follow.~~

- residents rely on their elected Councillors to speak up for them and the case of making the roads safer and the villagers more pleasant is a constant desire.

This Council therefore resolves to ask:

- recognise the effect that high traffic levels have on the built up areas of our villages, towns and cities across the county and work to reduce it wherever possible.**
- accelerate the IRAP safety analysis of the A1421 and include it in the first tranche.**
- ask the Executive Director for Place and Sustainability to present a report to the next a future meeting of Highways and Transport Committee to pursue which evaluates options to reduce traffic and traffic speeds, improve road safety, and increase options for active travel on the A1421 including, but not limited to, the reclassification of the A1421 from "A" to "B".**