

David

To: Whom it May Honestly Concern
Subject: FW: Rejection of Sawtry Way LHI24-25 Application

Sawtry Way Thread for LHI 24-25 as of 14 Jun 2023.

From: David [mailto:md@roadwatch.org.uk]
Sent: 12 June 2023 11:31
To: Local Projects (Local.Projects@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)
Cc: Steve.Cox@cambridgeshire.gov.uk; Ryan Fuller Cllr (Ryan.Fuller@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)
Subject: Re: Rejection of Sawtry Way LHI24-25 Application

Dear Sender,

Thank you for your response on behalf of to our serious LHI24/35 Application for which, because of the hundreds – if not thousands - of people it is designed to safeguard, I thought there might be some discussion rather than mere instant dismissal.

As you can appreciate **this rejection is not acceptable to us nor does it safeguard or improve the environment for the people we represent who are at risk from the existing 50 mph speed limit across their busy estate exits and adjacent to (feet from) their homes.** We are also disappointed with the County Council, as an entity, that - since the [death on 7 June 2017](#) of an adult crossing at the Mere Way junction (in the 50 zone) by a vehicle at a police-assessed speed of 38 mph - we appear to be the only ones concerned enough to do anything about recognising the serious continued plight of residents /users and then attempting – despite an inconsistent system - to fund and do something effective to safeguard and improve the environment of both residents and users of Sawtry Way alike where it's the permitted 50/60 mph speed limits that are the problem not (as 85%iles demonstrate) persistent speeding.

Consequently, I would request that you either reconsider your decision that is at odds with reasons you have used in the past*, or escalate it for (yet another) democratic, independent assessment with a face-to-face presentation. If neither is acceptable, then please advise me how this out-of-hand rejection might be appealed for such an independent assessment with 'safeguarding people' as its priority. If necessary, I am prepared to address the Full Council – that's seeking VisionZERO - if that's what's needed to finally get help (and a greener environment) for these people especially those living feet from an HGV highway.

**The reason you rejected the 2019 40 limit (to save lives) - that you yourself designed and the Panel recommended (3rd on the list) that subsequently the post-election County Council democratically approved in June 2021 - was because in July 2021 you retrospectively compared Sawtry Way's existing 50 mph limit (where data proves that there is no persistent 24.7 speeding) to other 50 limits in the area (a very narrow area too) and when challenged on those you named just the A1123 (but disappointingly avoided the straight A141 ring road from the Hartford roundabout and several unpopulated other straight 50 mph stretches). That's when Steve Cox unilaterally published a 50 mph limit end to end TRO, that we opted not to support simply because it did not meet our single core objective of improving the safety and environment of those residents already at risk from a 50 limit, in the 50 zone.*

Thus, to be consistent and using your own and same Highways **comparative methodology/logic**, we thought, in the spirit of cooperation and understanding our concerns, that you would come back to us – who are still prepared to pay 50% of the cost – and tell us that now that the A1123 (your yardstick) had

been changed to a 40 limit end to end, we could equally and strategically and justifiably have the narrower B1090 (A141 to A1123) set to 40 either end to end – as requested in 2018) and this deter traffic looking for a faster NSL/50 route than the now slower A1123) or at least suggest we could have the 50 part set to 40 to save lives and improve the environment of residents where according to our consultation, even those living in Dorchester Way feel the effects. Consultation results are [HERE](#) and should not be ignored by a Council that professes that it cares about people and the environment. The hardcopy originals from our expansive inclusive door-to-door consultation are still available to prove all these comments are signed & dated and are genuine.

Then, apart from the 30 zone across the pond in Abbots Ripton (compares well), the Beagle Protest zone suddenly became a 30 limit with a 40 buffer zone (no doubt to save lives irrespective of stats) along a road longer, straighter and provably* faster than the 50 zone across Wyton on the Hill/Pine Hill Park/Blenheim Court. So, we thought logically and for consistency of policy we could use your own method of **comparability** to apply for a 30 zone. Logical?

