

# Traffic in Cottingham Village.

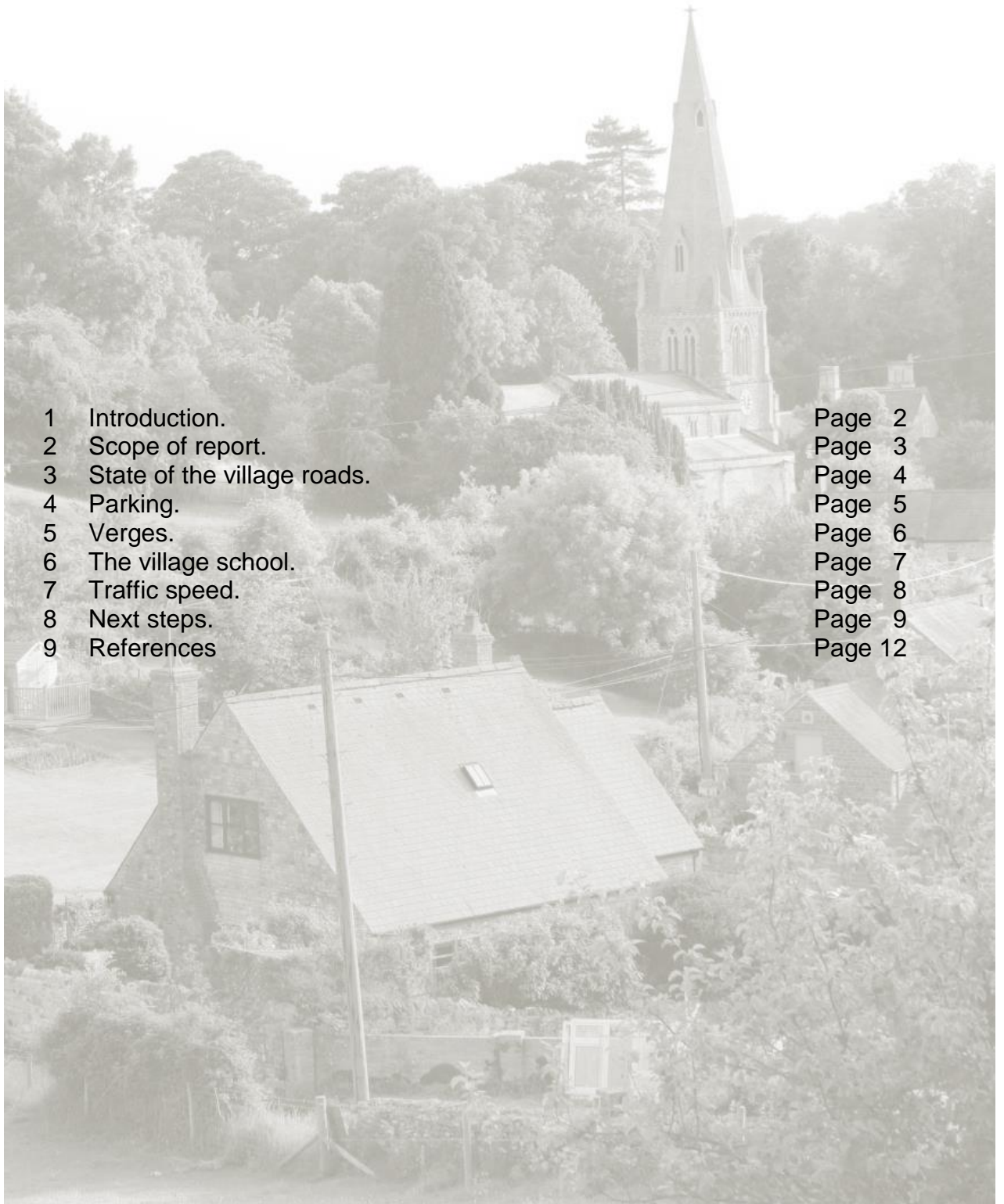


A report by the Cottingham  
Parish Council,  
Northamptonshire.

