

Traffic in Cottingham Village.

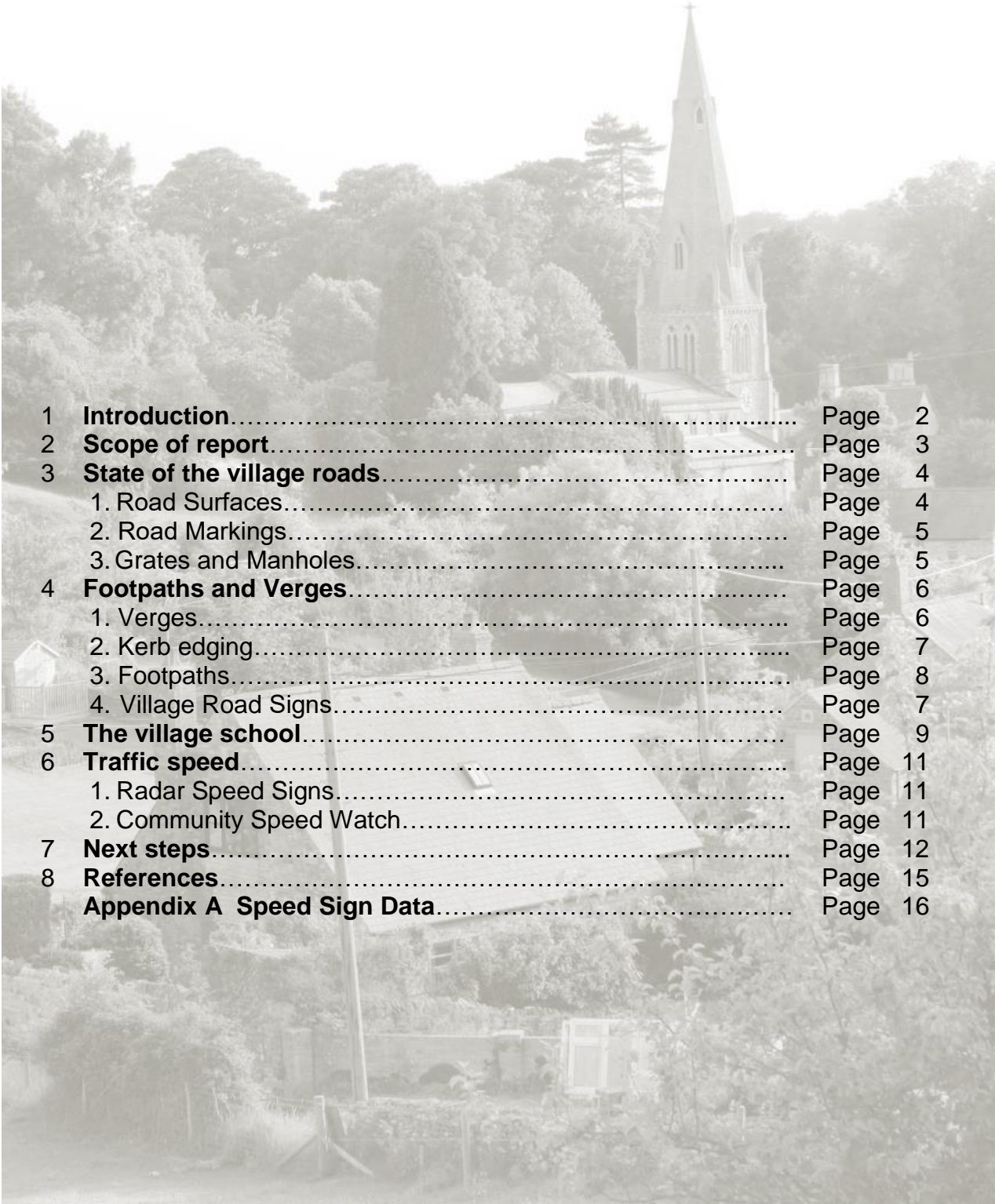


A report by the Cottingham Parish Council, Northamptonshire.

