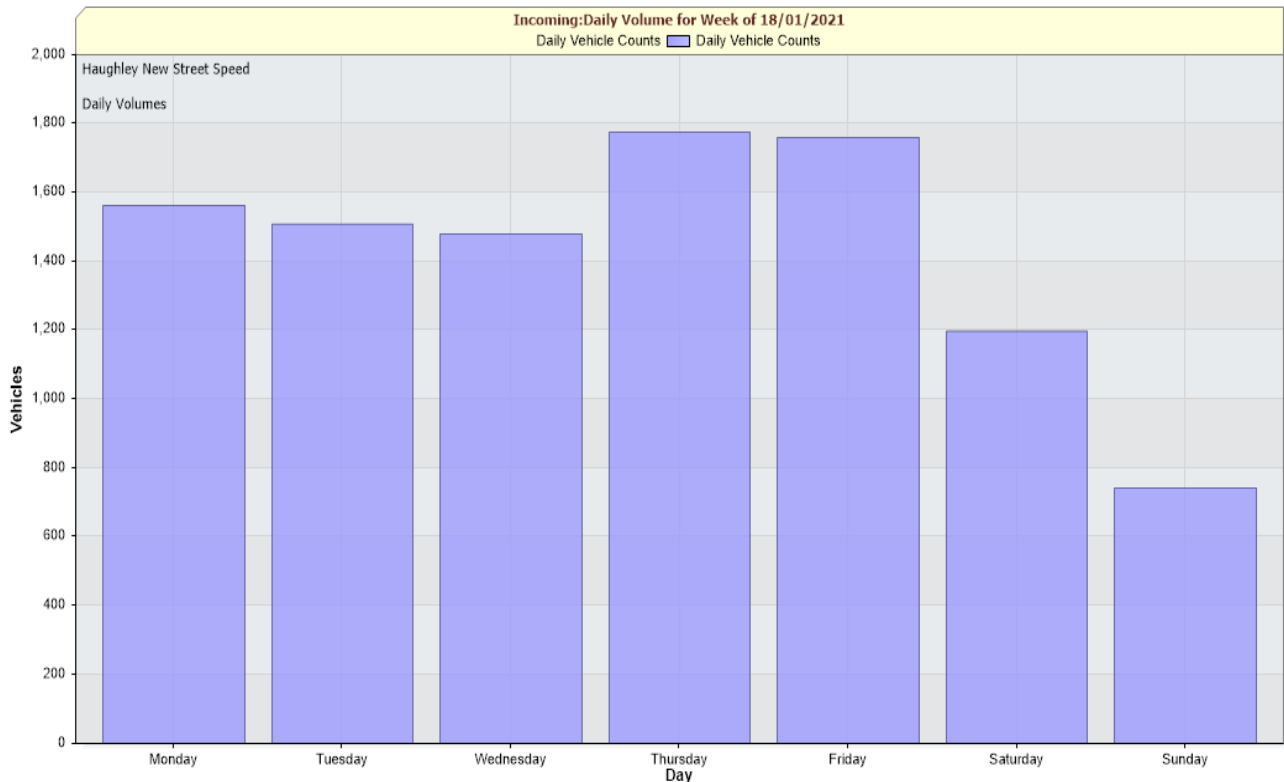


## Haughley New Street Traffic

Despite the constraints placed upon all of us this past year, it is interesting to examine the traffic movements through Haughley New Street. The analysis is of particular benefit at this time given the intent of the Haughley Parish Council to invest in additional Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) better known as speed indicators. A great deal of the traffic passing through Haughley New Street is either from the east bound A14 at Junction 47A up towards Tot Hill or travelling from Tot Hill towards Wetherden or joining the westbound A14 carriageway at Junction 47. Although there are a lot of large trucks heading to and from the Aggmax Transport facility, the VAS is unable to differentiate between trucks and cars.

The information harvested from the Haughley New Street VAS is collected daily but is processed on a weekly basis. As such, I have selected the week beginning 18 January 2021, though it is worth pointing out that on New Year's weekend there were insufficient vehicles to register, which means less than a 100 in the 24 hour period, too many sore heads perhaps! The VAS is located on the entrance into Haughley New Street from the direction of Tot Hill towards Wetherden and only monitors vehicle movement in the one direction. Therefore, all the figures and assumptions that are made are based on that vehicle movement of travel. Due to the one-way (Eastbound) nature of Junction 47A, the traffic travelling east from the A14/Aggmax/Wetherden direction is likely to be significantly more than 50% of the total. Westbound traffic rarely travels through Wetherden/Elmswell to access the A14 at Junction 47, rather they join at Tothill and travel west from there. Therefore, it is fair to assume that the VAS only attracts a round a third of the traffic through the hamlet and the figures below should probably be times by 3 to secure a realistic total of vehicle movement through Haughley New Street as homeward bound commuters from further west use Junction 47A and Haughley New Street as a short cut to Haughley, Haughley Green, Old Newton, Bacton and Mendlesham.

