

## Appendix C

### Community Concerns 2020

#### A selection of emails many more were sent directly to Councillor Anne Brown

#### Long Road West and Ardleigh Road

1.WHO: Alison Dow  
WHERE: In front of 2 Victoria Cottages, Long Road West, Dedham.  
WHEN Winter 2019/2020 at about 10am.

I very nearly got hit by a car. The car was overtaking someone at speed and came up behind me on my side of the road. I was walking on the narrow very narrow verge in front of 2 Victoria Cottages. Fortunately I heard it coming and just managed to throw myself into the hedge. The car caught at my coat and left me bruised and shaking with shock in the hedge. Visibility was good, I was facing the on-coming traffic and my coat was bright red.

Good afternoon,

May I please ask that the traffic issues of speeding and traffic volume along Ardleigh Rd are considered when discussing the issues of Long Road West/East as they are similar. We have lived on Ardleigh Rd for almost 15 years (just beyond the Long Rd West junction) and have seen an incredible increase in volume of traffic/the type of vehicle and most definitely the excessive speeding. For a small rural B classification road the traffic is almost constant and with so many of the properties on this road bordering the road it makes for extremely unpleasant living conditions all through the week. Weekend evenings see speeding traffic at midnight and beyond. Without monitoring of any kind it is impossible to judge quite why there is so much traffic on this small road. Similarly with Long Rd West/East the fact that the road is straight appears to give drivers permission to travel way beyond the speed limit. This along with the mix of vehicles from family cars to white vans/builders lorries and container lorries all spoiling what should be rural countryside living. Some time ago the 30mph flashing signs were placed at both ends of Ardleigh Rd with virtually no impact upon the speeds being travelled. I can also not recall the last time I witnessed a village speed initiative in place and the Police haven't been here monitoring for a long time. At times the noise of passing traffic makes spending time in the garden quite unpleasant. When coupled with the fact there are no footpaths or street lights which is fine in the countryside but makes for extremely dangerous walking with such huge volumes of traffic. There are quite a number of school children catching and returning from buses and many dog walkers and others exercising.

There are many traffic calming options available and I appreciate that most of them involve significant expense but something really does need to be done as a matter of some urgency. We see regular planning requests for business developments taking place less than a mile or two from these roads. This could only have a further detrimental impact on the volume, noise and danger from traffic.

Kind Regards  
Caroline Alder  
Ivy Dene  
Ardleigh Road

	Dedham
<p>2. Just seen your message on FB. Thought I'd email you the below as I tried to get the 60mph limit reduced on Long Road East. I followed up with Ann Follows on the Parish Council as Anne Brown suggested but after an initial phone call, she never got back to me despite me chasing her.</p> <p>If this could be raised along with the 40mph on your stretch that would be grate?</p> <p>Kind regards</p> <p>Kirstie Price Stour Lodge.</p>	<p>Dear Councillor Anne Brown Re Traffic issues, Ardleigh Road, and Long Road, Dedham</p> <p>Further to the email to you from Mr and Mrs Alder, I would also like to express my concern over the increase in traffic, and in particular the excessive speeding.</p> <p>We live just south of the bend where the Birchwood Road meets the Ardleigh-Dedham road. From here we regularly witness speeds well in excess of 40mph in both directions. Saturday and Sunday mornings seem to be the favourite time for sports cars and motorbikes to show off their speed, with no thought to walkers, cyclists, joggers and horse riders who regularly pass the house.</p> <p>Whilst this has been a growing problem for some time, the increase in speeding in particular has escalated since the start of the pandemic, and shows no sign of lessening.</p> <p>We would very much appreciate some form of calming measures. The 30mph electric warning sign just south of the Birchwood/Ardleigh road junction is useless as a deterrent since it functions only after a speeding car has passed. <b>Could consideration be given to a device which shows the speed of an approaching vehicle - from both directions?</b> This appears to have proved effective in other villages around the country and hopefully might reign in those who are speeding. Better still would be a speed camera.</p> <p>John Scott, Malt Cottage, Ardleigh Rd, Dedham</p>
<p>Dear Ann Follows I live on Long Road East and wish to try and reduce the speed limit on our road which is currently 60mph. I have contacted Anne Brown for assistance in this matter and she suggested I speak with you and</p>	<p>I am writing to you to also add our concerns over traffic problems which were so eloquently expressed by our neighbours, Caroline &amp; Mark Alder in their recent email to you dated 21 July 2020.</p> <p>I can add that I have lived on Ardleigh Road for over 50 years during my life and I consider it to be dangerous, it is used increasingly as an access to the A12 and both Long Road West and</p>