****Provably because we had a Logger on that telegraph pole (opposite the entrance) for a week when a Crematorium near there was mooted and the Logger revealed some persistent, seriously-concerning high speeds that we do not have persistently across the estate exits but here 50 mph is still too high a legal speed especially for the elderly residents trying to cross there.***



CONSULTATION

Consistent (and persistent) in our (mutual) objectives of saving lives and improving the environment for residents, we are still prepared to consider and 50% fund for Sawtry Way (A141-A1123) and provide, maintain and monitor for at least a year, a Lottery-funded £3k Speed Indicating Device (SID/MVAS) on a moveable single pole (like in Woodwalton) that we all know will moderate speeds:

- 1) 50-40-50 as per your CCC-approved 2019 Schema.
- 2) 40 end to end (as per the A1123) + Mere Way – a much cheaper and simpler option with fewer posts and speed limit changes (that draw public criticism) especially as 20 zones (with really high 85%iles and abrupt 60-20 interfaces) are being thrown at roads with pre-existing 85%iles over the existing speed limit; whereas Sawtry Way, in both the 50 and 60 mph zones, has always had 85%iles less than the actual speed limit – proof made available in 2019/2020 submissions.

Please see below the latest histogram from Sawtry way Outside WOTH/Pine Hill Park exits.

Apologies for any repetition in this summary (there is lots more) but this has been on the books since 2018 with even attempts for a 7.5t limit (LHI22-23) thwarted by £4k price-tag on 24/7 camera evidence demanded from us but not for Hilton.

Many thanks for your (re)consideration in this matter, especially with our Company's undertaking to provide 50% funding AND a SID.