Version 5

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# 1. INTRODUCTION.

Although we would wish otherwise, the pandemic has affected our and others ability to make the improvements around the village we would have liked. Hence, this report when compared with the previous four reports will appear somewhat truncated.

We have had some successes, the road on the outside of the school has been repaired and the white lines, including the zebra crossing, have been re-instated. Sadly there has been little improvement to the other road surfaces around the village.

The Parish Council have installed two radar speed signs on Rockingham and Corby Roads. These two signs are providing us with the useful data both for the Council and the Police.

Progress has been hampered by the impending inception of a Unitary Authority, now in place and it is credit to the Highways Department that this along with falling revenues they have continued to provide the level of service they have.

Readers can rest assured that Cottingham Parish Council continually requests work to be carried out to improve the conditions for traffic and pedestrians throughout the village.

## 2. SCOPE OF REPORT.

The following still apply:

- Responsibility for highways rests with the Northamptonshire Highways Department who have been given legal powers under the Highways Act 1980 and in part by the Local Government Act of 1985.
- “Outside Greater London the council of a county [or metropolitan district] are the highway authorities for all highways in the county [or, as the case may be, the district], whether or not maintainable at the public expense [..]”. (Highways Act 1980, ch.66 part 1).
- The Northamptonshire County Council also has responsibility for the maintenance of highways which require public funding to maintain.
- Verge cutting and maintenance has been accepted as the responsibility of Cottingham Parish Council.
- As a Parish Council, Cottingham Parish Council must approach Northamptonshire Highways Authority, possibly via Corby Borough Council, if the Parish requires any work involving highways to be undertaken. At a time when Councils are facing budget cuts, finding solutions to the issues raised in this report, which will inevitably incur expense, are going to be difficult. Hence, this report can only be advisory.

(Traffic in Cottingham Village; August 2016)

### 3. STATE OF THE VILLAGE ROADS.

Ripley Road is still in need of repair. The road is cracking and potholes are appearing on a regular basis. There are also examples of sunken grates causing problems, one is shown below on high street. However, the major concern regarding sunken ironware is on Corby Road leading down the hill into the village. We have attempted to persuade Highways to improve this situation and we have been informed that the work has been placed on the Highways working list..



Ripley Road



Sunken Grate High Street



Mill Road prior to resurfacing



And after



## 4. PARKING.

Parking is a perennial problem and is likely to continue to be so in a village not initially designed to handle the volume of car ownership that modern life entails. Nevertheless, we have had some success, with the help of the Police, in persuading some car owners to park more considerately.

We thank the owner of this car for agreeing to park his vehicle on the road rather than the footpath.



Similarly, one owner who was blocking a tactile dropped kerb and hence preventing disabled access to the pavement has agreed to keep that area clear.

## 5. VERGES.

Parking on verges remains a problem, especially where there is insufficient room to park on the road. This is the case with Ripley Road where verge parking is necessary in order to avoid a complete road blockage. However, there are examples of serious damage to the verges creating major eyesores.



This example is from Berryfield Road but, it is by no means the only one.

Other than in London, it is not illegal to park on a verge unless you are causing an obstruction. There is some thought that it may be illegal to drive onto a verge but, this is probably where a dropped kerb is absent.

The Council can do little to stop this other than appealing to the better nature of residents.

## 6. THE VILLAGE SCHOOL.

The village is still facing disruption at “School Run” times. Roads around the school are, for a short time at least, congested to the point where they can cause inconvenience to residents.

The land in Glover Court has been deemed unsuitable for car parking, The Spread Eagle has occasionally helped with the park and stride scheme but, with the closure of the public house this is unlikely to continue.



The Triangle close to the Primary School  
(source Traffic in Cottingham Village May 2020)



## 7. Traffic speed

In November 2020, the Parish Council obtained a grant from the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner's Road Safety Community fund which allowed us to purchase two radar speed signs. The two signs have been sited on Corby and Rockingham Roads.

