



**Lakenheath Parish Council**  
**The Parish Office**  
**98 High Street, Lakenheath IP27 9EW**  
**Telephone: 01842 860598**  
**Email: [lakenheathparish@gmail.com](mailto:lakenheathparish@gmail.com)**

## **MINUTES**

### **of the Meeting of Lakenheath Parish Council held on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2025** **Methodist Church Hall, Back Street, Lakenheath**

Present:

Cllr N Smith (Chairman)

Cllr G Kelly (Vice Chairman)

Cllr I Frost

Cllr A Gyte

Cllr P Gyte

Cllr J Hastings

Cllr W Overy

Cllr M Rowntree

Cllr D Smith

In attendance:

N Glading (Parish clerk), C Shimmion (RFO), Scott Cameron (Suffolk Constabulary) and four members of the public

#### **2025/31 Chairman's welcome, confirmation of recording and Apologies**

Apologies had been received from RAF Commander Adam Eaton (report sent) and C/Cllr Noble

#### **2025/32 Public Participation: Representations from Members of the Public**

Limited to 3 minutes each person: it is advised that generally no decisions will be made

The clerk read out the following two questions:

- a) Resident: outside the village war memorial there is a commemorative bench on the grass. This bench seems to be an area that youths seem to congregate. I have witnessed more than once large amounts of littering by groups of them hanging about there.

Would it not be better to relocate that bench someplace else? This would deter them from making a mess of the memorial area. I often go out and clean up the mess, but as they congregate there often, the mess returns just as quick.

*The Chairman has looked into this twice, has observed a few teenagers (conversing and drinking coke) and spoken with the resident concerned. No copious amounts of litter were seen. Councillors believe that the house was bought with knowledge of the commemorative*

*bench. It is suggested that the resident monitors the situation, keeping a written record of times, days, noise i.e. evidence.*

*The Chairman has supplied the resident with the address of a website about antisocial behaviour.*

- b) Received one day prior to the meeting i.e. Sunday 1st June 2025. A resident asks: it appears that a fence has been erected blocking the pathway to the field to access cemetery road. Is this a permanent fixture?

Is there any plan to allow walkers through, this has been used by many people every day, for many years...

What is the reason for it to be blocked off.

Having walked around from Wingfield road to cemetery road along the footpath to access the footpath, I note the hedges along the house opposite the primary school are very overgrown and force walkers into the road to pass each other on a busy bend.

*Cllr Smith thinks that this is Arras fencing and believes it to be private land. Has been used very regularly for a number of years. The bit that it joins has been made a PRow. If there are enough (further housing is ruled out because of local plan) Chairman and clerk to look into.*

#### 2025/33 **Reports & Questions**

- (a) Update from RAF representative Adam Eaton RAF Commander, RAF Lakenheath

Received 02.06.2025 by the clerk. Read out by Cllr N Smith:

Action is underway to inform the USVF residents in Lakenheath of the forthcoming work of the village 'Connectors' and that this is legitimate activity for which they are free to express their views.

Suffolk Resilience Forum have been notified of the existence of the Lakenheath Emergency Plan with a view to this strengthening and updating civil response in the event of an emergency.

Enquiries have been made with the RAF Safety Centre (Noise and Vibration Division) regarding the provision of new noise contours for RAF Lakenheath.

Unfortunately, and despite the arrival of new aircraft types there are no immediate plans to update the existing information.

Cllr Kelly remarked that the departure of the F15s reported in the East Anglian was inaccurate.

- (b) Update from West Suffolk District Councillor

D/Cllr G Kelly: Lots going on as far as we are concerned. The village hall did not actually say no to the funder of the solar panels and batteries.

- (c) Update from Suffolk County Council Councillor: not present

(d) Update from Suffolk Police: Scott Cameron introduced himself as new local Police contact. He has been working in Bury St Edmunds, and is keen to get involved in village life, already been to Beck Row, where he encouraged people to report any incidents e.g. anti-social behaviour. It is important to report incidents, let the police decide what's important.

Q: Would you contribute a report to Lakenheath Times?

A: There is a police Face Book page, any report will have to be authorised. I will try and get to as many meetings as possible.

Q: Toilets at Car park- we kept seeing men coming in and out, about 7am, therefore we had concerns. The cubicle was deep cleaned and locked it off for a week which seems to have stopped this behaviour.

A: I will keep an eye on, checking when I come through the village. If happens again, report as intelligence, not crime.

Q: Could you have a session with the Speedwatch Team?

A: Yes

Q: The bad parking in the High Street is always an issue.

A: West Suffolk Council took over parking from the Police. The circuit means that Lakenheath is only an `on the way` place.

On double yellow lines, you are allowed 10 minutes to load and unload. Zig Zag parking outside the Co-op is a particular concern (that is an endorsable offence). Aiming to go around schools.

#### 2025/34 Confirmation of the accuracy of Minutes of the Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2025

The accuracy of Minutes of the Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2025 were unanimously **AGREED**

#### 2025/35 Financial Matters (Appendix A)

- (a) Payments of Accounts
- (b) Bank reconciliation
- (c) Auditors Report

Unanimously **AGREED**

**NOTED:** The Active Lakenheath payment will be received in one lump sum.

#### 2025/36 Matters relating to Road Signage

- (a) Improvements to Station Road markings (Cllr Rowntree)

Cllr Rowntree has received a phone call from West Suffolk to confirm that they would be coming to measure up for repeater signs at both ends of the village.

