

What is POLO

Ref: KPC Meeting 9 September 2020 Appendix 7a

What Is POLO?

POLO (Parishes of the Lower Ouse) is a community group which was formed many years ago so that the C7 parishes could exchange information and, when required, take joint action, on matters of common interest. One of its major initiatives came about when it had been proposed that “one of the world’s largest water parks” was to be built in Newhaven at Riverside Park. This proposal was eventually withdrawn in 2013 following a campaign by POLO and other organisations to prevent it being approved. One of the many objections to this proposed development was the increased volume of traffic on the C7 which such a business would produce.

This problem of the speed and volume of traffic on the C7 (current weekday average volume ~ 10,000 vehicles/day) has long been and remains the major common issue for the residents of local villages and, accordingly, POLO. Several attempts have been made over the years to convince East Sussex Highways that they should take an interest in identifying the means of reducing the speed if not the volume of traffic on the C7 but these attempts have produced no satisfactory result, leaving villages to take individual action to calm traffic locally. Residents of Rodmell village eventually funded their own speed reduction and traffic calming measures in 2013 and, in 2016, a local residents association in Lewes raised funds for a traffic island near the Stanley Turner Recreation Grounds.

In 2017 it was suggested and agreed by POLO that hiring a firm which specialises in managing traffic on rural roads through innovative road design was the best way forward. Joe Attwood identified an appropriate firm, produced a project prospectus, and applied to a well-known charity which funds transport projects for the required funding of £25,000. When the application was unsuccessful and no alternative source of major funding could be identified, the project was set aside until another potential funder could be identified.

At recent meeting of POLO it was agreed that it was time to try to identify one or more potential sources of funding. This has now been accomplished and an appropriate contractor has been identified. As a result, we are now approaching parish councils, local councillors, businesses and organisations which have an interest in a safer C7 for letters/emails which indicate their support for our aims.

NB. POLO has no formal or delegated powers and its function is as a platform for promoting discussion between Parishes and finding common areas of concern that are better dealt with collectively rather than individually. Each Parish is sequentially asked to Chair POLO ensuring equal representation.