The signs provide a plethora of information which, for example, allows us to check on average speeds, maximum speeds and number of vehicles travelling to and from the village. Two downloads of statistics have been taken, the latest one showing the following results over the period 8<sup>th</sup> January to 8<sup>th</sup> April 2021:

### Corby Road

No. of vehicles entering village – 69,183

No. of vehicles leaving village – 70,605

Speed incoming - 85% of vehicles were travelling at 30 mph or less; 95% below 45 mph but, 27 vehicles were recorded at speeds between 60 and 80 mph.

Speed outgoing – 85% of vehicles were travelling at 30mph or less; 97% below 45 mph but, 57 vehicles were recorded at speeds between 56 and 70 mph.



### Rockingham Road

No. of vehicles entering village – 42,762

No. of vehicles leaving village – 41,747

The pattern of speeds were remarkably similar to the ones shown on Corby road.

This information is kept on file by the Council and also sent Northamptonshire Police. Should the Council decide that a major problem is occurring then the Police will send enforceable radar speed traps to catch the offenders.

### Community Speed Watch

Over the previous year or two the Council has taken part in the Community Speed Watch scheme. Sadly, because of the lockdown we had to suspend this for this year. However, the Council will look to re-instate this scheme when the situation improves.



## 8. Next steps.

The Council continues to work through an action plan. An example of the April 2021 update is shown below. The issues outlined through this report will remain at the forefront of the Council's attempts to improve the quality of life for residents of Cottingham

Action	Update – 14 April 2021
	Present: Tom Russell (TR) Suzanne Preston (SP) Rachel Raj (RR) Dave Grayson (DG)
<b>1. Increase patrolling activity in all areas &amp; enforce where appropriate.</b>	Patrolling activity has ceased for the interim by both NPT and CBC due to current workload/tasking now focused on addressing covid-19/lockdown priorities. <b>Ongoing - no change in current status.</b>
<b>2. Additional working group members</b>	Replacement required for J Adams who has now stood down from group and PC. Dave suggested shadowing possible volunteers after elections in May.
<b>3. Warden/PCSO attendance at PC meetings</b>	CBC Warden Team are not able to attend presently due to current resourcing issues/priorities regarding COVID-19. A new generic email facility has been set up. All CBC enquiries now need to be sent through via <a href="mailto:safer.corby@northnorthants.gov.uk">safer.corby@northnorthants.gov.uk</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>A Safer Corby update is forwarded to the PC on a monthly basis.</u></li> <li>• <b>NPT update – PC Brad Wilson will be forwarding an update to RR.</b></li> </ul>
<b>4. 'Give Way' signage, Mill road</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Option to move 'give way sign' to triangle grassed area off Mill Rd/Main St/High St?</b></li> <li>• <b>SP to chase SB for update regarding letter to resident. Copy TR in.</b></li> <li>• <b>Ongoing – SP to request SB for update.</b></li> </ul>
<b>5. Walkabout feedback</b>	<b>All walkabouts are currently postponed due to COVID-19. Will continue to be reviewed in line with local and national government guidance. Ongoing to monitor.</b>
<b>6. Crime statistic information</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>TR now acting as parish police liaison contact as requested by NCALC.</u></li> <li>• <u>TR now having regular updates/data from PC Brad Wilson. Boroughwide statistics can't be broken down to Cottingham ward level. Brad now provides this.</u></li> <li>• <u>TR attending NCALC police liaison meeting.</u></li> </ul>