<p>request your help. Anne is keen to re-raise the issue with the Parish Council for their support. Thank you for any assistance you can offer.</p> <p>Kind regards Kirstie Price Stour Lodge, Long Road East</p>	<p>Lamb Corner junctions are an accident waiting to happen (again) I hope that the next will not be fatal.</p> <p>Over to you for action.</p> <p>Warm regards Chris Finch Clemwood, Ardleigh Road.</p>
<p>Hi Gill</p> <p>The Pam and John at Earlings are going to send you full info on the recent accident but there have been quite a few on the bend by the chapel.</p> <p>I don't have dates etc but anyone can see that the 30 mph disc is missing from the pole in front of lufkins. This was reported at the time but never rectified. It happened one Thursday evening a white van hit the sign and drive off. Didn't even stop despite leaving some debris. I don't know if Noel and Judy at lufkins can tell you more.</p> <p>About 15 years ago a car hit a tree resulting in it falling across and blocking the drive at Levisham.</p> <p>The bend is lethal and we now hear traffic from about 4am until the following 1 am. Traffic comes out of Bargate lane on its way to the A12 and by the time it is at the bend it is fast. Similarly in the evenings this happens in reverse.</p> <p>Martin and Paulene Broom at Chapel cottage will probably have more information.</p> <p>Hope this is of some use.</p> <p>Regards Angela</p>	<p>I would like to add my concerns about the increasing speed of vehicles locally, e.g. Long Road and Dedham Rd/Ardleigh Rd. (We live at The Chase, Dedham Rd, Ardleigh)</p> <p>Although we do not have our own dog, we frequently look after my son's dog and additionally walk the neighbour's dog three times a week. Last winter we were walking down Long Rd West with a car coming up from behind us and a car towards us, who decided not to slow down let alone stop. The rush of air from this car was strong enough to feel and we were close to being knocked over, including the dog. It is a scary incident I don't think about too much as I can only think of what nearly happened. It was a definite near miss. We did not have time to take a number plate. There is not a path on either side of the road so you have to walk on the road.</p> <p>We live opposite the 40 sign on Dedham Rd. There is rarely an occasion when the sign does not light up, let alone act as a deterrent for cars to slow down. There is a regular loud motor bike (just after 5pm) which we must see it as a daily challenge to light up the speed sign and deafen the residents. We have lived here for over 20. years and it is a real factor in considering whether to stay.</p> <p>We like to regularly do a circular walk starting at Lamb Corner. We sadly choose to drive our car to Lamb Corner and walk from there because the stretch of road from our house to Lamb Corner is treacherous and is used as a speed track. It is very unpleasant and scary. Additionally, our neighbours lost their cat on this stretch of road in January, we are currently looking after our son's cat and it is a constant worry.</p> <p>I walk to Ardleigh and Dedham regularly being recently retired and can not believe that there is no path in either direction from our house. We find ways of using footpaths but have to use the roads mentioned at the beginning or end of the walk.</p> <p>There is a spinny opposite us on Hunter's Chase. It just needs someone to sit in there for 30 minutes to monitor the speed of the vehicles at any time of the day. It is shocking and sitting here writing this, I can hear the traffic roar by.</p> <p>I feel sad as I can not see anything happening as a result of this email and the situation worsening but I can but try...</p> <p>Donna Wenden</p>

	07731767800
<p>Dear Kevin</p> <p>I was surprised to read in Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> Julys Colchester Gazette that a proposed Storage Centre development along Old Ipswich Road Ardleigh is claiming that no traffic will be going down Wick Lane to protect the village of Ardleigh. If it is not going there, where is the modelling showing the traffic going? Too many of Tendring’s recent developments have meant the resulting traffic, heading and returning from the A12, is funnelled through Long Road East and West Dedham, Birchwood and onto the A12. It is important that any traffic from this proposed large site whether commercial or staff use the Ardleigh Interchange and not the shortcut under the bridge to Turnpike Close and the Ipswich Road in Langham. I am concerned that yet again Tendring is looking to move its increasing traffic onto small rural Colchester Roads. This development is in the interests of Tendring and not of the really local residents who are mainly in Colchester.</p> <p>The railway bridge problems in Manningtree stops Tendring residents using East Bergholt as an easy route to the A12, so traffic from Mistley Manningtree and Lawford leaves for the A12 along the Ardleigh Road but Ardleigh doesn’t give them access to the A12 so vehicles divert to the tiny lanes crossing into south Dedham.</p> <p>I have had seventeen written complaints from Dedham residents over the last month concerned about the road safety outside their homes along this straight, race track of a road which Long Road has become!!! A resident was, last month knocked down by a speeding motorist and his arm was broken. There are no pavements and no consistent 30mph speed limit. Students have to walk to the school bus but parents are loathe to allow it and now take them by car. The LHP officer is arranging for a traffic count to be done as soon as Covid allows. The police have now been out on three occasions and I understand this week a motorist was found doing 47mph along the 30mph stretch of Long Road.</p> <p>Can I please ask that the two Highway Planning teams, Colchester and Tendring work together in this area of the county to ensure this situation gets</p>	<p>Dear Councillor Brown,</p> <p>I am a resident of Ardleigh Road (CO7 6EG) and I am writing to express my concern about traffic on this stretch of road.</p> <p>The road is a 30mph zone but the vast majority of vehicles exceed this limit because it is a long, straight stretch of road which invites the inconsiderate or inattentive driver to put the foot down. However, there are houses with children, pets and people who walk dogs and cycle here and therefore, I feel that this location is a prime candidate for additional traffic calming measures to reinforce the speed limit.</p> <p>It is also extremely dangerous for us residents to pull out of the driveways with vehicles hurtling along.</p> <p>My understanding is that the situation is similar on adjoining Long Road which is also a straight stretch inviting reckless rural racers, and I have CC’d Gill Neville who is leading an initiative to draw your attention to the same problem there.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We welcome the police to come with their speed cameras – ideally in the morning to monitor the rush-hour, but also Summer evenings and weekends when motorbikes often scream down this stretch of road – I have estimated speeds well in excess of 70mph and have some video footage of one or two of the bikers.</li> <li>• I would welcome a fixed speed camera to be installed.</li> <li>• My view is that street lighting WOULD NOT help as it would improve the visibility for the night time racers and would spoil the rural setting and pollute the clear night sky.</li> <li>• I should be grateful if someone from the council with responsibility for road safety and with expertise in traffic management would come and audit the situation.</li> </ul> <p>Some years ago there was a fatality on Ardleigh road, just outside our house in fact, due to speeding traffic; it was directly due to this tragic event that the 30mph speed limit was originally put in place. It is therefore of great concern to all residents that the situation is so extremely dangerous on this stretch. I am certain that we would all rather some action was taken before another tragedy happens.</p>

no worse. Alan Lindsey is aware of this issue as it was discussed at a recent meeting we had with Borough Councillors from the north of Colchester. The two parish councils are really concerned that Tendring is not considering how close they are to the boundary with Colchester and not aware of the implications of their developments. There doesn't appear to be a highway strategic plan for this area of the county to help us with such issues. Is this likely to be addressed soon? Can I please ask for a meeting with you and the parish Chairmen to discuss this ongoing problem?

I am on holiday until 17<sup>th</sup> August.

Best wishes

Anne Brown

Member for Constable Division

Spindles, Southfields

Dedham Colchester CO7 6AH

Tel: 01206 321241

Thank you

Best regards,

Simon Foster

Laurels

Dedham

Good morning,

It has been brought to my attention that you may be considering the traffic issues on Long Road West.