David

David McCandless
MD CRW(UK) CIC
01480 462587

www.roadwatch.org.uk/Cambs/SawtryWayProject

www.roadwatch.org.uk/Cambs/SawtryWay2019

www.roadwatch.org.uk/Cambs/SawtryWay2020

www.roadwatch.org.uk/Cambs/SawtryWay2024

www.roadwatch.org.uk/Cambs/RFFProject

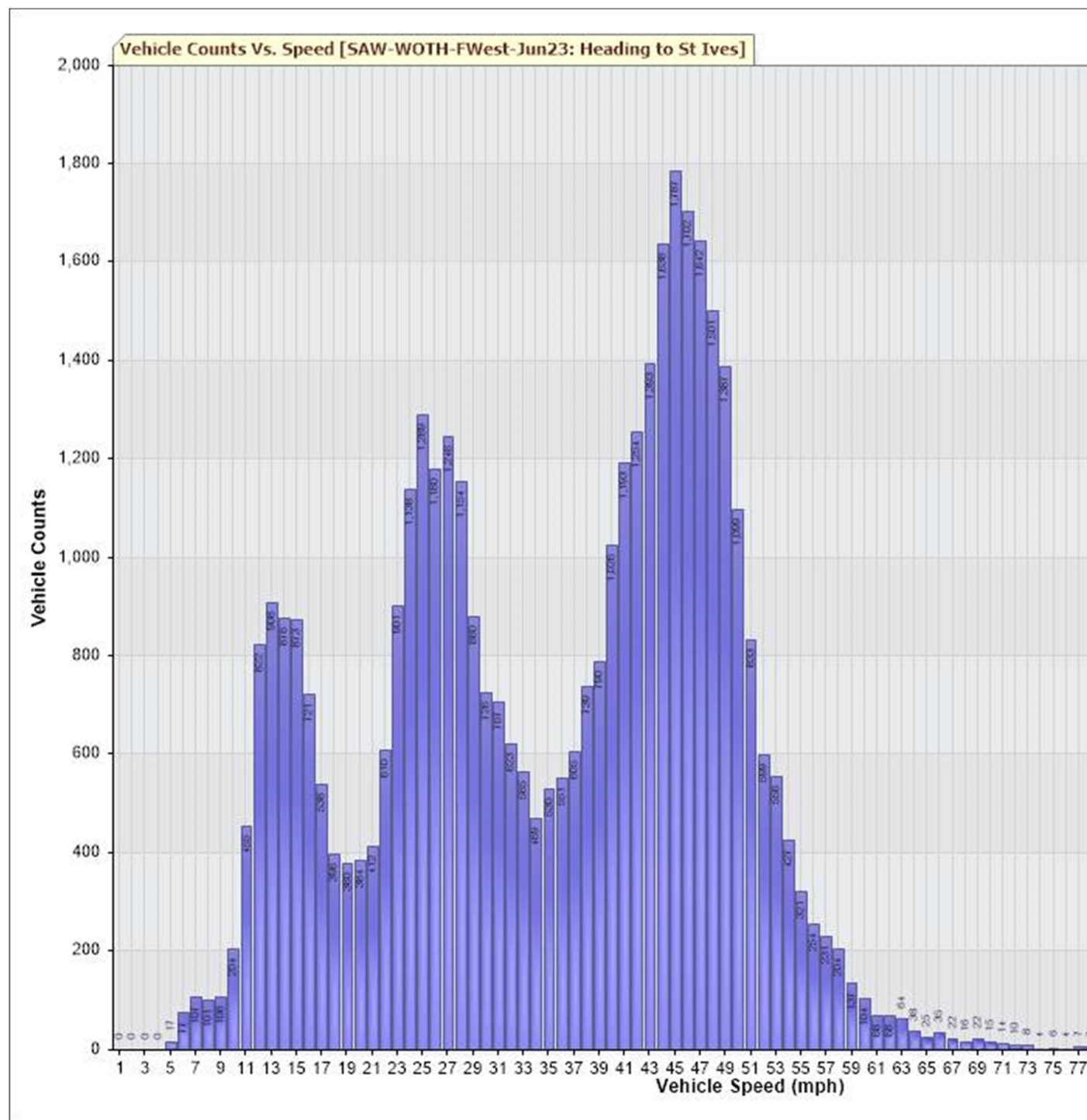
2018 – 40 end to end

Pre-Covid – Your Schema – just below the line

Your2019 Schema approved in 2021

Our 30 limit application based on comparisons

Our successful £20k 2017 LHI project



Houston Radar Stats Analyzer Pro - [[SAW-WOTH-FWest-Jun23:Heading to St Ives] Traffic Report/Stats/Charts]

File Data Edit Window Help

Analysis Report Monthly Counts/Speed Avgs Weekly Counts/Speed Averages Charts: Average Weekly Speeds Charts: Average Weekly

TRAFFIC ANALYSIS REPORT

For Project: SAW-WOTH-FWest-Jun23
 Location/Name: Merged
 Report Generated: 09/06/2023 15:31:48
 Speed Intervals = 1 mph
 Time Intervals = Instant

Traffic Report From 28/05/2023 12:20:46 through 05/06/2023 17:58:43

85th Percentile Speed = 48.2 mph
 85th Percentile Vehicles = 35,553 counts
Max Speed = 101.0 mph on 04/06/2023 15:42:01
 Total Vehicles = 41,827 counts
 AADT: 5079.4

Volumes - weekly vehicle counts

	Time	5 Day	7 Day
Average Daily		5,496	4,974
AM peak	8:00 to 9:00	408	338
PM peak	5:00 to 6:00	548	473

Speed
 Speed limit: 50 mph
 85th Percentile Speed: 48.2 mph
 Average Speed: 34.3 mph

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Count over limit	772	571	531	566	591	431
% over limit	9.3	10.1	9.3	9.4	9.9	9.6
Avg speeder	55.3	55.0	54.5	55.0	55.3	55.8

Class counts

	Number	%
VEH_SM	1504	3.6
VEH_MED	37813	90.4
VEH_LG	2510	6.0

From: Highways
Sent: 08 June 2023 09:10
To: David McCandless
Cc: Policy and Regulation
Subject: RE: Local Highway Improvement Initiative Application Form

Dear David,

I have been asked to respond to your request for an update on the LHI application for a 30 mph speed limit on Sawtry Way. Previously a request for a 40 mph speed limit on Sawtry Way was rejected through the delegated

decision process as it was established that this was an inappropriately low speed limit for this length of road. The road does not meet the criteria for a 40 mph speed limit and thereby does not meet the requirements for a 30 mph speed limit. Therefore the application for the 30 mph speed limit has been rejected and has not been assessed through the matrix process.