Cllr Rowntree had previously written to C/Cllr Noble requesting help and C/Cllr Noble is doing so, many thanks.

## 2025/37 Planning Matters (Appendix B)

The Notes from the LPC Planning meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2025 were **RECEIVED**.

Comment from Cllr Kelly: The Laurel Farm application for a self-build farmers cottage was not supported. Eight months ago, the landowner applied to have 15k pheasant chicks there. The need for dwelling was cited as calving, and need to demonstrate an income.

Removal of the large pile of rubbish (demolished bungalow) D/Cllr Kelly will support this.

- (a) The date of the next planning meeting was agreed as 11.06.25

## 2025/38 Reports

To receive reports/ requests from:

- (a) Chairman/ Clerk

- (i) Update: High Street incident

On 14<sup>th</sup> May, a car pulled out of Mola and collided with a motorcyclist.

Both Cllrs Smith attended, plus staff from Mola. Details were exchanged.

The motorcyclist sustained grazes. Asked Mola to report to Police, not sure they did so.

- (ii) Update: Active Lakenheath project Cllr Kelly had a meeting with Tony Bush (Sports England) and Ian Poole (Neighbourhood Planning): we have got to move better and faster. There are too many `don't knows`. Remaining to be sorted out are several things, e.g. Terms of Reference. The Board will comprise representatives from two parish councillors, Elveden, Football, School, Active Suffolk, to achieve some local momentum. There will be a walk around of the theoretical track over Maids Cross Hill, by the stakeholders (include Elveden, Garth Tolmie (footpath warden), Environmental Agency, date to be advised. Elveden are particularly keen to be involved, they have recently opened up a permissive path at Eriswell/Lords Walk. Cllr Kelly is chasing the Terms of Reference. Cllr Rowntree advised that the Community Connectors had asked to access the Lakenheath Parish Council Facebook page. Councillors thought that this would not be appropriate, a separate page should be set up. Cllr P Gyte asked if the playground work is separate from the Active Lakenheath project. Cllr Kelly explained that the fundamental thing to understand is that LPC employ the community connectors, and that the link to Sports England works differently. Cllr P Gyte thinks that the bids will not

be ready until December. The connectors want tee shirts and a logo: Discussion on these has taken four weeks thus far, Cllr P Gyte described this as concentrating on trivialities rather than getting on with the work: the councillors agreed. Active Suffolks role is to collate all the information obtained and pull together a report, which will then go back to the community. LPC should have feedback every month: connectors to be asked to attend the next meeting.

- (iii) Report: Annual Assembly 2025: great to hear about all the good stuff going on in the village. There is a lot of activity e.g. new girls football team “Wild Cats”, and the enthusiasm from the speakers was really good. Nearly all the groups are asking for more volunteers.
- (iv) Update: Lakenheath Post Office: The initial stages went well, a new counter was fitted, training is ongoing, the post mistress is now fully qualified. From 20<sup>th</sup> June, hoping to bring in a money exchange, also travel money cards in all currencies. Business banking now available and can transact with other countries. The ramp is coming, awaiting availability of contractor.
- (v) Report: VE Day 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025 and Royal British Legion members (Cllr N Smith) this was OK: Lakenheath Parish Council seemed to do it all in the end along with Dennis Pipe who was very helpful.  
The Pavilion Committee has had delivery of the new tommies, awaiting installation. VJ Day is on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2025.
- (vi) Update on the village beacon. It was suggested at the last meeting that the LPC Chairman approaches the Pavilion Committee to seek a way forward (next meeting). See May minutes reference 2025/21(g) LPC looking at strengthening. Cllr N Smith, in conjunction with Lakenheath Fireworks, is looking at strengthening the pole.
- (vii) The Speed Indicator Device Report April 2025 was **RECEIVED**: (Appendix C). Clerk confirmed that a copy is sent to local police.  
Cllr P Gyte remarked that the Speed watch team reports are sent to Norwich to hopefully assist with deployment of police speed gun initiative. Cllr Rowntree reported fifteen speeders at the last outing, nine of which were noted.  
The SID reports back up the speed watch figures. Comparative figures can be observed by viewing previous SID reports.
- b. Playground repairs, drain covers at hip hop See May minutes reference 2025/21 Cllr A Gyte reported that all the work is finished, and the Hip-hop hazardous drain cover hazard has been rectified. It is thought that around five cubic meters of wood chippings are required, to be confirmed by Cllr A Gyte.
- c. Lakenheath Times Cllr D Smith told the meeting that 2,800 copies have been delivered. Seeking new volunteers to distribute on the Liberty Gate and Bennetts developments: Cllr Rowntree agreed to post an article on LPC

Facebook page. New advertisers have paid. The Co-op have donated bags for packaging the magazine.

Proposed: the purchase of two `dump bins` to facilitate magazine distribution from Luminata at £200. The Councillors **AGREED** to the purchase at £200.

- d. LPC Facebook page/ social media: Cllr Rowntree reported that most comments have been positive, particularly about speed watch.
- e. Emergency Plan: Cllr Kelly told the meeting that previously the MoD issued an advisory leaflet (when the weapons project first started). This is no longer the case. The news about the lack of a current report on noise contours is disappointing.

