# County councillor’s report for July

DELIVERING LOCAL HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENTS

Delivering local highway improvements in with Town and Parish Councils

This is to inform you that due to the success of working in partnership with Parish/Town Councils for the last nine years the Parish Partnership Scheme Initiative will again be repeated in the financial year 2023/24. Further supporting information, including possible funding sources for your share of the bid, is available on our website.

The County Council has provisionally allocated £350,000 on a 50/50 basis (There is an upper limit on Norfolk County Council funding support of £25,000 per bid) to fund schemes put forward by Town and Parish Councils to deliver projects that are priorities for local communities. We are particularly keen to encourage and support first-time bids.

This report provides more information on the process, invites you to submit bids, and explains how the County Council can support you in developing your ideas. The closing date will be the 09 December 2022. Please contact your local Highway Engineer based at the local Area Office for agreement and any advice in developing your ideas, especially around the practicalities and cost estimates.

Once all bids have been received, we will assess them and inform you of our decision in March 2023 following approval by the Norfolk County Council Cabinet.

To encourage bids from Town and Parish Councils with annual incomes (precepts plus any another income) below £2,000, we are offering the following support;

• 75% County Council contribution

• £5,000 maximum bid value

What sort of schemes would be acceptable?

• Small lengths of formal footway

• Trods (a simplified and low-cost footway),

• Improved crossing facilities

• Improvements to Public Rights of Way.

• Flashing signs to tackle speeding. We would encourage you to consider Speed Awareness Mobile Signs (SAM2) - which flash up the driver’s actual speed rather than fixed signs (VAS) - which flash up the speed limit. The number of VAS in Norfolk has grown, and checks show that speed reduction benefits can be minimal. Whilst we will still consider bids for fixed VAS, we will need to be satisfied that they will be effective in reducing speed. We consider that SAM2 mobile signs, which are moved around on an agreed rota, are better at reducing speed; SAM2 can be jointly purchased with neighbouring Parishes and would be owned and maintained by the Parish/Town Council.

• Part-time 20mph signs with flashing warning lights, outside schools. The County Council generally supports these as they do show a moderate reduction in average speeds during peak times.

• “Keep Clear” carriageway markings outside schools. Applications will be considered for new school keep clear carriageway markings (which must be supported by the local school) however, these will not be enforceable without a Traffic Regulation Order which is outside the scope of the Parish Partnership Scheme. If you wish to enforce the Order, it would have to be wholly funded by the Parish or the Local Member. (Cllr Vardy)

• New Bus Shelter or Shelter Lighting. A copy of Norfolk County Councils guidance for new bus shelters is available on our web site (click on this link). Any new shelter would be owned and maintained by the Parish/Town Council.

• Electric Vehicle Charging Points. In the first instance we would expect Parish/Town Councils to investigate available grants, for more information please email evehicles@norfolk.gov.uk

scheme may be dependent upon NCC securing additional funding from the Norfolk Safety Partnership

Councillor Eric Vardy

District Councillor for Holt Ward

County Councillor for Holt

Cabinet Lead on Environment and Waste