I can confirm that the traffic on Ardleigh road has increased over the time that we have lived here (around 2 and a half years). HGV's use the road regularly, and it is not uncommon to see cars and motorbikes doing twice the 30mph limit - sometimes very late at night.

We have two young children (age 1 and 3), and find walking along this stretch of road with the pushchair particularly frightening. It is a real shame as we moved here to be close to the countryside and the many walks in the vicinity of the house.

Good afternoon,

It is with regret that I am following up on my email of 21 July 2020 (as copied below) as to date I have received any response from either Cllr Brown or Dedham Parish Council,

I can of course confirm traffic volume and excessive speeding continue to be a huge concern along the Ardleigh Rd and other areas of Dedham. Many of those travelling along this road have little or no regard for pedestrians and dog walkers. At times it really is hazardous walking along Ardleigh Rd due to the speed and proximity of high volumes of vehicles along a country road without footpaths. I can report that even in the early hours of the morning this stretch of road is regularly used as a race track with cars speeding way above the limit. We have now had two visits by traffic police which were most welcome on different days of the week and at different times the effect was incredible, from both inside and out of our property you could barely detect the noise of traffic at all such was the impact of their visits. I sincerely hope that this issue is being taken seriously and that discussions are taking place in spite of the fact I have not received a response to my original email.

With children returning to school next week and therefore potentially even greater numbers of pedestrians on the road the issue of safety is heightened. Coupled with the fact that over the next couple of months the hours of daylight reduce when the volume and speed of traffic will become even more of a concern

Our property is directly on the road - we have no fencing across the front of our driveway. It is a daily occurrence to see pedestrians jumping onto our drive to take shelter from the speeding traffic. As soon as we are able to, we will fence across the driveway to make it safe for our own children - unfortunately this will make passage even more dangerous for others as they will no longer be able to wait on our drive.

I worry that if traffic calming measures are introduced on Long Road in isolation (i.e. without being replicated on Ardleigh Road), the volume of traffic could in fact increase. For example, motorists coming from Lawford will avoid Long Road and divert via Ardleigh then speed down Ardleigh Road to access the A12. The problem needs to be considered in the round, and something really needs to be done.

There was a mobile speed camera in operation yesterday, and the difference in road noise in our back garden was noticeable. That has spurred me to contact you about this matter.

Thank you very much for your time - I hope some resolution can be sought and I am happy to help in any way that I can,

**Nicola Faulder**  
Woodburn  
Ardleigh Road  
CO7 6EQ

I hope this serious issue is on the agenda to be discussed at length in the very near future.

kind regards  
Caroline

*Good afternoon,*

*May I please ask that the traffic issues of speeding and traffic volume along Ardleigh Rd are considered when discussing the issues of Long Road West/East as they are similar. We have lived on Ardleigh Rd for almost 15 years (just beyond the Long Rd West junction) and have seen an incredible increase in volume of traffic/the type of vehicle and most definitely the excessive speeding. For a small rural B classification road the traffic is almost constant and with so many of the properties on this road bordering the road it makes for extremely unpleasant living conditions all through the week. Weekend evenings we see speeding traffic at midnight and beyond. Without monitoring of any kind it is impossible to judge quite why there is so much traffic on this small road. Similarly with Long Rd West/East the fact that the road is straight appears to give drivers permission to travel way beyond the speed limit. This along with the mix of vehicles from family cars to white vans/builders lorries and container lorries all spoiling what should be rural countryside living. Some time ago the 30mph flashing signs were placed at both ends of Ardleigh Rd with virtually no impact upon the speeds being travelled. I can also not recall the last time I witnessed a village speed initiative in place and the Police haven't been here monitoring for a long time. At times the noise of passing traffic makes spending time in the garden quite unpleasant. When coupled with the fact there are no footpaths or street lights which is fine in the countryside but makes for extremely dangerous walking with such huge volumes of traffic. There are quite a number of school children catching and returning from buses and many dog walkers and others exercising.*

*There are many traffic calming options available and I appreciate that most of them involve significant expense but something really does need to be done as a matter of some urgency. We see regular planning requests for business developments taking place less than a mile or two from these roads. These could only have a further detrimental impact on the volume, noise and danger from traffic.*

Kind Regards  
Caroline Alder  
Ivy Dene  
Ardleigh Road  
Dedham

Re: Traffic and Pedestrian Safety-Long Road West Dedham

Dear Councillor

As you are probably aware, there has been an incident this week with a car knocking down a pedestrian along Long Road West. Our neighbour was hit from behind by a car as he walked from the house next door into his driveway. Whilst unpleasant for him the accident resulted in a broken arm but could have been much more serious. Do the residents of Long Road West have to wait for a head injury or fatality before ECC review the appropriateness of a 40mph speed limit in the area between the junction with the Ardleigh Road and Original Landscape Design?

We have been resident in Little Paddocks, Long Road West since August 1994 and have noticed the increased flow of traffic in recent years. This is no doubt a result of the increased housing in the Lawford and Manningtree and the use of this section of the road as a rat run to the A12. As one turns left from the Ardleigh Road into Long Road West and is faced with a straight road and a change from 30mph to 40mph this scenario provides plenty of encouragement for drivers to put their put down and indeed many do. We have seen cars passing our drive and gate in excess of 60mph and the stretch is also popular for motorcyclists to open up the throttle. Our house is located about a 100m on the right hand side from the junction. There used to be 40mph repeater outside our house, it was knocked over and I informed the council but nothing was done. Perhaps drivers now believe it reaches no speed limit by our gate. On three occasions I have had someone try to overtake me as I have indicated to turn right into our driveway and decelerate to do so. Another incident occurred only a few weeks ago as the traffic started to increase as the public started to tire of lockdown. My daughter and I went for a cycle from our house in the direction of Ardleigh Road. We were aware of a van behind us as we were about 75m meters from the junction but he slowed down to give us space as we neared the junction. This was not good enough for a Range Rover who arrived behind the van at speed and wanted to

Good evening, please would you take into consideration whilst discussing Long Road East/West speeding, traffic volumes issues that we too as residents on Ardleigh Road are concerned with speeding vehicles, volume of traffic and reckless driving without due care and attention. The Ardleigh Road is a lengthy stretch which seems to attract high speeding vehicles and motor bikes the past five years since we have lived here the volume of traffic and noise pollution has increased significantly.

