



Traffic Calming Project Update October 2025.

The Sedlescombe Traffic Calming project was born from questions and comments at the Annual Assembly in 2017 following information shared with residents that the Parish Council had had discussions with East Sussex County Council (ESCC) about lowering the speed at the top end of the village by the church. At the 2018 meeting the Chair of the Parish Council explained that the successful adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan would help to raise funds through Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL is a charge levied on the developer when building houses) monies received by the Parish Council to work with ESCC to develop a traffic calming plan. The developments supported in the Neighbourhood Plan have not yet come forward but when they do the Parish Council will use the money received to fund the traffic calming project.

At the 2019 Annual Assembly this project was introduced as a priority for the Parish Council. A survey had been issued to all residents with over half responding and the Parish Council looking into a RADAR speed device that would accurately record the volume and speed of traffic through the village.

Reducing the speed limit on a road would seem a simple task but the process of having it agreed is quite laborious. It needs to be supported by ESCC and the police, measures must be self-enforcing and the designs of these measures have to be approved by ESCC with proof that they are safe for highway users in the form of staged road safety audits. In order to have a speed limit reduced (perhaps counter intuitively) the Parish Council has had to prove that the current traffic is travelling on average no more than 5mph above the speed to be introduced.

The Parish Council instructed a consultant civil surveyor in 2019 to put a plan together and the speed surveys were commissioned towards the end of 2019.

The Covid virus resulting in lockdowns in 2020 stalled the project but as soon as possible in 2021 work resumed on the project. The parish council organised a meeting with two senior design engineers at ESCC to discuss the plans the consultant had put together. This resulted in applying for a formal feasibility study in May 2022 conducted by ESCC. The results were returned to us in December 2022 (and are available on the parish council website). In 2022 we also introduced CCTV at critical points in the village and from the latest resident survey received support for the measures presented.

Whilst sending out more than one survey during the time may seem a little annoying to residents it is critical for the project as we have to prove that we have the support of the residents at every stage with ESCC and the emergency services.

In 2023 the Parish Council applied to Rother District Council for a grant to match fund the traffic calming project which was successful with a conditional award of £73,533 towards the project. The



Parish Council will need to match this amount with CIL funds received from development in the village.

In 2023 the project stalled due to critical ESCC personnel retiring and the allocation of a new member of the team to continue the project.

In 2024 our consultant has been refining the plans needed with feedback from the first road safety audit and ESCC. Further refinements have taken place throughout the year and the project has moved into the final stages of authorisation during 2025 with the second road safety audit completed. An initial informal consultation with the police was positive but due to the time lag they asked for further speed surveys to be done. These were completed in September 2025 (paid for by ESCC due to the delays we have suffered).

The parish council have their next project meeting in October with our consultation and project contact at ESCC and are hoping that the final more formal consultation with the emergency services will allow us to move to the stage of writing a tender to find the best construction company for the job. Due to the size of the project we must ensure that the tender process is completed properly in accordance with the relevant legislation.

Barring any major issues during the formal consultation stage we should have spades in the ground constructing the various measures along the road in the first half of 2026.

Until then our very persistent natural traffic calming team will keep up their good work.



As always, if you have any questions please do feel free to email clerk@sedlescombeparishcouncil.gov.uk