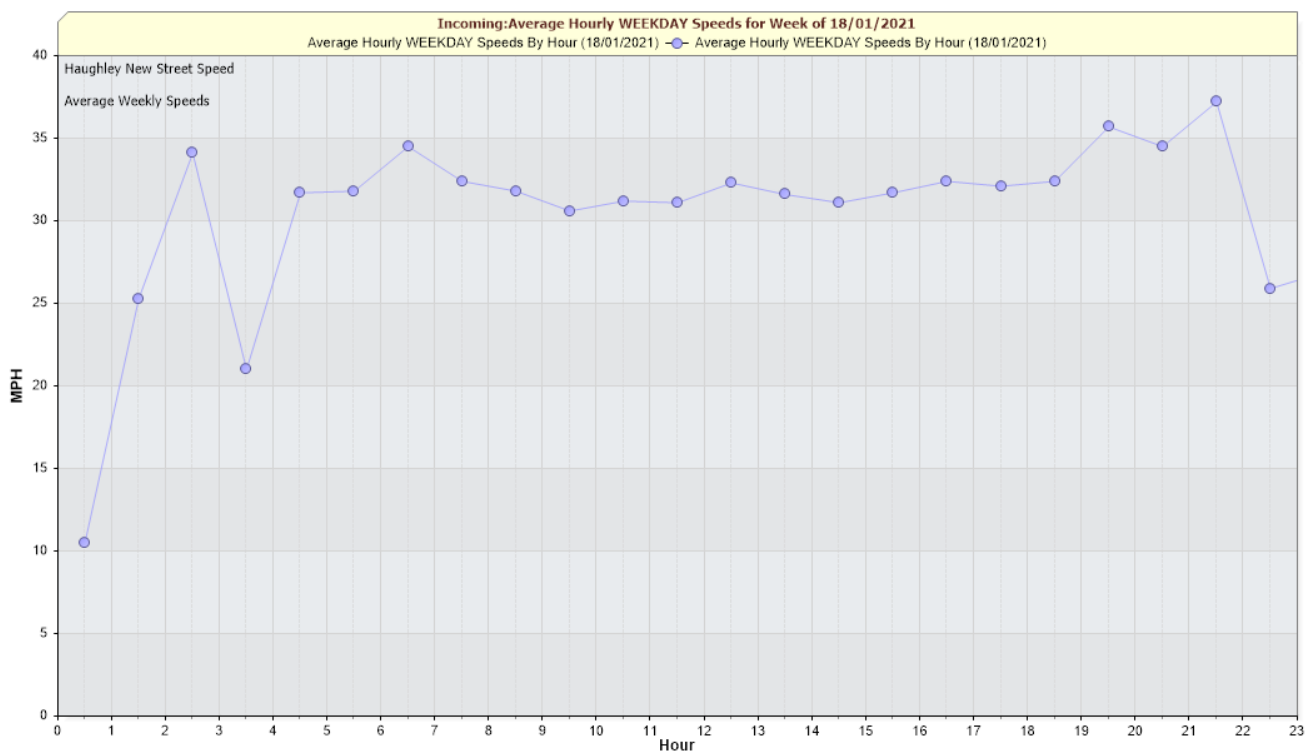


During the week there was an average of 1617 vehicles a day with Thursday and Friday being the busiest with over 1750 each, this represented 17% each of the weekly total. Perhaps indicating the impact of the Aggmax traffic, the weekends were much quieter having less than 20% of the weekly traffic with Sunday having only

