

TRAFFIC UPDATE FOR DEDHAM

Results From ATCs 6th-12th October

The results from the Automatic Traffic Counters placed throughout the village between the 6th and 12th of October have now been published.

A full set of results can be viewed at

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/n9artead7t40tzn/AAA1fZd9UOG7nBl2fRuYiMjra?dl=0>

However you need to have a lot of patience a love of statistics and very good eyesight to make sense of them. so DPC has pulled together some of the facts and figures. Fortunately DPC were able to pay for four extra sites to be covered Bargate Lane, Coggeshall Road, Long Road West and Castle Hill. We all know from personal experience and figures provided by our Speed Watch team that Dedham has a significant issue with speeding. These figures make astonishing reading and back that up. we have chosen to look at the percentages of drivers travelling above the speed limit and include those travelling significantly above the limit i.e. over 40 mph in a 30mph zone. We have chosen this approach because it is a fact that you are statistically more likely to die as speed increases above 30 mph and that you are more likely to be killed on rural roads than urban ones.

BARGATE LANE- classified as a rural lane with a 30-mph limit

- Northbound 54.3% of cars were speeding
- Southbound 32.0% ,we believe there were fewer because the ATC was close to the junction with Long Rd East so drivers were only just beginning to accelerate

GROVE HILL

The percentage of drivers exceeding the 30 mph limit was

- North East bound 58.7%
- South West bound 65.6%

Drivers are clearly not slowing down as they leave the 40 mph limit and reach the 30mph zone. There have been two accidents this year alone with cars leaving the road at the at the bottom of Grove Hill. There is a pavement but quite often it is covered in debris and pedestrians are forced to walk in the road.

COGGESHALL ROAD-a main route into Dedham that meets the Dedham Heath crossroads where the priority is wrongly given to the rural lane of Long Road. There are no pavements.

- Northbound 62.4%
- Southbound 65.1%

CASTLE HILL- a main route into Dedham and in particular to the school.

- Northbound 62.4%
- Southbound 65.1%
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LONG ROAD WEST

Bearing in mind that LRW currently has a limit of 40mph even though residents and DPC believe that it meets Essex Highways own criteria to be designated a 30-mph zone. Plus, the fact that there are no pavements. It is on a main bus route and adults and children alike are forced to walk in the road. There are also significant issues on sunny days when easterly drivers are blinded by the sun in the morning and westerly drivers in the evening. The police have also stated that shadows cast by the trees make it difficult to see pedestrians.

- Eastbound 18.7%

- Westbound 17.7%
A better mathematician than me could work out just how high those percentages would be if the speed limit was a just 30 mph!

MILL LANE- this produced some unusual results that we are yet to fully understand with 13% and 15% of vehicles travelling above 30 mph but with a high proportion travelling at significantly above the 30-mph limit. However, the ATCs were laid in October in relatively poor weather at the end of the tourist season. We are all aware just how busy Mill Lane is in the summer with the car park full and the narrow pavements full of pedestrians crossing the road on a blind corner. DPC believes that this alone warrants Mill Lane being included in the 20 mph zone proposed in our Local Highways Plan

THE WAY FORWARD

Essex Highways have requested more information and ATCs will be placed on Ardleigh Road, Brook Street and Crown Street. DPC believes this is a good sign. However, it took 16 months to get the first ATCs laid so nothing will happen overnight. We all know that local councils are strapped for cash.

DPC will continue to campaign for the Traffic Management Plan we submitted in August 2021, particularly in light of the likely increased traffic volumes resulting from the housing developments in Tendring (Manningtree and Mistley).

Essex has a VISION ZERO policy to reduce deaths on the roads and let us hope we do not have to wait for a death or another serious accident to take place before action is taken. Furthermore Essex and DPC fully support a SUSTAINABLE transport policy. This cannot happen whilst residents do not feel safe enough to walk or cycle along our country lanes because of the blight of speeding inconsiderate drivers.

WHAT CAN RESIDENTS DO

- Make sure we stick to the limits
- Report every single accident to the police and Essex Highways. There is a grave temptation not to report minor bumps and scrapes because we do not think any action will be forthcoming. However, we need to have a record of everything to support our case
- Support the Speed Watch team

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS (OR SOLUTIONS) ON THIS SUBJECT PLEASE ATTEND THE NEXT DEDHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON MONDAY THE 5TH DECEMBER AT 6.30PM AT THE DUCHY BARN. WE HOPE THAT CLLR LEWIS BARBER WILL BE ABLE TO ATTEND TO LISTEN AND ANSWER QUESTIONS

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