There are hazards on the Base, we have lived with them for many years. The most significant Base related risks to the local community are around aviation fuel and other chemicals. The Local Resilience Forum and Base have agreed that they will find a way to help us cope with any issue (on the Base Commanders say so).

US personnel have complied, but it's our MoD (anticipating the American reaction) who seem to stall things.

#### 2025/39 Lakenheath Cemetery and Cottage

(a) A report from the LPC Cemetery Committee was **RECEIVED** (read out by Cllr Frost) The cemetery is looking lovely at present with flowers, trees and hedges looking good. We have recently had a number of funerals and these have gone well.

It is suggested that some form of identification marker/stake be ordered by Nicky to mark the graves/head stones where new funerals etc are to take place. This would help with maintenance and ensure the designated area is kept clear.

Given the recent numbers of stones being used in the Ashes section it may be prudent to get the remaining square stones set, in readiness for future requests. Perhaps Nicky can look at asking the contractors to carry out this work. The stones are near to our store shed in the cemetery,

The bay containing large mounds of chalk still needs to be emptied asap.

We are looking at quotes for the proposed improvements to the cemetery and hopefully will decide on these soon to enable us to plan the work.

The Chapel and the entrance bench have been painted and look very smart.

The wild life is not causing too many problems at the moment so things are quiet.

We are going to ask Nicky to purchase a new green wheelie bin for the new part of the cemetery as when this is full it can then be pulled through to the main gate for collection.

(b) Update on Cottage repairs: Mr Cash will be working on the cottage next week.

#### 2025/40 Grant Requests

None

2025/41 **LPC response to the Brandon Commission**

See *Appendix D*

It does appear that stone curlews cannot read the instruction from Natural England, and have returned to their usual nesting sites, as filmed by the BBC. Planning issues are frustrating to both Brandon (who want to build but are prohibited) and Lakenheath (who have borne the brunt of housing development despite the demonstrable presence of stone curlews).

2025/42 **Correspondence**

(a) UKSPF and REPF sent to all cllrs 25/05/25

2025/43 **Items for Future Meetings**

Issue: running repairs on toilets (Cllr Hastings)

Defibrillator pads invoice (clerk has not received)

Town and Parish Forum on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2025 Cllr Frost and Cllr P Gyte will attend

Councillor Hastings asked if we could make a decision on providing defibrillator training for the village To include two courses and ask for those interested to contact the PC office.

Would suggest all Councillors attend as part of Emergency Planning

2025/44 **Such other business** which, in the opinion of the Chairman, should be considered as a matter of urgency

Streetlights – include update July agenda

2025/45 **Information**

2025/46 **MATTERS TO BE TAKEN UNDER EXEMPTION**

It is recommended that, in view of the confidential nature of the following items, which relates to business/ confidential matters of other individuals, the public shall be excluded while the following item is discussed.

This is in accordance to the Public Bodies (Admission to meetings) Act 1960, as amended by the Local Government Act 1972

Meeting closed 8.40

## Appendix A

LAKENHEATH PARISH COUNCIL				
Date	Transaction	Payee	Description of Supply	Amount
<b>Receipts</b>				
23.04.2025		HMRC	VAT Refund 2024/25	£19,701.67
28.04.2025		West Suffolk Council	Annual Precept	£190,250.00
April			Interest Payments	£219.59
April			Lakenheath Times Advertising	£1,015.00
April			Cemetery Cottage Rent	£950.00
April			Cemetery Fees	£1,010.00
<b>Payments Made</b>				
07.05.2025	Debit Card	Amazon	Bin Bags	£7.99
08.05.2025	Debit Card	Amazon	Parkinsons UK Donation	£100.00
09.05.2025	Debit Card	Amazon	Wireless Mouse	£5.39
15.05.2025	Direct Debit	EDF Energy	Electricity - Cemetery Chapel	£33.00
19.05.2025	Direct Debit	Lloyds Bank Plc	Bank Charges	£8.50
23.05.2025	Online	Staff	Salary Payments - May	£3,962.18
23.05.2025	Online	The Joshua Tree Suffolk	Tree Maintenance	£3,600.00
28.05.2025	Debit Card	Amazon	Computer Tablets - Connectors Use	£219.98
02.06.2025	Chq 003981	Guide Dogs	Donation/Grant	£100.00
04.06.2025	Direct Debit	British Gas	Electricity - Public Toilets	£70.61
06.06.2025	Online	Pearce & Kemp Ltd	Street Lighting LED Lanterns	£3,136.67
06.06.2025	Online	BT Payment Services	Parish Office Telephone & Broadband	£95.72
06.06.2025	Online	Michael Murfet	Mole Catcher - Lakenheath Cemetery	£80.00
06.06.2025	Online	K C Flack	Open & Closing Public Toilets & Cemetery Work -	£390.72
06.06.2025	Online	K C Flack	Clear Out Gully Pot & Rebed Cover - Play Area	£90.00
06.06.2025	Online	Belltech Electrical Services	Repairs to Cemetery Cottage Extractor Fan	£84.00
06.06.2025	Online	Sparr Catering	Annual Assembly Catering	£105.00
06.06.2025	Online	Lakenheath Methodist Ch	Meeting Hall Hire - April	£60.00
06.06.2025	Online	bright.motif;	Email Adresses x 2	£24.14
06.06.2025	Online	Cllr A Gyte (reimbursemer	Padlocks & Bolts - Play Area	£24.71
06.06.2025	Online	A Touch of Gloss	Paint Notice Boards, Cemetery Gate, Benches and	£2,225.00
06.06.2025	Online	Lakenheath Fireworks	Lighting System & Fireworks - VE Day (reimburse	£150.00
06.06.2025	Online	Clerks & Councils Direct	Annual Subscription	£15.50
06.06.2025	Online	xlpress	Lakenheath Times - Summer Edition	£3,278.00
06.06.2025	Online	Lakenheath Peace Memor	Quarterly Parish Office Rent, Noticeboard	£968.59
06.06.2025	Online	Budget Computers	Insurance & Emergency Planning Cupboard	£72.00
06.06.2025	Online	RH Landscapes & Mainten	Printer Fix	£72.00
06.06.2025	Online	RH Landscapes & Mainten	Village Maintenance - May	£1440.00
			Epicormic Growth Churchyard Limes	£300.00