Our 3 major concerns are:-

1. Each time we use our front gate to enter or leave our property situated directly onto Ardleigh Road we have to approach and step out very cautiously.
2. Tending to hedges - near miss situations.
3. We enjoy walking our dogs and also walking with our extended family inclusive of young children, and we have encountered **near miss situations** whereby drivers fail to observe walkers, slow down, give way to other vehicles coming from the opposite direction hence ; two cars passing simultaneously driving so close you fear for life and limb.

Please may I urge you that our concerns mentioned above be given very serious consideration at your next meeting with a view to put positive action into force to prevent anymore near miss situations or worse.

Regards,  
Michelle Felton  
1 Rose Cottage  
Ardleigh Road

maintain his 40mph and so promptly overtook the van and nearly took us off the road.

The stretch from the junction with Ardleigh Road to Original Landscape Design is neither an acceleration nor an overtaking zone as there are far too many houses and driveways for this to be safe. In addition when you consider the number of footpaths along this stretch which attract a number of pedestrians and dog walkers it is now frankly ridiculous not to consider making this section of the road safer. During term time school buses also use this part of the road to drop off children whom live in the surrounding houses.

Perhaps you might consider some of the following proposals to make this stretch of road safer.

1. An automated speed limit sign that measures the speed of cars as it passes the higher density housing.
2. A reduction of the speed limit from 40mph to 30mph perhaps in conjunction with above.
3. No overtaking lines in the road.
4. Rumble strips along parts of Long Road West to remind drivers of the limits.

I look forward to your reply.

Regards

Michael Sherring

Nigel Everett IMI  
Cross Vale Farm  
Long Road West  
Dedham CO76ER,

07803611617

[nigel.everett@btopenworld.com](mailto:nigel.everett@btopenworld.com)

20th June

Long Road west traffic issues.

Dear Anne Brown,

Having had more time to attend to my house exterior decorations closer to the road and being aware of traffic movements over the weeks or so. I have noticed that despite an increase of pedestrians due to Lockdown, most motor vehicle traffic appears to speed and exceed the currently imposed 40 mph speed limit.

My property is approx 200 meters from the 30mph/40mph sign. The corrosion of the post this has been like that since last Autumn. I use the 40 mph sign as a speed limit start grid!

I understand from my relations, three cousins that also live at the crossroads, motorists often speed across the junction.

Having monitored the traffic past my location at peak times 7.30 pm weekdays I could count a vehicle passing every 20 seconds. With this amount of traffic, mostly travelling to and from the A14 long road west as a short cut from Lawford/ Manningtree area, this will only get worse with local housing development increasing.

Good afternoon Cllr Brown,

In the hope of the easing of lockdown over the coming weeks it now seems timely to ask for an update on your email of 12 November 2020 in the hope that serious action can be taken regarding the lack of urgency from many of the involved partners.

I can confirm, as a resident of Ardleigh Rd near to the Long Road West junction that the current lockdown has had very little impact upon traffic volume and speed. In fact, I would go as far to say that the number of construction/heavy vehicles has increased. We are now at the point where living on this supposed small rural B road is a miserable experience. Not only from the incessant traffic and the risks involved walking in any direction but also the fact that when even in our back garden the noise of the traffic is very disturbing. I'm aware that dealing with multiple organisations will always be an issue but it really should be a 'cop out' to let the issue simply drag on in the expectations of residents becoming frustrated at the lack of progress and dropping the whole thing.

I have noticed over the past couple of months that several of the 'speed' signs in the surrounding area have been knocked out or pushed out of view. The ECC response when a report was made was that it was not deemed to be a priority which of course makes enforcing the speed limit impossible.

With the lack of resources for all local authorities I appreciate that all funds should be carefully managed and from what I have seen in terms of frequency of visits from the 'police speed check team' this sort of monitoring is not the long term answer. For this reason it would appear speed cameras which issue automatic fines must be the way forward.

I look forward to an update from you in due course. With the better weather households will continue to be outside and walking in their local environment which is a right we should all have without feeling worried at risk.

kind regards  
Caroline

On Thu, 12 Nov 2020 at 16:18, Cllr Anne Brown - Member CC <[cllr.anne.brown@essex.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.anne.brown@essex.gov.uk)> wrote:

There was a meeting of Officers and the two County Councillors on the border with Tendring, myself and Cllr Guglielmi. What was said was that Tendring DC do not have a district plan and this was causing highway planning issues where permission was given to developers not in the areas that Tendring would wish. It was agreed that Officers would push this lack of forward planning as much as possible to the district council. This did not really address the problems we now have in Dedham and Langham, I had therefore asked for a meeting with Councillor Bentley to talk with the Chairmen of both Langham and Dedham parish Councils so that he can understand that the highway safety issues are getting worse and need urgently addressing. This I have asked to be held in January when the Covid shutdown should be effecting the numbers of cars using the cut throughs in the villages!!

Dear Councillor Brown,

**Traffic Dangers along Long Road West,  
Dedham**

We believe you are already aware that our near neighbour Gary Neville of Barn Cottage suffered a broken arm when he was struck by a car outside his home on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June. It was only a matter of time before this happened and we thank God he was not killed or more seriously injured.

We were aware that Dedham Parish Council had been pressing the Highway department of Essex County Council for the current 40mph speed limit to be reduced to 30mph and we supported this. However, we gather this issue remains unresolved after a long period of time so felt we should make you aware of our daily experiences of using the road as pedestrians so you may seek to progress matters before a fatality occurs.