Version 7

May 2023

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1. INTRODUCTION.

There are still teething problems with the changeover from Northamptonshire County Council to North Northamptonshire Unitary Authority. Despite this, we had some success in 2022, persuading the Highway's Authority to carry out maintenance of the village roads. Not as many requests to the Authority as usual have been made this and these generally refer to potholes and sunken grates. Many potholes have been filled but the repairs do not last long and we still fail to persuade the Authority that the sunken grates on Corby Road are a hazard.

The state of some road surfaces around the village continues to be a concern. The worst example of a poor road surface can be seen at the junction of Ripley Road and Bancroft Road (top) and Blind Lane. Verge condition is particularly poor in some areas of Bancroft and Berryfield Road.

The speed checks show that the majority of drivers are adhering to the speed limits. There are nevertheless, one or two who drive through the village at excessive speeds and speed on Corby Road when leaving the village are too high.

What follows is a report on the general health and safety of our roads and footpaths. Readers should be aware that roads and footpaths are the responsibility the Northamptonshire Highways. It is only the Highways Department which can instigate maintenance. Cottingham Parish Council can do little more than to lobby to get work completed, which we do.

2. SCOPE OF REPORT.

- Responsibility for highways rests with the Highways Authority for North Northamptonshire. Originally Northamptonshire Highways had a single County wide responsibility. However, with the inception of the Unitary Authorities North and West Northamptonshire are now responsible for their separate authorities.
- It is still the case that “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).
- Verge cutting and maintenance has been accepted as the responsibility of Cottingham Parish Council.
- As a Parish Council, Cottingham Parish Council must approach North Northamptonshire (NNC) Highways Authority, if the Parish requires any work involving highways to be undertaken.
- North Northamptonshire Unitary Authority has inherited some of the debt created by the previous County Council. Notwithstanding a rise of approximately 5% in Council Tax, Councils are facing budget cuts. Hence, finding solutions to the issues raised in this report, which will inevitably incur expense, are going to be difficult

3. STATE OF THE VILLAGE ROADS.

1. Road Surfaces

Not all village roads are in a poor state of repair. The roads around Stonepit Drive, Millfield Avenue and Bury Close are in good condition and although Welland View and Glover Court have some imperfections (shown below) neither are in as poor a state of repair as most of the roads shown in the photographs below.



1



2



3



4



5



6



7

- 1 Ripley Road
- 2 Blind Lane
- 3 Blind Lane
- 4 Welland View Road
- 5 Corby Road
- 6 School Entrance
- 7 Glover Court

The seven photographs above, give a fair reflection of the state of a number of the village road surfaces. Potholes are regularly filled but, not all are made safe and the repair last little more than a few months. The road surface in many areas is cracked and where this has occurred road needs resurfacing.

2. Road Markings

Many road markings in the village were renewed last year and whilst some have faded they are generally acceptable.



School Zebra Crossing.



The junction of Blind Lane and Rockingham Road

3. Grates and Manhole Covers

The sunken grates on Corby Road have been reported regularly, so far without any success in obtaining repairs. In addition there are other hazards as shown below:



Corby Road



Corby Road



School Lane

4. FOOTPATHS and VERGES.

1. 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.



Top left – Bancroft Road

Top right – Rockingham Road

Left – Berryfield Road

From time to time we receive complaints from residents about the parlous state of the verges, questioning whether it is really necessary to park on a grass verge. The Council can do little to stop verge parking other than appealing to the better nature of residents. In response to recent complaints the Parish Council Chairman wrote to residents asking them not to park on the verge unless it is absolutely necessary.

To prevent verge parking the Parish Council has placed posts on a verge close to the school.



Some residents have taken action to protect the verge near their houses.



Bancroft Road



Berryfield Road

2. Kerb edging



There are still a few examples of damaged kerb edging like the one shown on the left which is on High Street. However, Kerb edging throughout the village is generally good.