## Bank Reconciliation 30th April 2025

Balance at 31.03.2025	<b>£364,348.69</b>
Uncleared payments from previous period	£559.65
	<b>£363,789.04</b>
Income	£213,146.26
	<b>£576,935.30</b>
Less Expenditure (Chqs, Online Pmts + D/Ds)	£5,496.07
	<b>£571,439.23</b>

Represented by:

Balance in Current Account	£14,492.56
Balance in Lloyds Bank Deposit Account	£200,277.78
Balance in Unity Trust Bank Deposit Account	£80,759.26
Balance in Nationwide Deposit Account	£87,564.72
Balance in Cambridge Building Society	£84,560.93
Balance in Lloyds Bank Deposit Account - Speedwatch	£655.37
Balance in Lloyds Bank Deposit Account - Lakenheath Times	£5,780.59
Balance in Lloyds Bank Deposit Account - Street Lighting	£98,006.25
	<b>£572,097.46</b>
Less Payments not Presented	
HMRC	£658.23
	<b>£658.23</b>
	<b>£571,439.23</b>

### Appendix B

Notes from the Lakenheath Panning meeting

**From:** [nick.smith@lakenheath.org](mailto:nick.smith@lakenheath.org) <[nick.smith@lakenheath.org](mailto:nick.smith@lakenheath.org)>

**Sent:** 16 May 2025 09:49

**To:** Cooper, Deborah <[deborah.cooper@westsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:deborah.cooper@westsuffolk.gov.uk)>

**Subject:** DC 25 0646 HH

Hi Debbie

Apologies as I had problems yesterday with internet connection. I did send a response finally to customer services. I am currently covering for our clerk who is on annual leave so not familiar with the process.

The above reference

65 Undley

Lakenheath  
Suffolk  
IP27 9BY

The Lakenheath Planning Committee have no objection to this.

DC 25 0671 HH  
61 Eriswell Road  
Lakenheath  
Suffolk  
IP27 9AH

Again, no objection.

DC 25 0694 TPO  
The Gatehouse  
11 High Street  
Lakenheath  
Suffolk  
IP27 9JS

The committee see this as an inaccurate application as it appears to be from 5 Mayfields.  
The horse chestnut trees concerned are on the property of The Gatehouse and within the conservation area of the village. They are not in the garden of 5 Mayfields.

The expiry date is 30 May so I will try to contact you prior to then

Many thanks

Nick Smith

Chair

LPC

**Sent by Cllr Kelly:**

**DC/25/0600/FUL** | Planning application - one self-build dwelling and detached cartlodge | Laurel Farm Sandy Drove Lakenheath Brandon Suffolk IP27 9GT

Lakenheath Parish Council would generally support those who wish to live on the land they own and where they work. There are however issues which are not understood so the Council cannot support this application.

The proposed site is in the middle of where, less than nine months ago, a certificate of lawful use was sought for grazing pheasants.

National Planning Practice Guidance conditions for rural worker dwellings which the Viability Assessment asserts are met, but it is difficult to understand how the need for 24/7 livestock care exists or how (depending on definitions) no alternative accommodation exists.

The Council also has continued concerns around the visual impact on the landscape as the site develops, and the use of residential roads – particularly past the Primary School for heavy agricultural traffic.

### **Appendix C Speed Indicator Device (SID) Reports**

#### **Traffic Report Eriswell Road April 2025**

On 28 June 2024 at 11:00 the new SID was installed on the B1112 on the pole located on Eriswell Road. The SID was positioned just after the entrance to the pavilion to monitor traffic coming into Lakenheath from Lords Walk.

Traffic speed and counts were measured from 00:00 on 24 March 2025 up until 23:59 on 30 April 2025. The measurement point is 740m past the point where the 30MPH zone starts.

There were between 4000 and 4900 vehicles per weekday passing this point heading into Lakenheath. There were between 2800 and 3500 vehicles per day over the weekend heading into Lakenheath.

The busiest times during the week (AM and PM peaks) are 10:30-11:30 (Avg. 253 cars p/h) and 15:45 16:45 (Avg. 475 cars p/h).

