

On 3 September our District Councillor, Sue Wood and I had a helpful meeting with Andy Smith the Principal Traffic Management Engineer at HCC. We discussed at length the points raised at our Planning Meeting in August. Below is a progress report on the key issues:-

Traffic count – ordered 08.09.14. Requested that the surveys to be carried out before Oct half term if possible or as soon as possible after.

Speed checks Stockbridge Road – Andy S has asked the Police for details of any enforcement action they have carried out.

Weight limit signs Dean Lane – The measures at the disposal of Traffic Management teams for existing hgv-related issues are quite limited and do not necessarily resolve problems to the extent the public would like. Formal weight/width restrictions etc are not wholly supported by the Police, as they are very difficult to enforce and are therefore reliant on driver compliance. They require implementation of a legally enforceable Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) that will contain exemptions for legitimate vehicle movements for various activities – i.e. deliveries, removals, maintenance etc – which further complicates enforcement and often means that a significant amount of hgv movements continue. We also have to be careful not to merely displace problems onto other nearby, and perhaps less appropriate, routes. For these reasons, we do not implement many of this type of TRO and resolving hgv issues is extremely difficult.

Signs at Dean Lane junction – now completed.

Volume/speed of traffic through the village -

Average speed data from 2009 surveys –south of Woodman Close 32.2mph northbound/28.7mph southbound;
between Church Lane and Woodman Close 21.2mph northbound/19.5mph southbound;
Church Lane junction 19.9mph northbound/18.9mph southbound

Accident history – In the past 3 years there have been no injury-accidents reported along Woodman Lane. The latest reported incident seems to have occurred just inside Watley Lane – on 25/6/14 a car turned left into Watley Lane and collided with a car turning right out of Home Lane, resulting in slight injuries.

The village has a good accident record and therefore does not rate for inclusion on HCC's safety programme at present. Build-outs etc can be considered more in terms of environmental enhancement etc, but alternative methods of funding would need to be found. The Parish Council should consider the impact any additional physical features would have on the village and on agricultural traffic etc. If there is a local desire to pursue this, I will speak to the Transport team to see if this could be considered as a future minor works scheme.

Watley Lane – Not sure there is any merit in altering the arrangements/layout at the junction. Removing the island could increase speed and in the absence of any accident history there, I would be cautious about making the situation worse by

making unnecessary changes. HCC will need more details of the local concerns there to consider further.

School Crossing Patrol (Lollipop person) at the school – this has been referred to the Road Safety Team and School Travel Plans team. The School Head, Sue Wood and I will be meeting with the School Travel Plans Team in October.

20mph in the village – Sparsholt is included on the list of potential future schemes. There is a long list of potential sites and it is constantly being added to. It is not clear yet whether funding for future 20mph schemes will be made available. Existing schemes are being monitored.

Fixed Speed camera – as discussed, these are only provided in high risk casualty sites. These are dealt with by the Police.

Speed Limit Reminder signs (flashing signs) – as discussed, PC to reconsider. Details supplied.

Community Speed Watch – as discussed, PC to reconsider. Details supplied.

There was also a discussion of the recent serious flooding around The Plough and a new requirement for a survey in Spring 2015 to confirm, or otherwise, the presence of Great Crested Newts in the balancing pond. We asked that urgent consideration be given to identify and implement measures this autumn to alleviate flooding around The Plough until the survey is complete and the Balancing Pond can be excavated.

Our District Councillor, Sue and I will be meeting Tim Jackson on 30 September to discuss Sparsholt College's plans for Traffic Management