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Environment and Biodiversity Committee meeting 25th November 2026

Item 7 – To consider sites and costings for the provision of village entrance gates and any associated planting to enhance these locations.

Background

The Environment and Biodiversity Committee suggested council provide welcome entrance gates at the 30mph on the approach roads to the village. The idea was that these gates could incorporate biodiversity and amenity enhancement by way planting in the verge and could also include the hedgehog signage requested by the local hedgehog group. The committee were tasked with considering the sites and costings for the provision of this project before making any recommendation to full council.

Current position

A desktop survey of the locations was carried out with Matthew Fox (Melanies predecessor). MF was happy that the locations proposed form part of the highway however indicated that further investigation will be required to establish if widths available will support the installation of entrance gates.

The sites proposed include Norton Road, Ixworth Road, Barton Road and Church Road.

Beyton Road already has welcome entrance gates.

The Deputy Clerk met with Melanie Hall, SCC Community Liaison Engineer, for a site visit on Wednesday 26th August 2026 to review the proposed locations for village welcome gates.

Recommendations

The criteria for entrance gates includes a minimum half metre clearance of verge. Melanie Hall's conclusions and recommendations from the site visit include:



Barton Road – there is some space on both sides however measurements taken indicated that on the left the existing 30mph and village name sign has one leg in the ditch and has had the sign shunted across as it has probably been hit many times. This would not be a suitable location.

The right hand side verge has the required minimum verge, suggestion that this might be a possible location for one gate on the right only.

Suggestion that further into the village the verge widens and gates could be accommodated if permission is sought to place them further inside the 30mph zone.

Ixworth Road – 30mph start is prior to the Rugby Club. There is no village sign. Both left and right of the road has insufficient verge clearance. This is not a site that could be supported. Again there is a suggestion that a site closer to the built up area could be sought.





Norton Road – there is no village sign and 30mph start is a long way put from built up area.

The sign on the left is set into the ditch bank however there could be sufficient clearance if permission is sought to cut back the hedge significantly. This location is almost on the field entrance and there is evidence that farm machinery cuts the verge low here. This might suggest that said vehicles would hit the gates when exiting the field.

The right side of the road has sufficient width for a gate however it was also noted that a new pedestrian access gate for Manor View Nature Reserve was planned for this location and visibility here should not be compromised. *(Melanie suggested that the pedestrian access would be safest onto the splay of the farm drive if permission could be granted.)* Visibility for pedestrians crossing the road here should not be obscured by a set of village welcome gates.

Church Road – very narrow and no village sign. This location was not visited.





Beyton Road - Coming into the village. This location shows an ideal scenario for village welcome gates, giving wide verges and an open view.

Leaving the village





Glasdon have submitted a quote for similar gates to include a wildlife friendly logo and village name in the narrowest gate they have at £898.44 per gate so total of £7200 plus installation…….

Conclusions –

Barton Road – Lefthand verge – not suitable, Righthand verge – may be possible for one gate.

Ixworth Road – Insufficient verge clearance on either side.

Norton Road – Lefthand verge – on the farm entrance not suitable, Righthand verge not suitable until position of pedestrian gate is confirmed.

Church Road – very narrow verges, not suitable.