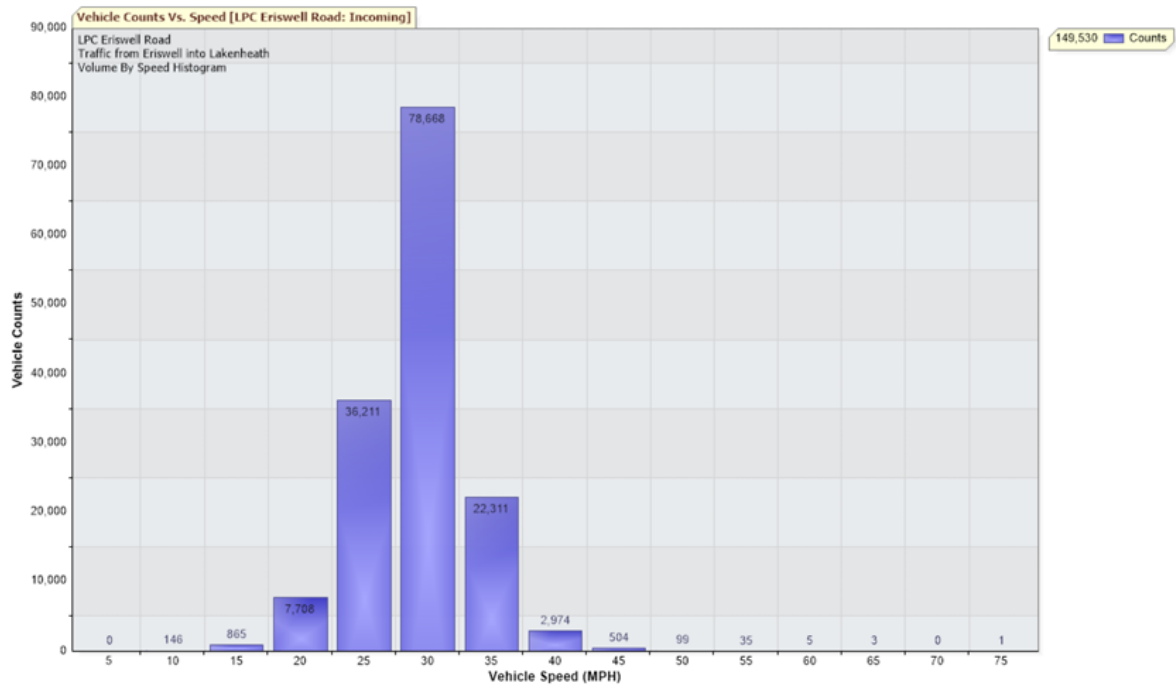
The 85th Percentile Speed (most people) travel at or below 30.8 MPH past his point.

The 50th Percentile Speed (half the traffic) travel at or below 26.9 MPH past his point.

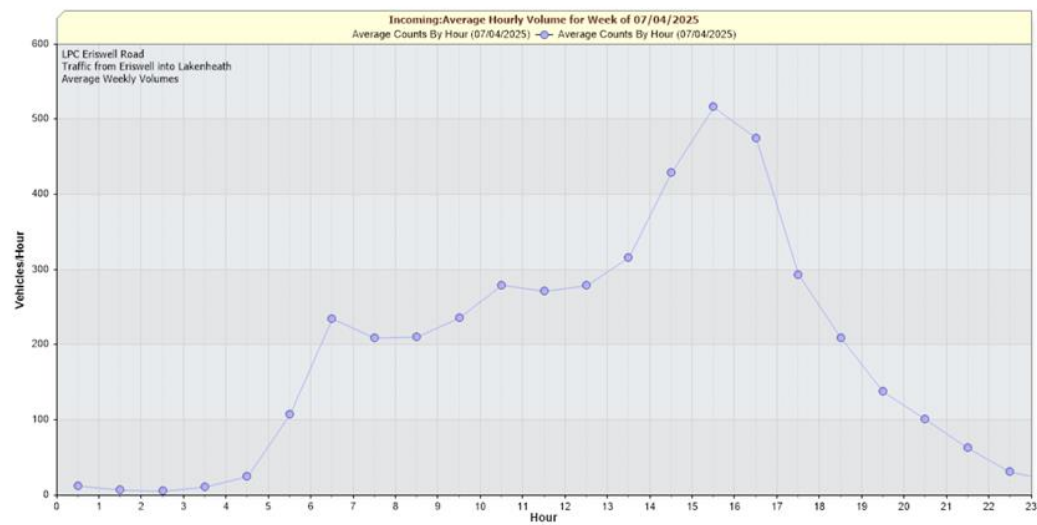
The fastest speed recorded this month was 75MPH (x1). There were 143 cars exceeding 50 MPH.

The next pages show: - Speed vs vehicle counts at the point listed above. - Typical hourly volumes passing this point - Typical daily volumes passing this point. - Speed exceedances of 35MPH for this period

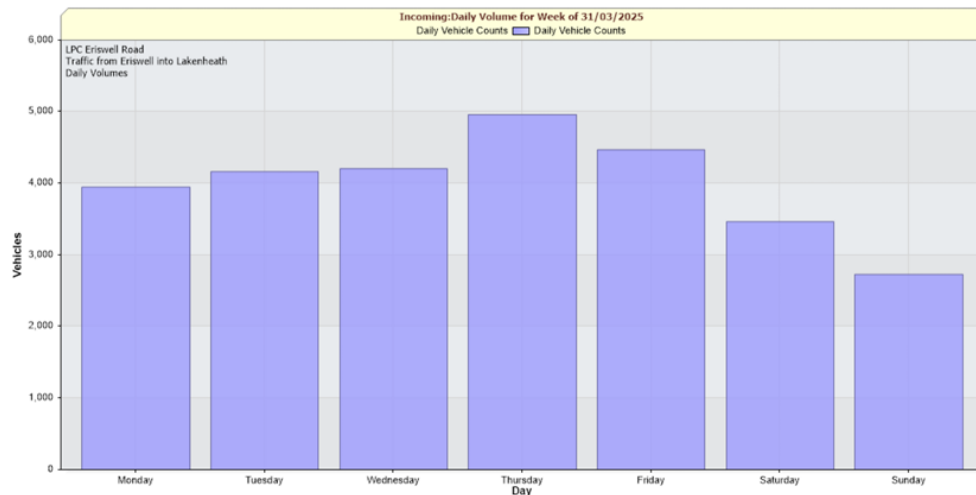
The SID Battery measured 13.9V on 21/05/2025.



