

My ref:
Your ref:

Date: 7 January 2020

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**Place and Economy
Highways Service**

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By email

To: Colne PC, Earith PC, Somersham PC, Woodhurst PC, Pidley cum Fenton PC, Oldhurst PC, Needingworth PC and St Ives Town Council

Copy to: Cllr Steve Criswell

Dear Parish Council,

RE: Wheatsheaf Crossroads

I understand that correspondence has recently been circulated by Bluntisham Parish Council regarding safety at the Wheatsheaf Crossroads and their feeling that the crossroads should be given a higher priority and action should be taken sooner rather than later.

I am writing to reassure you that the County Council is very aware of the collision record and local concerns at this site. The County Council undertakes an annual analysis of collision clusters, defined as locations with six [6] or more injury collisions or three [3] or more serious injury collisions within 100m in the last three [3] years. The sites are ranked according to number and severity of collisions and in 2019, based on 2016-2018 collision data, Wheatsheaf Crossroads was ranked at 44th out of 52 on this list. This explains why other sites, with worse collision records, have previously been prioritised for high-cost improvement schemes.

Despite this, last March and with the involvement of local councillor Steve Criswell, we commenced work to identify options for Wheatsheaf Crossroads, to deliver as part of our future programme, or sooner should alternative funding become available. I believe that Cllr Criswell has already informed you all that the preferred option identified is to install a signal controlled junction (traffic lights). The process of Options Appraisal, Site Survey and Scheme Design takes time, but please be assured that this process is ongoing, as is the consideration of the required funding.

Cllr Criswell is the member lead for this project and is endeavouring to see it completed as soon as possible. However please be aware that no decision on a final scheme or the

allocation of funding can be made until the above process is complete and an accurate cost estimate is known. We hope this will be complete by the spring of this year. The Council is aware that serious accidents have occurred since this process started, but please be assured that we continue to do all we can to progress this scheme.

Cllr Criswell or my team will keep you updated as more information becomes available.

Yours faithfully



Matt Staton

Interim Highway Projects & Road Safety Service Manager