

Traffic report August 26

The key event during the month was the permanent closure of the Easton roundabout on the A47. It was anticipated that this would lead to permanently increased volumes of traffic in Colton (at least until the new road at Easton linking to the A47 opens in January 2027). This has proved to be the case.

There was a more than ten fold increase in traffic during the weekend closure of the A47 in line with the previous experience. This indicates that the measures taken by the contactors and the county council to encourage use of other routes have not had any measurable effect.

Since the closure of the roundabout the weekday volume of traffic is at around double the previous level with weekend numbers up about 50%. It seems reasonable to assume that this is due to people from Easton heading west using the route through Colton rather than the approved route via the Longwater roundabout.

Average weekday speeds in Colton appear to be largely unchanged.

The effect on Marlingford has been less obvious. It is clear that the level of traffic was higher during the closure weekend by three to four times. This is presumably people from Easton coming down the hill and people from Costessey going via Longwater. Since the closure weekend the volumes appear to have returned to about pre-closure levels.

During August the SAM camera has been placed near the west end of the village recording the speeds of vehicles passing the last few houses before leaving the village. It is clear that while 85% of vehicles are being driven at or below the speed limit some vehicles are still being recorded at very much higher speeds, despite the narrow and uphill road.

Both SAM cameras are currently positioned on the other exits from Marlingford and the resulting data will be shared at the next Parish Council meeting.

Other activity

During the month a review of the road signage has been undertaken. This has revealed that the villages are missing several road signs which other Norfolk villages benefit from. In particular there should be 'pedestrians on the road' warning signs in both villages and there is a case for weight restrictions to be in place through both villages. These matters are being taken up with Norfolk County Council Highways by the Parish Council.

In addition the PC has approached Norfolk Constabulary's Community Speedwatch team with a view to understanding whether speedwatch could be implemented in the villages and what would be required to undertake it.

Graphs showing the volume of traffic through Colton (heading west on Norwich Road) and Marlingford (heading west on Barford Road) in the weeks before and after the July 31st to August 3rd closure of the A47.