3. Footpaths

A number of the village's footpaths are showing signs of wear and tear. Exacerbating problems are the number of footpaths which are slowly being taken over with weeds.



Bancroft Road



Mill Lane



High Street



Bancroft Road



Berryfield Road

4. Village Road Signs

Most of the village signs are in need of a wash. The finger posts on the triangle near the school and the sign at the bottom of Corby Road are all dirty. The Parish Council did have some success getting the Give Way sign at the junction of Corby Road and the old Harborough Road cleaned. However, once cleaned the sign was shown to be very faint.



To their credit the owners of this hedge have tried to keep the Give Way sign clear. However, it is still difficult to see from the road. The Parish Council have suggested to NNC Highways that an arm is attached to the pole to bring the sign away from the hedge, although this suggestion has not been taken up. Highways have asked the resident to reduce the hedge width.

5. 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.

All attempts to find parking spaces for some of the cars have failed. There is a possibility that development at The Mill may help.

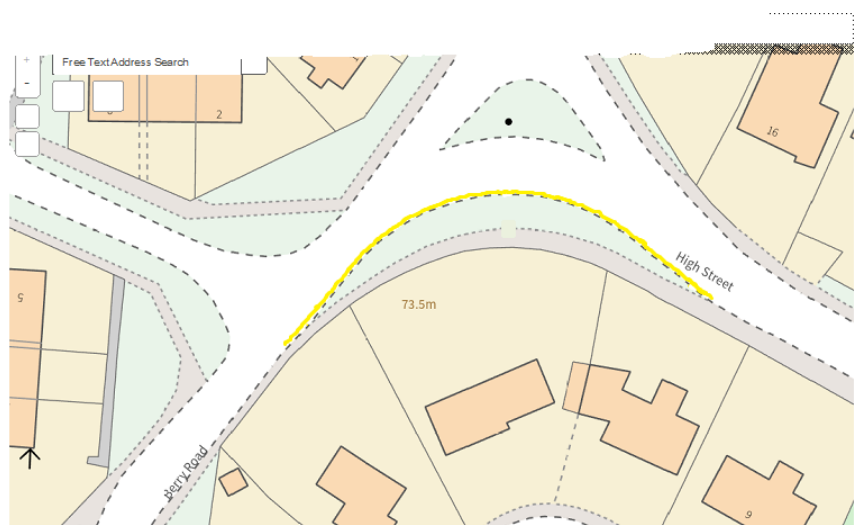


Parents collecting children from school are now regularly damaging the verges and have even been seen to park on the triangle near the school.



Example from 2022 Report

A request has been made to install double yellow lines on the bend where High street meets Berry Road. Parking on this bend at “school run” times creates a hazard to through traffic. A decision on this will be made by NNC Highways later in the year.



A further request has been made to move the 30 mph limit signs on the Rockingham Road to be placed further down the road towards Rockingham. This would ensure that the first house when entering the village from the direction of Rockingham would be protected by a lower speed limit.

6. Traffic speed

1. Radar Speed Signs

A third speed sign has been placed by the Council on Mill Road just before the school. The sign, when programming is complete, will warn drivers that the school is close and suggest that they reduce their speed to 20mph.



Statistics from the older signs are downloaded every four months, timing for the download from the new sign near the school is to be arranged. Appendix A gives a summary of the four monthly download which was taken between 1st September and 31st December 2022. The statistics suggest that over 70% of drivers are compliant with the 30mph speed limit (slight reduction on previous years). However, it is noticeable that only 54% of drivers leaving the village on Corby Road stay at or within the speed limit, this lack of compliance has been an ongoing theme since the signs were installed in 2020. It also worth noting the excessive speed (over 90mph) of the occasional driver.

Information gained from the speed signs is sent to Northamptonshire Police.

2. Community Speed Watch.

Uring the month of August 2022 eight sessions were arranged to check the speed of vehicles on the Corby and Rockingham Roads in the village. However, rain forced the cancellation of one of these sessions and one due to lack of people available to man the speed gun.