We have lived in our home within the 40mph of Long Road West for nearly 30 years. During this entire period we have always owned two dogs which we have walked a few hundred yards along Long Road West to the nearest Public Footpath , before and after work:

**Road Usage** – obviously there has been some respite during the "Lockdown" , but we have seen a tremendous increase in the number of vehicles using Long Road West - from 5am until late evening. It has become a "rat run" for residents of Manningtree and Lawford and beyond accessing the A12 and perhaps now using the Football Stadium access to the Town Centre to avoid the queues on the A120 , Ipswich and Harwich Roads into Town.

**The Vehicles using the road-** the cars are all bigger and wider than in the past . Wing mirrors can extend a foot or more beyond the side of the cars or vans.

**The Road** – as the name suggests, it runs from East to West, so drivers are facing the sun in their eyes in the mornings and evenings. The road is no longer wide enough to provide a safe haven for pedestrians (which include school children who catch the School buses at the end of Long Road West) when two modern cars pass and do not stop or slow for them.

**The Drivers** – everyone is in a hurry and very few pay attention to pedestrians or the existing 40mph speed limit. Many may be unaware of the limit because most of the signs have rusted at their base and been removed by Highways and never replaced. It is a long straight road and in the early 1900s was used for Motor Cycle racing; many still use it to “test “ the limits of their cars today.

**Near misses** (or accidents waiting to happen) – one of us will walk with the dogs in the bottom of the ditch at the road side because there is not room for you and two dogs on the verge. Perhaps just once per month a driver will slow if a vehicle is coming in the opposite direction, mostly the drivers just keep coming and do not reduce speed, leaving us to jump back to avoid wing mirrors. Near misses are a daily occurrence.

On one occasion Amanda was “clipped” by a mirror, spinning her around. On two occasions in the last month alone when speeding vehicles have failed to slow for us and a vehicle is passing us in the

opposite direction and we have motioned to the driver to slow down, they have returned to hurl abuse at us-one went to the end of the road to turn around to do so; the other braked hard and reversed at speed towards us and oncoming vehicles.

PLEASE help us to reduce the speed of vehicles and increase the attention of drivers along Long Road West by introducing a 30mph limit along it's entire length, which can then be monitored by the authorities. The character of the road , its use and the size of vehicles using it has changed over the years and urgent steps must now be taken to avoid another serious accident, just waiting to happen.

Thanking you in anticipation of your help and assistance. Should you or the Highway Authority require further information from us please do get in touch.

Yours,

Robert and Amanda Steward

Dear Anne,

As you've probably already heard, we had another nasty traffic incident in Long Road West earlier this week, when one of my neighbours was struck by a car and suffered a broken arm. It is all too easy to imagine an even worse scenario involving a horse and rider, or heaven forbid, a child in a pram or push chair.

Our Dedham Speedwatch group regularly operate in Long Road West (although not during the Covid lockdown) and we like to think that our

activities go some way to help slow traffic, and perhaps make drivers more alert. Nonetheless, it is obvious to everyone in the group that only when our activities are supplemented with police action that drivers moderate their behaviour. I think that this view is shared by the police, but of late they seem far more reluctant to put resources into this field. This is most frustrating, and has been raised on numerous occasions with the appropriate figures within the force, but to no avail.

As you know, "TruCam" (a tripod mounted speed camera, on the basis of which a ticket can be issued) is being rolled out across Essex, and is, I think, now available in Colchester. I suspect that our position at the periphery of the county raises logistical problems, but half-promises to operate the equipment periodically within Dedham, with a Community Support Officer, have so far come to nought. So, in other words, police support has, so far as I am aware, been "nil". (Interestingly, Langham are lucky enough to have a resident "special constable" who operates frequent speed traps outside his home, and I believe this has led to a speed reduction within the village.)

Personally, I've never been convinced that lowering the 40-mph limit to 30 mph is a panacea so far as Long Road West is concerned. Enforcement of the existing limits would be a good start, as would be a full set of post-born repeater roundels on the verges, coupled with speed roundels painted on road surface.

Best wishes,

Roy

**Roy Laverick**

*2 Ivy Cottages, Long Road West, Dedham, Colchester CO7 6EL, United Kingdom  
Phone: +44 (0)1206 323184*

Dear Anne and Tom

I was contacted by my very good friend Gill Neville, whose husband Gary suffered a nasty accident last week in Long Road Dedham, and he now has a multifracture in his right arm. I understand that Gill has been in touch with you Anne and just wanted to lend any support that you may need.

But I think the time has now come to consider a footway of some sort, as I have witnessed several near misses, as well as actual accidents, as in days gone by when all of us use to use the A12, I always accessed vis Birchwood.

In no way I am interfering in my neighbouring Division, but some safety measures are long overdue.

Kind regards

Giancarlo Guglielmi  
ECC Member for Tendring Rural West  
Deputy Leader of Tendring District Council

