

Traffic Calming Proposals in relation to WNC's North West Relief Road (NWRR)

This document aims to summarise the information known to date:-

1 Background to the NWRR

- 1.1 Northamptonshire County Council, now West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) applied for the relevant planning permission to build the NWRR. The Decision Notice for the application can be found here: <https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/current-minerals-and-waste-planning-applications/north-west-relief-road>
- 1.2 The decision notice list various planning conditions. Number 25, found on page 12 of the decision notice, states:-
"Prior to the new road opening the applicant shall consult with Boughton Parish Council to agree the extent and detail of a scheme of measures for ameliorating the impact of traffic from the permitted development on Boughton village. The scheme as may be agreed shall be submitted to the County Planning Authority and implemented in full prior to the new road opening."
- 1.3 As WNC is the applicant of the planning permission, it is WNC who must comply with the planning condition (not the developer).
- 1.4 The document titled "general arrangement" shows WNC is responsible for building the road up to the "Dallington Grange Roundabout and development Road". A copy can be found here: <https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/current-minerals-and-waste-planning-applications/north-west-relief-road>
- 1.5 The WNC websites states "Completion of the works are projected for summer 2024". <https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/roads-and-paths-maintenance/northampton-north-west-relief-road>
- 1.6 The Dallington Grange roundabout and development road is to be built by Persimmon Homes. An exact date for when Persimmon will start building has not been released.
- 1.7 The Parish Clerk has asked WNC for clarification on timescales (see more below).

2 Boughton Parish Council

- 2.1 In February 2022, the Parish Council agreed to set up a Traffic Calming Task and Finish Group. The purpose was to review options presented by the WNC project manager responsible for the delivery of the NWRR.

- 2.2 Whilst the BVM newsletter is independent to the Parish Council, the Council welcome republishing of the Council’s public minutes. The March 22 edition noted the creation of the Task and Finish Group for traffic calming in the village.
- 2.3 In March 2022, Graham Carr of WNC, project director for the delivery of the road, presented various forms of traffic management to the Task and Finish Group:- Four one way systems; an additional Pinch point, Vyse Road; a 20mph limit, Moulton Lane (school protection) and extending the current Moulton Lane pinch point. Also considered were: Traffic Lights, Church Street/Vyse Road junction (suggested by residents).
- 2.4 An additional feature was proposed by residents at the meeting: a 20mph speed limit being applied throughout the village. Mr Carr agreed to consider that with other officers and also review the position overall, reporting back to a further meeting.
- 2.5 At the reconvened meeting of the Task and Finish Group Mr Carr reported that a 20mph speed limit could be applied only to the area outside the school; the necessary consents would not be given to a village wide limit. He asked for views on the closure of Boughton Road (keeping the Boughton/Moulton Road open but preventing access to Moulton Park from Boughton, thereby removing the “rat run”). The Task and Finish Group unanimously agreed to recommend to the parish council that Mr Carr be invited to put that option to detailed traffic modelling.
- 2.6 The April 2022 agenda of the Parish Council meeting included “To receive report and recommendations of traffic calming task and finish group”.
- 2.6.1 The group recommended that the Parish Council proceed with technical assessments of the following options:-
- (8) Road closure, Boughton Road
 - (6) 20mph limit, Moulton Lane (School protection)
 - (10) 2nd pinch point, east of existing, reverse priority, Moulton Lane.
- 2.6.2 The Parish Council agreed to ask WNC to proceed with the technical analysis of the options supported by the Task and Finish Group.
- 2.7 The agenda for the Parish Council meeting on 12 December 2022 included “Receive a report from Cllr John Shephard regarding the NWRR traffic calming measures”.
- 2.7.1 It was reported that the Technical Director of the NWRR found that the traffic models for options 8, 6 and 10, showed an increase in traffic to Boughton in 2026 and the proposed road closure would have no benefit to Boughton.

