

Mill Road Proposal

At a HASTAG meeting held last year with Mill Road residents and Cambridgeshire County Councillor Liam Beckett, it was agreed that a series of small, incremental speed-reduction initiatives delivered over several years through Local Highways Improvement (LHI) bids could have a positive impact on vehicle speeds along Mill Road.

Cllr Beckett is now seeking to progress this approach and has asked Buckden Parish Council to support an LHI bid for the installation of a series of “*SLOW*” road markings along Mill Road. He is requesting that the Parish Council contribute approximately **33% of the total cost**, up to a **maximum of £1,000**, towards an estimated overall project cost of **£3,000**.

In addition, Cllr Beckett requires the Parish Council’s **written consent** to submit the LHI bid on behalf of the Mill Road residents’ community group. This is necessary as it would be the **second LHI application** submitted from within the parish area.

Rationale

The proposed “*SLOW*” road markings are a proven and cost-effective road safety measure. They act as a clear visual prompt for drivers to reduce their speed, particularly in locations where residents are most vulnerable. Evidence shows that such markings help to reinforce driver awareness, reduce vehicle speeds, and lower the risk of collisions, thereby creating a safer environment for all road users.

Importantly, this proposal has the support of the **Road Safety Officer at Cambridgeshire County Council**, who recognises the value of this intervention as a practical and achievable improvement at this time.

While residents initially identified the installation of “*white gates*” as their preferred intervention, County Council officers have advised that this option is unlikely to be supported at present. The absence of a speed-limit change and the lack of signage indicating a new village gateway mean that the proposal does not currently meet the required criteria.

Given these constraints, Cllr Beckett proposes prioritising the next most strongly supported option: the installation of “*SLOW*” road markings. This represents a realistic and effective measure that can be implemented now and will deliver tangible benefits for the community.

Next Steps

Cllr Beckett requires the Parish Council’s agreement **by 16 January** to confirm the financial contribution, enabling the LHI application to be submitted within the required timeframe.

This proposal is intended as a **first step** in a longer-term strategy to deliver multiple small-scale improvements along Mill Road. Over time, these incremental changes are expected to combine to produce a more significant overall impact. It is anticipated that this intervention, alongside the buffer zone implementation and Cllr Sansom’s suggestion that the Mill Road shared cycle path be added to the Highways Capital Maintenance programme, could contribute to a noticeable and positive transformation of Mill Road during **2026–2027**.

Proposal - Mill Road Speed Reduction Measures

That Buckden Parish Council:

1. **Agrees to support** Cambridgeshire County Councillor Liam Beckett in submitting a Local Highways Improvement (LHI) bid for the installation of “*SLOW*” road markings along Mill Road;
2. **Approves a financial contribution** of up to **£1,000**, representing approximately 33% of the total estimated scheme cost, to support the LHI bid;
3. **Provides written consent** for the LHI application to be submitted on behalf of the Mill Road residents’ community group, noting that this will constitute a second LHI application from within the parish area; and
4. **Confirms that this agreement** does not preclude the Parish Council from supporting or submitting further bids or proposals aimed at reducing vehicle speeds on Mill Road in the future, including measures such as a speed limit reduction.