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## Community Concerns 2021

<p>Form Title: Dedham Traffic Incidents Name: Jason Amos Post Code: CO7 6EL Date and time of Incident: 2021-05-13, 12pm-5pm Description of Incident: While I had landscapers in working in my garden their vehicles were on my driveway so I was parked on the road outside 2 Ivy Cottages. I did not hear of see what happened but when parking my car back on the driveway I noticed the damage to my car. This was either a hit and run or the vehicle that hit me, the damage is quite high up so could have been a van, may not have realised. Submitter IP Address: 86.158.236.114 Date Submitted: 2021-05-14 16:43:28</p>	<p>My name is Saravanan Chettiar, and I'm a resident at Meadowcroft, Bargate Lane, CO7 6BN.</p> <p>To provide some details about traffic concerns around the area:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Having driven around North Norfolk a few weeks ago, a number of the villages had 20mph zones in the main part of the village. I personally think that would be great for the centre of Dedham - stretching along the high street, Forge street, Mill Lane upto the river, etc. Cars at 30mph is just too fast for a high street that has residents, lots of parked cars (and so people coming out from between them), and tourists.</li><li>2. On Bargate Lane itself - it's great to see that the 30mph signs have recently been put up on the side coming from Harwich Rd... however, especially at rush hour, this doesn't deter people, just using Bargate Lane and Long Rd as a thoroughfare to get to the A12, from racing along at well above 30mph.... I do genuinely believe that speed bumps on Bargate Lane, given the houses that are there, wouldn't go amiss. There's been a few times that I've been coming out of my house (either on my bike or reversing in the car) and there's been someone racing along, easily at what seems 40mph.</li><li>3. It would also be great to see how we could figure out some pavement on Bargate Lane. There's a couple of nice walks, but it's difficult to make best use of them, especially with kids, when part of the walk you have to navigate the bends of Bargate Lane (and then take into account what I said above about people ignoring the speed limit)</li></ol> <p>Regards, Saravanan</p>
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<p>Oh and also... something surely has to be done about the fact that Dedham is used as a cut through to get to the A12 by so many of the new housing developments that have e sprouted up - like Summers Park, and the ones in Mistley, etc. A number of those cars go through to get on the A12 to get to work... a different route us to be figured out because surely that was never the intention - the roads in our village (including Bargate Lane - the one I live on!) we're not built for this sort of traffic.</p> <p>Nobody uses Mill Hill because it ends up so for track in some parts. So then they end up all on Bargate Lane.</p> <p>Maybe Mill Hill could be widened so that takes some of the traffic load?</p> <p>Maybe a completely different way onto the A12 could be created (appreciate this light be difficult)?</p> <p>The speed and the sheer volume isn't sustainable as it stands, and it only looks to be increasing.</p> <p>On 26 Jul 2021, at 22:</p>	<p>I saw a post regarding traffic in Dedham and asking for residents to reach out to you with their concerns.</p> <p>I live in the old Lamb Inn on Lamb Corner and the road has become a real danger. The 30mph sign on the road, just before the road starts to bend towards Lamb Corner, has not been replaced. It is an ESSENTIAL tool to reduce number of speeding cars.</p> <p>That said, the speed limit should be reduced to 20mph and speed bumps introduced to the Lamb Corner. I have had 7 cats killed on the road in the last 10 years and a car crash through my garden into the next door neighbours. Cars come far too fast round the blind bend and every time I come out of my drive (either on foot or in car) it feels extremely risky and dangerous.</p> <p>Please can you put these requests forward for consideration.</p> <p>Regards</p> <p>Sue Rule</p>
<p>Good morning,</p> <p>It has been brought to my attention that you may be considering the traffic issues on Long Road West.</p> <p>I can confirm that the traffic on Ardleigh road has increased over the</p>	<p>comments from a Long Road East resident</p> <p>There is a missing '30' sign just around the bend on Long Road East traveling west. No point in sending a photograph as the sign has been totally missing for many months - only the pole stands.</p> <p>The weight limit signs at the Long Road East/ Bargate Lane/ East Lane</p>

time that we have lived here (around 2 and a half years). HGV's use the road regularly, and it is not uncommon to see cars and motorbikes doing twice the 30mph limit - sometimes very late at night.

We have two young children (age 1 and 3), and find walking along this stretch of road with the pushchair particularly frightening. It is a real shame as we moved here to be close to the countryside and the many walks in the vicinity of the house.

Our property is directly on the road - we have no fencing across the front of our driveway. It is a daily occurrence to see pedestrians jumping onto our drive to take shelter from the speeding traffic. As soon as we are able to, we will fence across the driveway to make it safe for our own children - unfortunately this will make passage even more dangerous for others as they will no longer be able to wait on our drive.

I worry that if traffic calming measures are introduced on Long Road in isolation (i.e. without being replicated on Ardleigh Road), the volume of traffic could in fact increase. For example, motorists coming from Lawford will avoid Long Road and divert via Ardleigh then speed down Ardleigh Road to access the A12. The problem needs to be considered in the round, and something really needs to be done.

There was a mobile speed camera in operation yesterday, and the difference in road noise in our back garden was noticeable. That has spurred me to contact you about this matter.

junction can hardly be seen and are widely ignored

The speed indicator at the Long Road crossroads has been out of action for many months -probably a year or so.

Speed is a continuing and growing problem. In particular there is a 'boy racer' who drives pass most nights in the early hours making as much noise as he can - he can be heard for some considerable time as he approaches passes and continues all at high speed.

Pot holes are a danger -we have watched the one on Long Road West grow over the months. How someone could claim that it was not bad enough is a puzzle.If you know its there it can usually be avoided but if two cars meet that causes a problem - now worse as there is damage on the other side.

Holes at the side of roads are also dangerous - Long Road, Coggeshall Road and Bargate Lane.

A particular problem is that so often repairs are poorly carried out. Some repairs only last a short time.

A particular traffic management problem is Bargate Lane. The sides of the road are being eroded and there is a danger that cars cannot avoid deep potholes if they move to the side. This is particularly so when the holes are water filled. Again previous repairs have been poorly carried out. It is common to meet 10 or more cars along the lane it being used increasingly as a short cut from the main road.

We wish you good luck. Action is sorely needed.

Martin Broom

Thank you very much for your time - I hope some resolution can be sought and I am happy to help in any way that I can,

**Nicola Faulder**

Woodburn  
Ardleigh Road  
CO7 6EQ

Hi Gill,

I completely agree with your concerns about traffic management here in Dedham, in particular with the confusion caused by speed limit changes - Grove Hill & Long Road West are prime examples where there are relatively short sections (maybe half a mile-ish long) with limits increased to 40mph, giving through traffic the impression that they can speed up, only then having to fall back to 30mph. The result is that on re-entering the 30mph zones, they are still exceeding the speed limit when approaching junctions such as with Grove Hill/Stratford Road (especially as the limit change is so close to the junction) and LRW/Coggeshall Road

As you know, I live at the bottom of Grove Hill, by the S-bends, and am in a 40mph zone. With the significant increase in traffic over the last 25+ years I have been here, there has been a corresponding proportion of inconsiderate drivers who ignore the speed limit altogether and see the S-bends as something like a rally challenge prompting corner-cutting especially. Our entry onto Grove hill is quite acute, and visibility to traffic leaving Dedham westwards down Grove Hill is very restricted, as is the case for the farm entrance (Freeman's Farm) in respect of traffic heading into Dedham. Other entrances onto Grove Hill are equally awkward. A 40mph limit makes joining the road very hazardous.

