

Great Horkesley Parish Council
Great Horkesley New Village Hall
Tile House Lane
Great Horkesley
CO6 4EA

clerk@greathorkesley-pc.gov.uk

22nd July 2025

Dear Cllr Cunningham

A134 speed limit, Great Horkesley to Chesterwell, Colchester

Great Horkesley Parish Council (GHPC) has asked me to tell you about the growing sense of frustration in the village that the 40mph speed limit which, at a meeting **nineteen months ago**, you agreed to impose on this derestricted 480m section of the A134 has still not been implemented.

This coming September, Trinity School will operate a fifth year group for the first time and another cohort of Great Horkesley 11-year olds will join the 120 or so youngsters already travelling between the village and the school in Chesterwell twice daily on a footway which is at best 1.5 metres wide, though in places it is narrowed by the vegetation on the embankment alongside it which is owned but never maintained by Essex County Council. Some will walk, some will scoot and some will cycle, an undesirable mix on such a narrow path but no-one is going to tell the scooters and cyclists they should be on the 60mph road. We also have a sizeable contingent of parents and grandparents who drive their children to and from the school because, if you live in Great Horkesley, you know about how badly a minority of drivers on this road behave as they rush to catch their train or get home a couple of minutes earlier after a long day. Even for adults, cycling into Chesterwell on the side of the road where there is no footway, only a steep tree-covered embankment, takes guts; many adult cyclists use the old footway on the other side instead.

Because there are parents amongst GHPC members, the council is aware that some residents whose children will be in that new cohort have decided that if there is no progress by the time the new school year starts, they will start campaigning for the change through local media and involving both local MPs. GHPC would find it difficult not to support them. Both local ECC members Cllrs Barber and King support the proposal, to the extent that they have promised to help fund it from their locality budget, and GHPC will meet the balance from its reserves; ECC cannot plead lack of funding to explain the lack of action.

Trinity School places great emphasis on its students taking part in its huge range of after-school activities. Many of those who do live in Great Horkesley will, as autumn turns to winter, be walking home on the unlit derestricted section of the A134 in darkness, because the activities end up to three-quarters of an hour after sunset. By contrast, those who live in Mile End have a choice of two purpose-built, fully lit, shared footway/cycleways on either side of the A134. On this section of the road, in the name of road safety, ECC has just reduced the speed limit from 40mph to 30mph!

My council knows there must be a statutory consultation period after the Traffic Order is published, so the installation of the new signs cannot start immediately. What it asks is that you respond to this letter by making available a schedule of the dates on which you expect the next steps of the process to take place, a schedule which I can make available locally. GHPC does not relish being drawn into an unpleasant media campaign, but we seem to

have reached a point where people can no longer be persuaded to trust due process and they will expect their local council to support them. Hopefully with your help this will not be necessary.

Yours sincerely

Teri Duckworth
Parish Clerk, Great Horkesley Parish Council