Kind regards,

Highways Projects
Project Delivery

Cambridgeshire Highways



Place and Sustainability
Cambridgeshire County Council
A: New Shire Hall, Emery Crescent, Alconbury, Huntingdon PE28 4YE

From: David <md@roadwatch.org.uk>
Sent: Friday, May 26, 2023 11:15 AM
To: Local Projects <Local.Projects@cambridgeshire.gov.uk>
Cc: Steve.Cox@cambridgeshire.gov.uk; <Ryan.Fuller@cambridgeshire.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Local Highway Improvement Initiative Application Form

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Dear Peter,

Many thanks for the explanation though I do trust that, with the scant information usually attributed to the initial LHI submission that merely provides an overview, some sort of knowledgeable elected official (democratic) participation along with applicant consultation is involved at an early stage of escalation in all of these new non-complex assessments and whilst the decisions are still not final and with no recourse for appeal.

As the new Business Support Officer, please note that the agreed (attached) signage part of my 2020/21 LHI - that was fully supported by our County Cllr and approved by Democratic Panel, CCC Committee and full new Council and being 3rd on the list for funding – has still not been realised in any respect

Consequently, hundreds of people are still not as safe as they could be even from compliant vehicles, despite all cc'd agreeing the proposed signage would go some way to improving safety along Sawtry Way irrespective of the speed limit. The design & location of the signage, subject to a quick check of services near the roundabout) were agreed late last year but nothing since. So not sure if and when this outstanding part of the LHI 20/21 will happen. Can you advise please and see about having these signs installed soonest and certainly before the school summer holidays when hundreds of vehicles per day will be turning into Inflatabounce with many families with young children will be using the widened footpath (from estates and from bus-stops half a mile away) to get to Inflatabounce and crossing the existing 60 mph road there. There is more dangers along this road than meets the eye on Google Streetview even

more so when it rains and traffic at 60 mph cause waves to crash over pedestrians – something I recently witnessed because the culverts are still blocked (reported 2 years ago) and the water does not drain from the road leaving very deep and extensive puddles at the kerb that HGVs cannot avoid when passing advancing traffic because the road is so narrow.

Kind regards,
David

David McCandless
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01480 462587 (ANS)
www.roadwatch.org.uk/Cambs/SawtryWay2020



From: Local Projects [<mailto:Local.Projects@cambridgeshire.gov.uk>]
Sent: 25 May 2023 13:14
To: David
Subject: RE: Local Highway Improvement Initiative Application Form

Dear David McCandless,

I can confirm as a Non-Complex application those scores will be decided by an Officer Group which will score all non-complex applications as a group for each district using the prioritisation matrix. The non-complex scheme scores are then ranked for delivery up to budget available for the relevant district area and the prioritised list is shared with the LHI member working group to review and approve. The LHI Working Group will be meeting within the next week.

Once we have an update for all applicants, we shall be in touch.

Kind regards,

Business Support Officer

Highways & Transport Directorate
Cambridgeshire County Council
Contact Centre: 03450 455212

From: David <md@roadwatch.org.uk>
Sent: Wednesday, May 24, 2023 5:48 PM
To: Local Projects <Local.Projects@cambridgeshire.gov.uk>

Cc: Steve.Cox@cambridgeshire.gov.uk;

Subject: Local Highway Improvement Initiative Application Form

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Hi, I have your receipt of my company's LHI 24/25 application but since then I have neither heard nor received anything else. What prompts me is that my company works with many parishes across the county to supply them with ideas and data for their LHIs and some tell me they have presented to panels and are awaiting results.

In the absence of any consultation, as in 2018, does this improved system mean my application has been accepted without the need for further ado as the case is so well proven? If not, where are we with it, please? I hope not back to the embarrassing 2018 situation where 40 end to end was denied because the A1123 was not but now is and where your definition of 30 mph now fits the 600 yards across the estate exits and Mere Way junction especially as you are installing 20 mph limits in stretches with provable 85%iles of over 35 mph as collected from our professional Armadillo Loggers and kerbside Speedgun sessions.

Looking forwards to a democratic GREEN outcome that will safeguard and benefit the people.

Kind Regards
David

David McCandless
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01480 462587

www.roadwatch.org.uk/Cambs/SawtryWayProject



From: Google Forms [<mailto:forms-receipts-noreply@google.com>]

Sent: 14 November 2022 16:30

To: md@roadwatch.org.uk

Subject: Local Highway Improvement Initiative Application Form LHI 24/45

Google Forms

Thanks for filling out your LHI Form 24/25

[Here's what was received.](#) (Redacted Copy)