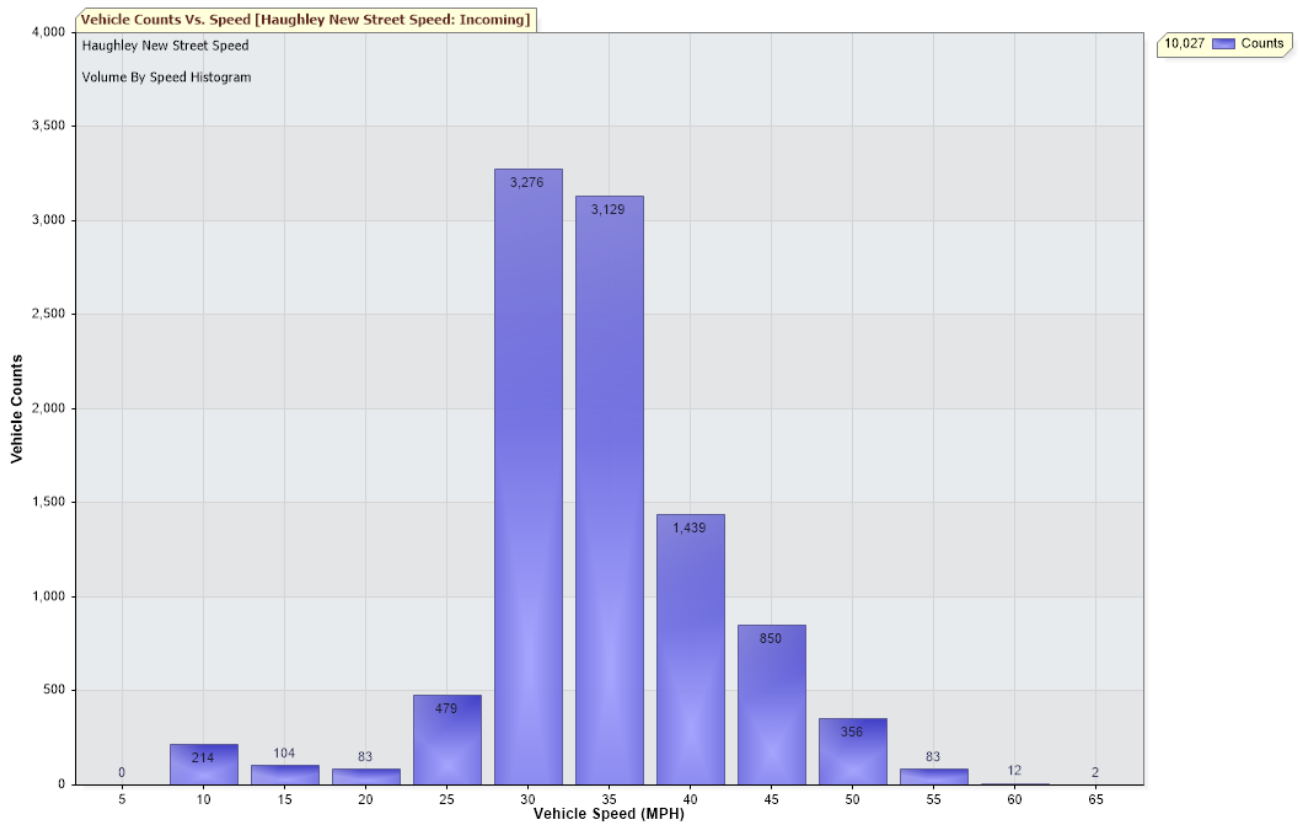
7% of the weekly total. The bar chart shows the average daily volume for the week commencing the 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

Unsurprisingly, the graph above shows the busiest time of day for vehicles passing through Haughley New Street is the commuting hours. The hours of 7am and 9am and 4pm and 6pm saw over a third of the daily traffic pass through the hamlet. Conversely, very few vehicles travel from Tot Hill through Haughley New Street between 1am to 4am in the morning. Very quiet!

