

March 2013 Traffic Survey - B1383

In preparation for the long awaited Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) at the North end of the village Essex Highways conducted a traffic survey from 15th March to 21st March this year. The survey produced a huge amount of data and can be seen in full by contacting the Clerk to the Parish Council¹. However, here is a chart which we have compiled to show the brief facts which we think will be of most interest.

Fri 15.03	Sat 16.03	Sun 17.03	Mon 18.03	Tue 19.03	Wed 20.03	Thu 21.03
Highest Speeds At Time of Day North East Bound						
1 @ 90+ 1130	6 @ 60+ 0900 - 2300	3 @ 60+ 0100 - 1300	1 @ 60+ 0600	3 @ 90+ 0800 0930 1715	1 @ 70+ 0030	1 @ 90+ 0445
Highest Speeds At Time of Day South West Bound						
1 @ 80+ 1030	1 @ 80+ 1345	2 @ 60+ 0900 1400	1 @ 60+ 1500	1 @ 90+ 1415	1 @ 70+ 1230	2 @ 60+ 0330 1130
Total over 40mph North East Bound						
334	427	382	405	357	358	376
Total over 40mph South West Bound						
312	411	363	464	441	410	470
Average Daily Speed North East Bound						
34.2	36	36.4	35.8	35.8	36	36.2
Average Daily Speed South West Bound						
30.7	34.4	34.7	34.7	34.7	34.6	34
Vehicle Numbers North						
5374	4227	3470	5363	5362	6109	5576
Vehicle Numbers South						
5411	4230	3506	5419	5482	5476	5684
Vehicle Numbers Totals						
10,785	8,457	6,976	10,782	10,844	11,585	11260

Encouragingly, the average speed of traffic, both Northbound and Southbound is more or less at a level which we hoped would be achieved when the speed limit was reduced. But there are some areas of concern. There were roadworks close to the survey equipment on the first day of the survey, with attendant temporary traffic lights, which might have been expected to reduce the average speeds for that day considerably. Despite this, a small number of vehicles passed through the village at very high speeds. In fact this was a feature throughout the seven days. More worryingly, many of the highest speeds recorded were during the day, not at night as might have been expected.

The other major piece of information concerns the weight of traffic passing through the village. The last traffic survey conducted was prior to the installation of the VAS at the South end of Quendon, about five years ago. Traffic passing through the village at that time was counted at 10,000 vehicles per day, mid week. This was split almost exactly 5,000 in each direction. In the recent survey we find that the amount of traffic has increased to around 11,000, again with more or less a 50/50 split. This increase is no surprise to local residents of course but it raises concerns about the amount of traffic we can expect when the District Council's development plans come to fruition.

In the coming months, and probably years, the Parish Council will be talking to Essex Highways about what can be done to minimize the effects of increasing traffic on the village.

¹ The Clerk, Sue Phillips can be contacted by e-mail: quendon.clerk@tiscali.co.uk or by telephone: 01799 542351.