Five session were held on Corby Road during which 4 vehicles were logged as travelling between 35 to 39mph and thirteen, at the time of the Sunday morning Car Boot Sale, were logged at between 35 and 38mph..

Rockingham Road had one session, where no speeding was recorded. Rockingham Road and High Street were not visited again because of road works and traffic lights in place caused by GigaClear

The Police sent out 12 letters warning motorists that they had been recorded exceeding the speed limit.

A Community Speed Watch session is booked for 2023 and starts on 24th June 2023 until 22nd July2023

7. Next steps.

The Council continues to work through an action plan. An example of the November 2022 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 the residents of Cottingham.

Action	Update – 1 Nov 2022
<p>1. Warden/PCSO attendance at PC meetings & re-start of community walkabouts</p>	<p>Present: Tom Russell (TR) Suzanne Preston (SP) Rachel Raj (RR) Terri McLean (TM)</p> <p>Apologies: David Grayson (DG)</p> <p>Safer Corby Warden Team have made contact with RR and will attend meetings on a quarterly basis.</p> <p><u>Community walkabouts</u> – No further update as of 1 Nov.</p> <p>All NNC enquiries for the Safer Communities Team to continue to be sent via safercorby.cbc@northnorthants.gov.uk.</p> <p>Regular NPT update and attendance at PC meetings.</p> <p>The NNC Warden Team have also attended meetings as and when their late shifts allow.</p>
<p>2. 'Give Way' signage, Mill road</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Give way signage</u> - Highways proposing to install additional sign on island location. • <u>Resident letter re overgrown conifers</u> – Recommended confer height is 8ft and should not block road signs. • <u>The Hill island</u> – overgrown hedgerow obscuring lighting column. SB to write to owner of hedge and request permission for cutting back. SB to progress actions.
<p>3. Give Way Sign - Corby Rd</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TR is progressing a replacement with Highways as colour has faded. SB to check if sign is on works log for replacement.
<p>4. Crime statistic information</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TR now having regular updates/data from PC Brad Wilson. Brad also providing ward specific crime data and feedback to the Parish Council. All actions are ongoing. BW attending meetings and actively engages.

5. Road Safety concerns – local school area	<p><u>Signage</u> – Investigations are ongoing with column requirements. One issue will be funding. RR to update</p> <p><u>Zebra crossing beacon lighting upgrade</u> – Highways update received 23/06. A number of similar upgrade works are currently on list waiting for feasibility evaluation. No update available as of 1 Nov.</p> <p>Some of the parking problem has shifted to High Street.</p> <p><u>Mill facility car park</u> - no further update as of 1 Nov.</p> <p>Spread Eagle car park may potentially become available again as a community facility - to be discussed at PC this month.</p>
6. Parking issue – The Hill area	Black Audi/BMW parked in unsafe manner. Terri McLean to liaise with Chris Asante - Ampudh
7. Corby Road footpath	To be discussed at next PC meeting (October) with Highways.
8. Updates to local residents	Ongoing.
9. Feedback to Cottingham Parish Council	Monthly report continuing.
10. Potholes/sunken manholes (Corby Road)	<p>New pothole issue on Corby Road – DG to forward photos to Highways. Ongoing.</p> <p>Sunken grate on Corby Rd – DG to report/progress. Ongoing.</p>
11. Lack of NNC Highways Team response to various issues	S Barnwell attending PC meeting on 2 Nov to address outstanding highways issues.
12. Cottingham Parish Highways report	Completed and presented to the PC in April. On website.
13. Continue to tackle parking issues around school drop-off/pick-up times.	<p>School parking issues continue to be monitored.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Spread Eagle premises/car park area</u> - no further update, although it was noted the car park facility is currently open/accessible. • Policing Team schedule patrols as and when available. Brad Wilson undertook some monitoring. • School continuing to send communication out to parents/carers and a Park & Stride event was delivered during October. • Group agreed the proposed Mill carpark will provide a significant benefit in terms of reducing parking problems in the long term. Ongoing.
14. Community Speedwatch & NPT Speedgun Operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Community Speedwatch</u> – No 2023 dates confirmed as yet. • <u>Project EDWARD NPT Ops, October</u> – Cancelled due to bad weather. Aiming to re-schedule during National Road Safety Week in November.
15. TVAS units	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No significant data issues reported.
16. Removal of outdated Hunting Lodge Road signage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Option of black masking tape on signs? • Some chevron markings have been installed - Further discussion scheduled at PC meeting with Highways representative.
17. Leaf clearance – High Street	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RR to approach Hunting Lodge regarding support with removal.