- 2.7.2 The suggestion of the WNC officer was that in order to achieve the desired reduction of traffic then a more drastic measure had to be considered i.e. closure of Moulton Lane at the east entrance of the village.
- 2.7.3 The Parish Council having no technical expertise in the matter, relied upon the advice and recommendation of traffic management experts. The Council resolved to agree for WNC to proceed with traffic modelling the scheme to close Moulton Lane in December 2022.
- 2.8 The agenda of the April 2023 Parish Council meeting included “to receive update report on traffic calming from Cllr John Shephard”. The minutes reiterated that the traffic modelling of closing Moulton Lane is proceeding and a new project manager is now on board so a follow up meeting should be forth coming.
- 2.9 The Annual General Meeting of the Parish (not the Parish Council) included a brief report on the NWRR noting that since the last annual meeting, traffic modelling has commenced and the Parish Council await the results.
- 2.10 The Parish Council meeting on 15 May 2023, noted members of the Parish Council wanted to know timescales from WNC, to see their reports and understand the next steps. Upon receiving this information, it was agreed it should be put on the Council website.
- 2.11 The agenda of the June 2023 Parish Council meeting included “To receive update report on traffic calming from – Cllr John Shepherd”.
- 2.11.1 It noted that the modelling in respect of the proposed closure of Moulton Lane was completed in April 2022. WNC are now undertaking more work to consider the consequences of the possible closure and what impact it would have on surrounding areas such as Pitsford.
- 2.12 The agenda of the July 2023 Parish Council meeting included “Councillors to receive an update report from Cllr John Shephard regarding the NWRR traffic calming measures”.
- 2.12.1 It was reported that the WNC officer was still not ready to update the Parish Council and he also couldn’t confirm if closure of Moulton Lane would form part of the WNC proposals.

- 2.13 The agenda of the September 2023 Parish Council meeting included “Councillors to receive an update report from Cllr John Shephard regarding the NWRR traffic calming measures”.
- 2.13.1 It was reported that computer modelling to assess the impact on surrounding villages was delaying a public meeting. Once the results were received a meeting date could be arranged, it was thought it would be in November 2023.
- 2.14 The agenda of the October 2023 Parish Council meeting included “Councillors to receive an update report from Cllr John Shephard regarding the NWRR traffic calming measures. Unfortunately, there was nothing further to report.
- 2.15 The agenda of the November 2023 Parish Council meeting included “Councillors to receive an update report from Cllr John Shephard regarding the NWRR traffic calming measures”.
- 2.15.1 It was reported due to staff illness, it is likely the public meeting will take place in February 2024.
- 2.16 The agenda of the December 2023 Parish Council meeting included “Councillors to receive an update report from Cllr Simon Phipps regarding the NWRR traffic calming measures”.
- 2.16.1 It was reported that Moulton and Kingsthorpe Ward members of WNC received a briefing from the project manager of the NWRR.
- 2.16.2 The full closure of Moulton Lane remained the preferred option of WNC. Officers were preparing to present the proposal to Moulton, Boughton and Kingsthorpe Parish Councils but could not yet indicate a date. It was thought it would be in January or February 2024.
- 2.17 The agenda of the January 2024 Parish Council meeting included “Council to receive an update from Cllr John Shephard regarding the NWRR traffic calming measures, if any”.

- 2.17.1 It was reported Kingsthorpe Ward Councillors raised objections to the closure of Moulton Lane citing the traffic traveling down Harborough Road. WNC officers agreed to review the issue. Another briefing meeting is planned for January 2024.
- 2.17.2 It was noted that some residents of Boughton have raised opposition to the closure of Moulton Lane. It is understood that once WNC decide how to proceed and make a proposal to Boughton Parish Council, a public meeting for residents should be held to discuss.
- 2.18 The agenda of the February 2024 Parish Council meeting included “Council to receive an update from Cllr John Shephard regarding the NWRR traffic calming measures, if any”. The minutes are now on the Parish Council website and they include a 2 page summary in respect of the NWRR.

Going forward

- 2.19 Following the Council meeting on 12 February 2024, the Parish Clerk has emailed the Project Manager of the NWRR to seek clarification on various points including, what types of stakeholder engagement parishioners could expect and timescales for both the road being built and stakeholder engagement. The full response, when received, will be reported at a public Council meeting and also put on the Council website.
- 2.20 The Council website, or contacting the Clerk directly, remains the primary source of communication with the Council. Agendas for the ordinary Council meetings will be posted on the Council website by midnight on the first Wednesday of the month. The meeting is then typically held on the second Monday of the month.
- 2.21 The Council have also agreed to update a dedicated “Traffic Calming” webpage on the Council website. Hopefully, this will help to consolidate all updates on the matter.