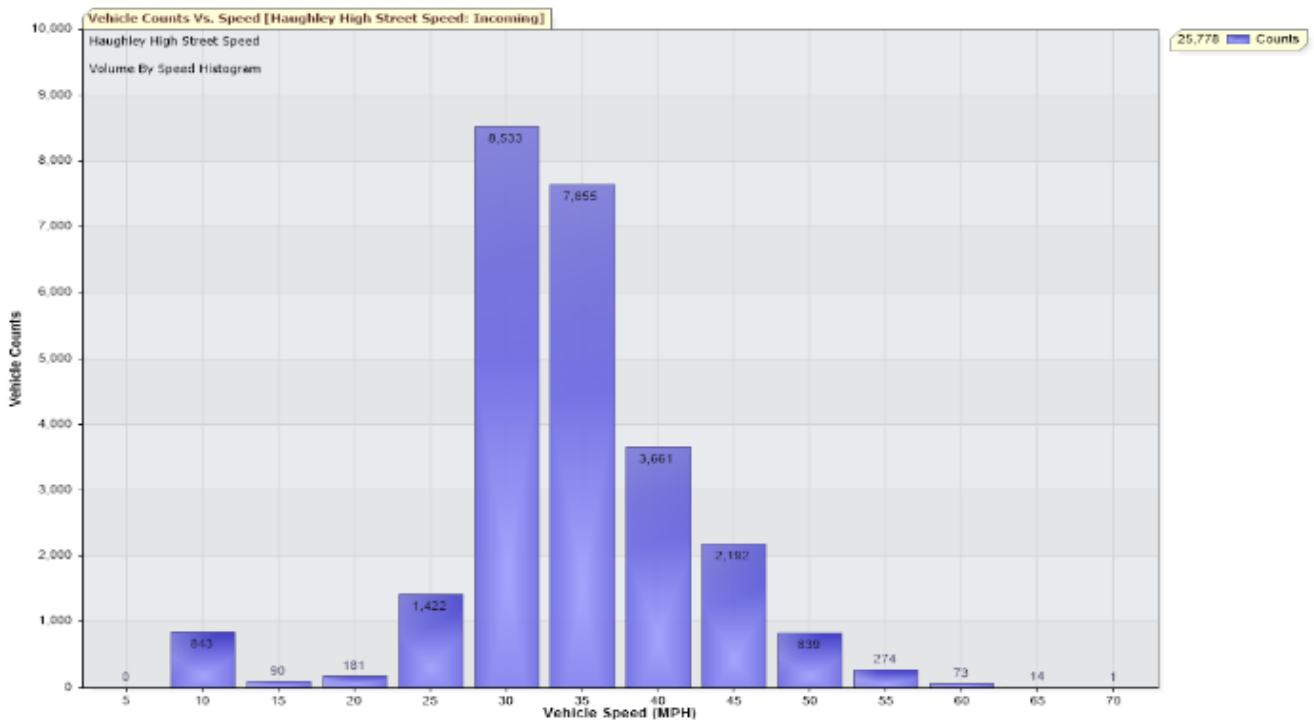
Of course volume of traffic is not always the primary concern. The speed of these vehicles can have a real impact on the local community. It is noteworthy that whilst the average speed of vehicles travelling through Haughley New Street from Tot Hill during the day is in excess of the 30mph limit, between 8am and 6pm during the weekdays it never exceeds 32.4mph. The average speeds can be seen in the graph below. There was obviously a very worried individual travelling through Haughley New Street at midnight!



The bar chart below shows the number of vehicles, of the over 10,000 that passed through Haughley New Street from Tot Hill during the week of 18 January 2021, and at what speed they passed the VAS. The vast majority are within what might be expected. One can only hope that those vehicles above 50mph managed to slow considerably before the curve within the Hamlet. Analysis of the data suggests that the further away from the daytime hours, speeds tend to increase as night-time approaches.



Just to provide a comparison between pre and post lockdown vehicle movements I want to include a snapshot from the end of 2019, a time before the pandemic and the restrictions on movement. This data from the 18<sup>th</sup> November 2019 indicates a decrease in traffic of around 15000 vehicle movements over the week – remember this is just one way through Haughley New Street. Even with this marked decrease in traffic, the 2 bar charts look pretty similar as far as speeds are concerned. Less traffic on the road has not led to higher speeds



There are still a minority of drivers that ignore the prompting from a VAS to reduce their speed. In the future there may be the opportunity to upgrade these VAS with an Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) systems to try and identify persistent offenders. It is unlikely that the police will handle and prosecute offenders identified by the Community ANPR. The deterrent factor that the driver's number plate is being recorded is thought to be a sufficient constraint to amend driver behaviour in the majority of cases. However, there could be occasions when the data is used for investigation of persistent offenders. There may be benefit in Data Processing Teams being formed within the Parish to try and demonstrate if ANPR is practical and effective in a volunteer rural setting. The Parish Council will update with further information when it becomes available, but it's worth considering if such an option may be beneficial for your location.

The data harvested from the Haughley New Street VAS indicates that there is no great speeding problem through the Hamlet. This outcome is probably as much due to the VAS and its positioning on the entrance into the hamlet as it is to the attention of some of the drivers. Haughley Parish Council is actively assessing additional locations for VAS throughout the parish and once consultation has been undertaken with Highways England and the local population to agree the locations, we should see even further speed deterrents established to ensure that our local area becomes even safer for both drivers and pedestrians throughout Haughley.

Andy Flint  
Haughley Parish Council