

# Thurnham with Glasson Parish Council

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## We need your views and your help!

Thurnham with Glasson Parish Council recently contacted the Environment Agency under the Freedom of Information Act about a range of issues, including damage to the seawall and flood risk. It was good to receive useful information on the current status of these issues and the Environment Agency's short-term and long-term plans to address the concerns raised and are their responsibility. We did request an on-site meeting, but this is proving difficult to arrange now due to Covid19 restrictions and available resources.

However, a relationship is developing that will be of mutual benefit in the long run. Below is an extract of the 'highlights' from their letter to us:



*Subject to annual funding availability we continue to fund the maintenance of the existing coastal defences, however, there is no specific allocated funding available to repair any significant damage that may occur. This is no different to funding significant damage caused by breaches in other areas. Funding to repair any such damage will need to be assessed alongside other priorities at the time.*

*We promote Flood Resilience wherever practicable to encourage residents to consider Property Level Protection to ensure that they are as informed, prepared and resilient as practicable with respect to flooding. We encourage residents to take the following actions if they have not done so already:*

- *Sign up to the Environment Agency Flood Warning Service;*
- *Check river levels online and weather forecasting information;*
- *Create a Personal Flood Plan*
- *Consider property level protection or flood resilience within your home*

*Further information can be found at the [www.thefloodhub.co.uk](http://www.thefloodhub.co.uk) In some instances funding can be made available for the installation of Property Flood Resilience measures. This can cover all or some of the cost, depending on the type and scale of measures required to be effective.*

**If you have been flooded or wish to apply for this funding, please contact us and we will pass this on to the Environment Agency.**

**Speed matters:** We have also re-opened dialogue with County Highways about the possibility of traffic calming measures and signage for a 30mph speed limit at Upper Thurnham. A site visit here was also declined due to current circumstances and we were given the following advice: *You have asked that we consider changing the existing speed limit in Upper Thurnham. The setting of local speed limits is evidence-led and represents the characteristics of the surrounding area. This in turn helps drivers assess what is a safe speed to travel and encourages self-compliance.*



*To ensure any new road safety measures have the greatest impact, we focus on locations with a proven road safety issue. This is mainly determined by the number of reported injury accidents at a particular location. We also target schemes that help improve the wider highway network. In this case, Upper Thurnham has a relatively good road safety record for the past five years. Whilst this is excellent news, it does not allow us to justify funding for a 30MPH speed limit at this location. Regrettably, there are other locations in the county where injury collisions do occur on a regular basis. It would be remiss of us not to try and make a positive impact at these locations our priority.*

Whilst we respect the position of County Highways on this issue, we know that there have been numerous 'near misses', indeed, within the 'past five years' there has sadly been a fatality along this stretch of road. The Parish Council feels that as well as safety – anyone living around Upper Thurnham will know the daily risks that our children take in just walking to catch the school bus – this is also about quality of life for the village and a desire, at a time when we are all at home more, to reduce noise and pollution.

**So, we would like your help again!** This time we want to hear from you - with supporting evidence, wherever possible - of poor driver behaviour and accidents. Please contact us with details so that we can start putting a campaign together that will support a speed restriction of 30mph. It may be a long road to get this, but we think that it is a journey worth taking!



**We are changing!** In the last few weeks, we have lost four parish councillors – Councillors Mike Hornshaw who sadly passed away and Councillors Maggie Stainton, Barbara Bulloch and Julie Young who have resigned. We are immensely grateful to them for giving up their time to serve the local community. In Councillors Hornshaw and Stainton we have also lost a wealth of knowledge and experience and they will be greatly missed. After the 2019 local elections, we

welcomed Councillors Simon Bibby, Beverley Lamb and Mary Smyth. Councillor Alan Stalker has joined us since then and we have recently welcomed Councillors David McGrath, Erik Pomfret and Sally Maddocks.

We all know what a difficult year this is, but we are determined to make plans that will benefit our local community. **So, once again we would like your views. What improvements and services would you like to see and why? PLEASE contact us with your thoughts and ideas.** In response to requests from residents we are investigating the installation of a bus shelter in Glasson Dock and a 'clean-up' event is being planned. We are also responding to complaints about motorbikes parking on the footpath next to the Gateway area. We hope to have more information on these in the next newsletter. **WATCH THIS SPACE!**