Hello Gill,

Having read your email to Ms Church (as forwarded by Steve Redmond) I am forwarding to you my correspondence, so far, with Essex Highways re: Articulated Lorries using Bargate Lane.

Also I have images of the disrepair of the road on Bargate Lane, which is mentioned on your spreadsheet.

In relation to Artics using Bargate Lane, the condition of the 7.5T weight restriction notices at the Harwich Rd end of Bargate Lane, one is badly situated, the other has been bleached white.

The HGV's in the images have been captured from our property cctv, but do not allow us to capture the registration number. Essex Highways suggest surveillance on the road but these lorries can come 2 a week or 1 in a fortnight and would be difficult to spot, other than using a camera. I will suggest this to them, and talk with other residents to see the route these lorries are using.

I hope this all strengthens further your case, and if there is anything

While the housing density in Grove Hill is not high, I can think of other stretches of roads within villages with seemingly similar or lower housing density (in Brantham and Leavenheath for example) where there is a consistent 30mph limit. Moreover, Grove Hill has a pavement from Lamb Corner into the village - the maintenance of it is appalling!! The pavement width has seemingly reduced over the years by soil encroachment and it is constantly fettered with overhanging brambles such that it is impossible to use the pavement into the village without having to step into the road frequently – into a 40mph zone, and with the cars coming from behind!! I cannot see how someone with a pram or buggy could safely use the pavement!!

With my concerns of the speed levels on the bit of Grove Hill I reside on, I have joined the local CSW group. Only recently we were given a new approved site by The Grove, and we did a monitoring session there at 8 – 9 am on 29/7. I think you may get copies of our recordings, but one we could not record the number plate heading into Dedham was measured at 49mph by Brookside heading into Dedham by the S-bends! We did record some others, and unfortunately, I think some of the other culprits were also local Dedham residents

Speed signage, and maintenance thereof, is terrible! Entering Dedham on Birchwood Road, the 30 mph signs are either missing or obscured by vegetation; the 30 mph sign just before the junction of Stratford Road and Grove Hill (opposite the entrance to Lower Park) has been knocked askew; the electronic speed warning signs frequently don't work, etc, etc. We asked Liam Collins of Essex Highways if we could attempt to repair the speed signs but as municipal property we could not touch them – we would have to go through channels to get them repaired. We know there seems a lack of interest at Essex to address these!

I know from a fellow CSW member that Bargate Lane also has a speeding

further I can do, please don't hesitate to ask.

I will send images in further emails,

Kind Regards,  
Mrs Helen Main

problem as a route to Manningtree station, but also an HGV problem as well. At CSW, we have no approved site there as yet, so have no empirical evidence, but another anecdotal example.

All in all, it's a mess, and the worry is that it will only be when there is a very serious incident that anything is done. I recall a few years ago that it was only when a lorry went into the railway cutting from a bridge abutment locally, that safety measures were implemented – e.g. on the Harwich Road at the bridge near Craft Nurseries.

Why can't we have Commuting Speed Watch Signs, like they have in Suffolk – e.g. at Tattingstone. Its no different than Community Watch signs. They are only printed on Estate Agent plastic boarding and secured with cable ties on some convenient post/telegraph pole, so must be pretty cheap!

I wish you every success in a mutual cause – please let me know if you think I can help further.

Kind Regards,

Ben

It was good to see you briefly on Thursday evening at the Dedham Vale Society party.

I'm just emailing regarding the proposals to change the speed limits in Dedham, for which I believe you're looking to gather some support.

There are, in my opinion, two issues of particular importance. They are the Birchwood Road and the village centre.

It would be fantastic if the Birchwood Rd could have a speed limit of 30mph.

Hi, as requested to Belinda recently, a few observations/suggestions.

There needs to be narrow bridge/priority signs and a lower speed limit each end of the railway bridge, especially the Dedham side where there is a sharp bend just before you get there. The number of near misses is significant and there have been occasional minor collisions, nothing serious, yet. Some locals bib their horns each time they approach it seems.

A 20 MPH speed limit would make a lot of sense in the narrow dell you

Ideally, of course, the road would also have a footpath and cycle track - it's very dangerous to walk along there! The road connects the significant residential areas (Lamb Corner, Langham and Dedham) with a retail area, and so it would make total sense for residents to feel safe if they were to walk or cycle along it. Businesses on the Birchwood Rd include a farm shop, a wine shop, a rural supplies shop, a hotel and soon a Waitrose - it's ridiculous and not at all environmentally friendly that you have to drive to get there!

It would also be better if Dedham village centre had a speed limit of 20pmh. Dedham is a major tourist centre in north Essex and has become even busier during the pandemic. The centre has many shops, cafes and restaurants, as well as historic sights. Furthermore, it includes a road junction next to considerable car parking. All of this means that it can be a dangerous place for pedestrians trying to cross the road, many of whom are elderly. Reducing the speed to 20mph would also bring Dedham in line with neighbouring villages such as Stoke-by-Nayland.

I do hope you manage to achieve something here. Let me know if there's absolutely anything more I can do to help.

Warmest wishes,

Philippa

drive through to the railway bridge from the A137 end, very narrow passing there sometimes at quite high speeds.

The dell road surface at its lowest point needs more regular attention, full of major pot holes at the side often, regular surface water from the Shir Burn stream under the road doesn't help.

The road is in constant use by dog walkers, horse riders, cyclists but is becoming busier and busier. There is a real risk of injury. The 30 mph signs have finally been replaced as you go through the dell, which is very welcome, but speed limit signs in the road or at the roadside are not very visible or numerous as you come down from Long Lane. Signs indicating horse riders etc or shared space might help too.

A 'hidden drive' sign before the bend before our house (Firtree Cottage, side on to the road so not very visible) coming from Long Lane direction would be helpful.