Action	Update – 14 April 2021
7. Shared parking provision – Spread Eagle	Being used regularly as school drop-off/pick-up point. An eviction notice has been served as premises is being closed by landlord. Car park is open at present but situation may change at some point in the future.
8. Updates to local residents	Ongoing.
9. Feedback to Cottingham Parish Council	Monthly report continuing.
10. Cottingham Parish Highways report	Timescale for completion is for consideration at PC meeting in May. Rachel leading on this in interim in light of John standing down. New updates include speed cameras and update on completed actions.
11. Continue to tackle parking issues around school drop-off/pick-up times.	<p>1. Warden/PCSO parking patrols have ceased for the time being due to Covid related priorities. Some ongoing parking issues are continuing during lockdown.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SP to liaise with school regarding ongoing messaging to parents/carers once school has returned fully 8 March.</li> <li>• SP email Ashley Scott in interim to remind parents to park considerately.</li> <li>• School is organising some activity as part of Walk to School Week campaign.</li> <li>• SP liaise with Brad regarding some patrolling activity during Walk to School week.</li> </ul>
12. School bus parking on School Lane/High Street junction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School bus hasn't been seen for a while due to lockdown but issue may resume once schools fully return 8 March.</li> <li>• TR to visit area w/c 8 March and obtain photos for Brad Wilson.</li> <li>• Ongoing.</li> </ul>
13. Community Speedwatch	Next session dates to be confirmed by Mike Curtis. To be reviewed on ongoing basis. No further update as of 14 April.
14. TVAS units	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Looking at ways of simplifying report and filtering relevant data. TR has produced some chart graphics.</li> <li>• Draft update to Jane regarding village website/newsletter – Ongoing, TR to progress.</li> <li>• DG to pull off next set of data and draft into presentable format.</li> </ul>
15. Outdated Hunting Lodge Road signage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update as of 14/01- Signs have been placed on NCC works list for removal. Timescale for completion can't be confirmed.</li> <li>• Additional hotel signage also on School Lane opposite shop also needs removing. TR to email SP with location details of all signage. – Ongoing.</li> </ul>
16. NPT Speedgun Operation	PC Brad Wilson supports restarting operations when able to, in line with TVAS data results.
17. Community Engagement	All surgeries postponed until further notice - updates will be provided as and when available.

Action	Update – 14 April 2021
18. Parking issues – Corby Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>White BMW on Corby Road opposite Methodist Chapel - RR sent email with photos. SP to review and progress. Details have been forwarded to PC Brad Wilson</b></li> </ul>
19. Parking issue- Berryfield Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update – Son of tenant applying for drop kerb at present with NCC. Parish Council to monitor. Rachel to liaise with George and tenant regarding application.</li> <li>• Review of garage spaces – Park in front of empty garages in interim to alleviate parking problem? <b>Update as of 14/4 – empty units are in process of being rented out, so not an option.</b></li> <li>• SP email Landlord Services regarding future maintenance of units.</li> </ul>
20. Grit Bin update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parish Council currently drafting request for 2/3 additional grit bins to replace ones removed in Ripley Rd and Berryfield Rd areas. Corby Rd/shop area could also be additional location. <b>RR to progress.</b></li> </ul>
21. Sunken drain covers – Corby Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highways are aware of issue. On works list as of 14 April.</li> </ul>
22. Dogfouling on recreation ground/verges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PC to install signage</li> <li>• Safer Corby Team to stencil footpath areas</li> <li>• Article in newsletter &amp; website</li> </ul>
23. Date of next meeting	<b>Wednesday 9 June, 7pm via Zoom (Rachel to send link nearer the time)</b>

Cottingham Parish Council still has its Working Group, whose numbers are made of two Parish Councillors, the Clerk to the Parish Council and a representative of Corby Borough Council. It is the group's responsibility to highlight the issues found in this report and to report to the Parish Council the issues and any progress made.

## 9. References.

Highways Act 1980; Chapter 66 part 1.

Traffic in Villages Safety and Civility for Rural Roads - A Toolkit for Communities; Mitchell and Hamilton-Baillie; (2012/13?).

Cottingham Parish Council; "Traffic in Cottingham Village 2020".

TVAS data from Parish Council owned Evolis Radar signs.