**24/03/2025 to 30/04/2025 on Eriswell Road – Traffic from Lords Walk**



**Average hourly volumes heading into Lakenheath from Lords Walk**



#### Typical daily volumes heading into Lakenheath from Lords Walk

Hour	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
0 - 1	5	5	8	10	7	8	6
2 - 2	3	11	7	4	1	10	9
2 - 3	5	8	1	2	1	5	10
3 - 4	8	2	7	3	5	3	12
4 - 5	10	13	11	8	13	4	6
5 - 6	35	36	44	42	38	27	16
6 - 7	40	34	53	28	36	32	30
7 - 8	15	20	21	18	33	26	17
8 - 9	19	17	16	15	25	13	15
9 - 10	13	20	7	10	21	13	21
10 - 11	16	18	21	13	16	22	19
11 - 12	21	31	30	16	26	19	20
12 - 13	18	20	14	33	21	27	24
13 - 14	19	22	26	17	23	12	27
14 - 15	16	11	29	18	14	20	20
15 - 16	10	17	14	12	13	26	19
16 - 17	18	20	14	25	17	20	21
17 - 18	15	16	15	18	18	19	37
18 - 19	25	20	21	18	31	24	25
19 - 20	14	21	15	15	22	13	9
20 - 21	14	18	28	19	15	22	13
21 - 22	18	14	22	20	16	11	11
22 - 23	8	17	15	15	11	14	16
23 - 24	16	15	18	10	15	4	7
<b>Totals</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>457</b>	<b>389</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>410</b>

#### Exceeding Speed of 35MPH – April 2025

## **Traffic Report Station Road April 2025**

On 15 June 2023 at 10:00 the new SID was installed on the B1112 on the pole located on Station Road. The SID was positioned to monitor traffic coming into Lakenheath from Wangford.

Traffic speed and counts were measured from 00:00 on 24 March 2025 up until 23:59 on 30 April 2025. The measurement point is 700m past the point where the 30MPH zone starts.

There were between 3400 and 4100 vehicles per weekday passing this point heading into Lakenheath.

There were between 2400 and 3000 vehicles per day over the weekend heading into Lakenheath.

The busiest times during the week are 07:15-08:15 (Avg. 250 cars p/h) and 15:30 -15:30 (Avg. 324 cars p/h).

The 85th Percentile Speed (most people) travel at or below 34.4 MPH past his point.

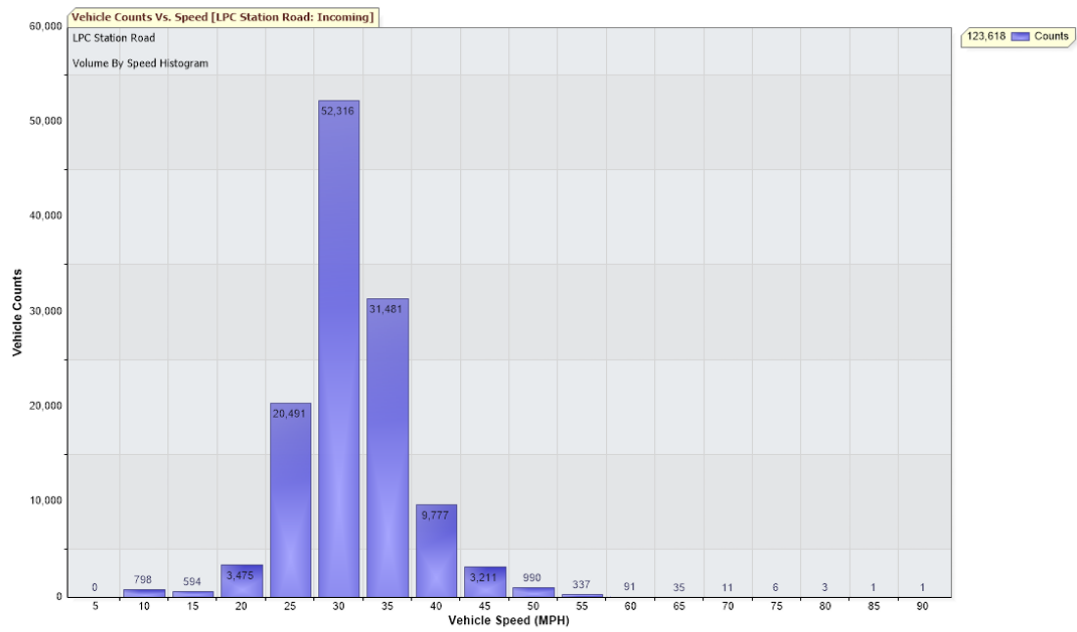
The 50th Percentile Speed (half the traffic) travel at or below 28.5 MPH past his point.