Ideally the road would all be made 20 MPH to improve safety of other users and discourage its use as a rat run to the A12.

Hope that helps. I appreciate some of this isn't in your gift.

Nigel

Dear Gill,  
Many thanks for your work on the issue of traffic and speeding in Dedham.

I write to you to highlight what appears to be a sustained attempt at removing all the signs along one route in Dedham - almost every sign **and** repeater sign has been removed or damaged. I worry that this is much more than coincidence or just a lack of maintenance.

Gill

Looking for something else my husband found this photo from spring 2020 of damage done on Long Road East on the bend by a car that ended up in a neighbours garden.

The police, fire, ambulance and electricity supply company all attended. The road was closed for a while and the post replaced

There are of course consequences here - a national speed limit applies along Birchwood road and with the signage removed/obscured there is every reason for cars to approach the Birchwood chicane too quickly and then to continue high speed driving as they exit Birchwood road at Lamb Corner. The speed of cars and bikes racing past our house is astonishing. Given relatively limited visibility from the drives it can only be a matter of time before a very serious accident occurs.

The removal of the signs means that the speed limit is unenforceable - any competent lawyer could argue that the speed limits were not displayed according to the law - so speeders, if they get caught, face no penalty.

For more clarity I attach some photos below.

The 30mph signs entering Lamb Corner have both been damaged. In fact the 30mph sign had been removed physically from both sides of the road. I have managed to temporarily rehang one (on the nearside as you enter the lamb corner chicane) but the other is beyond repair. Please see the photos below - you can see where the sign has literally been ripped off the metal hinge!

<IMG\_1324.JPG>

<IMG\_1328.JPG>

This attempt at destruction continues at the other end of Grove Hill, as one enters the village. The sign post has been very badly damaged, AND the 30MPH sign has been rotated as well. See below:

<IMG\_1335.JPG>

I do hope that the council will start to take this issue very seriously. It is our village and an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, We cannot let it deteriorate to become a race track for cars.

causing a power cut. If authorities say they have no record then that is not true. There may even be court records too as the driver left the scene and we believe was later found.

Evidence is out there it just needs finding.

Likewise there was a fatal accident past Bargate Lane ,probably about 10 years ago, towards the Lawford direction involving a mother and daughter in a car ( I think it was the Dedham end but if not Lawford or Tendring council area, they are still part of ECC so should help build a case with them.

There was of course also the accident where Jane Willsher came off her bike and died at the Lawford end of the road , but I don't believe another vehicle was involved.

With kind wishes

Michael Leacock  
Hillborough House  
Grove Hill  
Dedham  
Essex  
CO7 6DX

My name is Saravanan Chettiar, and I'm a resident at Meadowcroft, Bargate Lane, CO7 6BN.

To provide some details about traffic concerns around the area:

1. Having driven around North Norfolk a few weeks ago, a number of the villages had 20mph zones in the main part of the village. I personally think that would be great for the centre of Dedham - stretching along the high street, Forge street, Mill Lane upto the river, etc. Cars at 30mph is just too fast for a high street that has residents, lots of parked cars (and so people coming out from between them), and tourists.
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Maybe Mill Hill could be widened so that takes some of the traffic load?

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<p>However the replacement needs to go back asap in the same place before the Frog Meadow houses as the residents there have no footway in front of their houses and they are in great danger if they walk into the village on the road. (which Sheila does frequently!?!)</p> <p>Crown St, Brook St and Manningtree Rd residents are seeing a great increase of speeding traffic coming from the new estates at Lawford and beyond, mainly because the quickest route north on the A12 is thro Dedham down Mill Lane to the Junction 30 access.</p> <p>I also want to add to Sheila Cartwright's comments about Manningtree Rd. The greatest danger is at the junction with Brook St because of the lack of pavement on the Saunder's Field side of the road.</p> <p>It is particularly dangerous for the school children going and coming home from school. They cross the road from their estate to the Roman Place side of the road, then they cross back to the Crown St corner at the Manningtree Rd junction with Brook St where there is no footpath for about 30 yards. They are at greatest risk from speeding traffic at this point.</p> <p>When I was on the DPC I raised this issue and Ann Fellows tried to do something about it but because for part of this section, the width of the road would be made too narrow, nothing was done, At the very least a small area of footpath could be constructed on the corner, for</p>	<p>Thank you for your reply, we are glad you are taking the problem seriously.</p> <p>Sara has a rather radical suggestion for Long Road, don't know if anyone else has suggested it but she thinks it has been done before, that is to make it into a single track road with passing places so that all road users can feel safe, i.e have road markings that delineate pedestrian, cycle and equestrian use separate from motor vehicles. At the moment it is totally dominated by motor traffic and as such a long empty space it invites misuse, and by defining space for other road users it would help calm the traffic and maybe discourage use as a racetrack/ratrun?</p> <p>It could be completed without major infrastructure, just line painting and signage.</p> <p>It might even work elsewhere in the village where there are such problems.</p> <p>Thanks for your time,</p> <p>Sara and Keith</p>

people and children to stand safely while they assess the danger of crossing the Manningtree junction.  
It is too late in my view to ask for photos of missing or damaged signs they are long gone from many of the roads in the village but hopefully some people have been more diligent than me! I'm sure Anne Fellows would know more.  
Happy to meet up to discuss further if it would help.  
Christine

Good morning Gill,

It's been a while since we've been in touch and I just wanted to say what great progress has been made in such a short time by the new parish council, led by you I know. I appreciate that any changes will take time but having a plan in place is huge progress and definitely a step in the right direction.

Mark is enjoying working with the CSW team and is out at least twice a week at the moment and never ceases to be amazed at not just the number of speeding vehicles but the arrogance of some of the drivers who clearly do not appear to be bothered by the thought of receiving a police letter. Their presence is making a difference though and creating an awareness which is a good thing. Just this morning Mark logged a driver at 53 mph !!

Please let me know if you need any specific support regarding this issue as I am happy to help, be it door to door letter drops, petitions whatever. Getting the whole village engaged and keeping up the momentum can only help I'm sure.

kind regards  
Caroline

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