<p>18. Parking issues- Berryfield Road</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Garage parking issues and general maintenance concerns</u> — No further update. Garage area not been maintained for a while. • Option of letter drop across Berryfield regarding reminder to park considerately. SP to look at template and Terri to support. RR to draft newsletter article.
<p>19. Substandard road condition - Ripley Road.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patching works have been undertaken in Ripley Road. • <u>Footpath condition – Bancroft Road</u> – Parish Council to consider further in terms of course of action to be taken. To be discussed at next PC meeting in October with Highways
<p>20. Date of next meeting</p>	<p>Tuesday 10 Jan 2023, 7pm via Teams. RR to send link.</p>

It is clear from this report that the Parish Council needs to continuing lobbying the Highways Authority on road surface improvements, cleaning road signs and repairing footpaths.

For some time there has been a discussion about the loss of footpath surface to grass and weeds. Corby Borough Council refused to spray these paths with weed killer. It is recommended that the Council re-investigates this issue before some footpaths disappear altogether.

The Council will continue to monitor traffic volumes and speeds through the village and will inform the Police if there is a persistent problem. Checks will need to be when the speed sign near the school becomes operational.

Verges are owned by the Highways Authority but maintained by the Parish Council, it is recommended that the Parish Council uses its responsibility for maintenance to protect grass verges from damage.

Although not mentioned directly in this report, problems caused by vehicle parking are regularly noted and maintenance such as leaf clearance in Autumn is requested from the Authority..

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 who along with the Safer Corby WardensTeam who support the Parish Council's attempts to obtain improvements . It is the group's responsibility to highlight the issues found in this report and to report to the Parish Council on any progress, or otherwise, made.

8. 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 2022".

TVAS data from Parish Council owned Evolis Radar signs.

Appendix A

Speed Sign Data

Sep 1st to Dec. 31st 2022

(All figures rounded.)

Site	% of vehicles travelling <=30mph	% of vehicles travelling >30mph	Max. Speed mph (date and time)	No. of vehicles	Max. vehicles per ½ hour (date and time)
Rockingham Road incoming	60,323 (76%)	9,555 (14%)	78 (25/10; 2.06am)	69,878	127 (24/10; 9.30 to 10.00am)
Rockingham Road outgoing	43,711 (72%)	16,751 (28%)	90 (26/10; 11.00am)	60,462	56 (14/09; 8.30 to 9.00 am)
Corby Road incoming	96,794 (85%)	16,471 (15%)	64 (25/10; 4.16pm)	113,265	51 (24/10; 6.00 to 6.30 pm)
Corby Road outgoing	66,823 (54%)	51,686 (46%)	99 (22/12; 5.00pm)	118,509	47 (18/09; 11.00 to 12.00 am)

Average Vehicle speed

Rockingham Road incoming 26 mph

Rockingham Road outgoing 28 mph

Corby Road incoming 26 mph

Corby Road outgoing 30 mph

The majority of vehicles exceeding 30 mph are travelling between 30 and 40mph.

Road				30-35mph	36-40mph	41-45mph	46-60mph	Exceeding 60mph	Total
Rockingham Road in				6,711	2,233	483	126	2	9,555
Rockingham Road out				9,427	4,753	1,715	806	50	16,751
Corby Road in				12,828	3,011	488	138	6	16,471
Corby Road out	34,301	13,988	2,787	594	16	51,686			