The fastest speed recorded this month was 90MPH (x1), 85MPH (x1). There were 485 vehicles exceeding 50MPH.

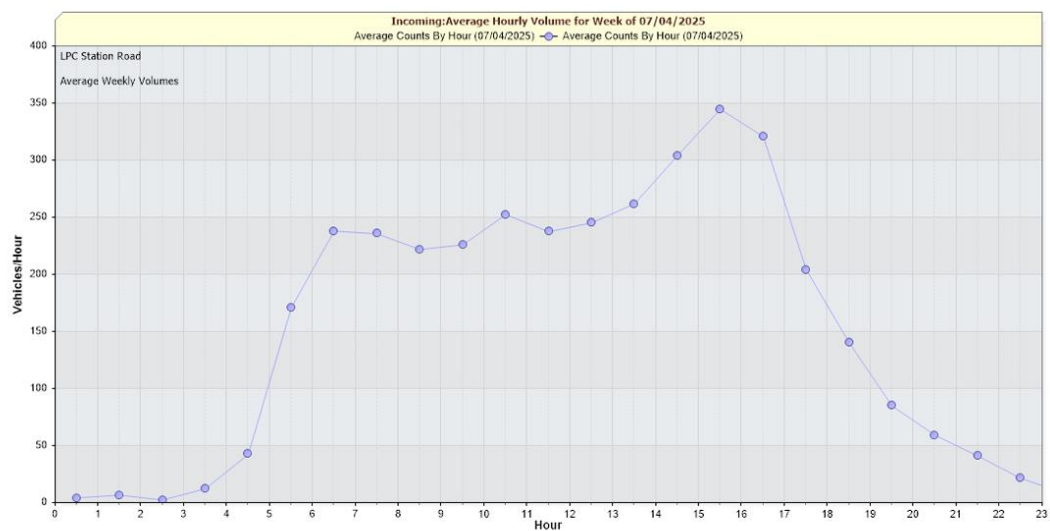
The next pages show: - Speed vs vehicle counts at the point listed above. - Typical hourly volumes passing this point - Typical daily volumes passing this point. - Speed exceedances of 35MPH for this period

The Battery measured 11.9V on 21/05/2025.

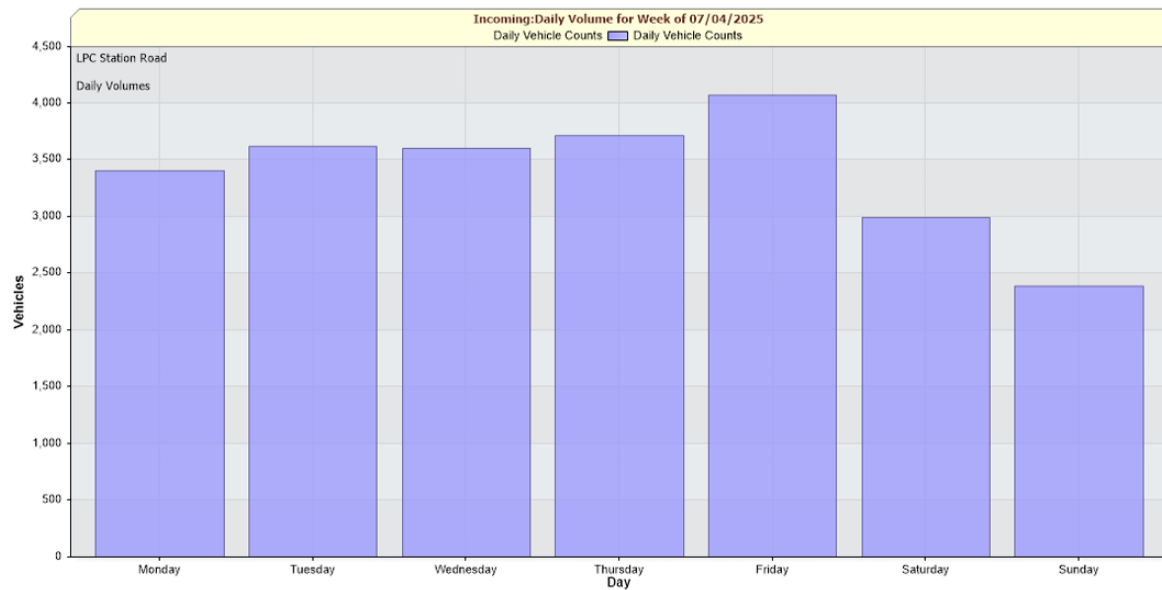
For the most effective use of the Solar PV panel, and safe access for operations personnel, a pole should be erected at <https://what3words.com/shun.petty.plank> and the SID and PV moved to this location. Safe access to SID via Woodlands Drive.



**24/03/2025 to 30/04/2025 on Station Road – Traffic from Wangford**



**Average hourly volumes heading into Lakenheath from Wangford**



**Typical daily volumes heading into Lakenheath from Wangford**

Hour	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
0 - 1	9	8	9	7	3	11	13
2 - 2	14	5	13	10	6	6	6
2 - 3	11	6	5	3	7	7	10
3 - 4	12	16	14	10	7	14	11
4 - 5	44	62	74	55	43	18	16
5 - 6	124	153	193	140	129	43	25
6 - 7	109	140	125	155	121	48	39
7 - 8	76	83	72	62	63	96	52
8 - 9	61	75	88	74	52	76	58
9 - 10	73	66	69	80	73	76	76
10 - 11	78	69	73	59	63	92	78
11 - 12	60	100	94	78	86	99	93
12 - 13	96	101	86	69	97	111	109
13 - 14	79	112	93	89	93	119	87
14 - 15	99	114	121	106	129	122	140
15 - 16	129	151	189	121	132	139	147
16 - 17	120	181	163	146	176	117	120
17 - 18	100	145	123	120	112	126	98
18 - 19	101	122	147	95	115	97	75
19 - 20	49	69	102	59	67	68	60
20 - 21	43	49	40	50	69	42	33
21 - 22	37	42	51	38	40	38	22
22 - 23	16	20	30	21	15	26	22
23 - 24	13	9	19	8	22	27	9
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1553</b>	<b>1898</b>	<b>1993</b>	<b>1655</b>	<b>1720</b>	<b>1618</b>	<b>1399</b>

**Exceeding Speed of 35MPH – April 2025**



## **Appendix D Brandon Commission**

### **The Brandon Commission**

By email

Dear Sirs

Lakenheath Parish Council wish to contribute to the evidence gathering of the Brandon Commission.

In contrast to Brandon which has been bereft of development, Lakenheath has effectively doubled in size over the last decades with a promised new school as the only infrastructure development. Lakenheath has ~5% of the population of West Suffolk but saw 17.5% of the population growth in the District in the ten years to 2021 (ONS data). None of this is acknowledged in the Local Plan as it is windfall development which is attributed to a District wide “pot” rather than Lakenheath itself. While we can see no excuse for the lack of infrastructure, the reasons cited for unprecedented growth are threefold; Brandon’s inability to develop, the Stone Curlew and growth on the base at RAF Lakenheath.

So far as the Stone Curlew issue is concerned, the situation can only be described as perverse. Sitting within the Buffer Zone, development has been allowed “with mitigation”. Though not within the Special Protection Area (SPA), there has been a long established nesting site to the South of the village; indeed when the BBC wanted to film nesting Stone Curlews for the Springwatch series, it was to Lakenheath they came.

In order to push through an application for 140 houses within 200 metres of this nesting site, a mitigation area was established some 6 kilometres away to the South. Perhaps unsurprisingly the birds did not change their destination and indeed are currently nesting where they always had, while traffic increases and construction continues. The nesting area continues over a field onto the airbase itself.

It seems clear to us that the arbitrary lines which delineate the SPA and Buffer zones either never did reflect the nesting sites (which anecdotally is the case) or over time those sites have migrated and delineation has not kept up. Either way the approach of allowing mitigation sites simply does not work. What it has done is encourage Planners to over-develop in one place because – however obviously untrue - the maps state that the Stone Curlew nests in Brandon but not in Lakenheath.

One consequence of this sits with the increase in USAF personnel numbers. Although the Ministry of Defence sold off 570 houses on Lord’s Walk because the local private rented sector “could cope” with an influx of USAF personnel, that influx exceeds the disposal several times over. As there is no development or rental capacity in Brandon, and new houses were being built in Lakenheath, the opportunity arose - and has been taken - to distort the market. USAF personnel have very generous housing allowances so much of the

new housing has gone to private landlords who can get inflated and guaranteed rental income.

Lakenheath has a significantly lower level of home ownership than the national average, which is generally indicative of an economically deprived area.

<b>Area</b>	<b>Owned</b>	<b>Rented</b>
<i>Lakenheath</i>	48.76%	51.24%
<i>Brandon East</i>	78.34%	21.66%
<i>Brandon West</i>	60.56%	39.44%
<i>West Suffolk</i>	60.18%	39.82%
<i>East of England</i>	65.23%	34.77%
<i>England</i>	61.31%	38.69%

(ONS Census Data 2021)

Similarly the make up of our population has been distorted.

<b>Area</b>	<b>Born in UK</b>	<b>Born outside UK</b>
<i>Lakenheath</i>	55.79%	44.21%
<i>Brandon East</i>	83.97%	16.03%
<i>Brandon West</i>	82.11%	17.89%
<i>West Suffolk</i>	82.98%	17.02%
<i>East of England</i>	85.09%	14.91%
<i>England</i>	82.65%	17.35%

(ONS Census Data 2021)

Apart from the pressure caused by USAF personnel not paying Council Tax, this artificial situation of higher house prices and even higher rents has meant local youngsters stand little or no chance of buying or renting where they have grown up.

Because of the nature of visiting military forces with cheaper shopping on base, our High Street has only two small “everyday shops” while hairdressers and takeaways abound. The linear nature of Lakenheath and overdevelopment has left no room for a more useful mix of shops and car parking.

Clearly these issues arise from a number of factors, but the SPA / Buffer zone has been key among these and we are greatly concerned that unless the anomalies are addressed Lakenheath will continue to be the line of least resistance for Planners and become a sink housing estate.

Our main concern is the disparity between the (quite proper) objective of protecting threatened bird species, the rules intended to meet that objective and the nonsensical application of those rules; it seems clear that the objective has been neglected to the detriment of both Brandon and Lakenheath and quite possibly the birds themselves.

Obviously if you wish to discuss this further we will make ourselves available.

Yours sincerely



Nick Smith

Chair, Lakenheath Parish Council



Gerald Kelly

District Councillor for Lakenheath