

Several months ago I created a public petition regarding what has to be one of the most common issues raised to me by my residents; the speed of the traffic on the A37 through Clutton.

This is a stretch of road which has seen several nasty accidents in the past few years which I can remember, some of them fatal. In most of the worst; vehicle speed was a significant contributing factor. In response to this I decided to organise this petition which gained a fair number of signatures and I need to feel that it was not carried from door to door in order to get people to sign. I wanted to ensure that I was properly gauging public opinion so for this reason the papers were left in the local post office (whom I am grateful to for hosting it) and advertised in the local press so that people had to go out of their way to sign it.

Essentially the petition is calling for the speed limit to be reduced from 40 to 30 miles per hour in line with every other rural parish on the A37 in Bath and North East Somerset.

Do I honestly believe that a 30 limit would overnight cause all drivers to actually stick to such a restriction? No. Currently the limit is 40 and I would imagine that a lot of the traffic outside of peak hours is most likely travelling at more like 50. However, it would send a clear signal that this is a residential area and drivers need to pay due care and attention to this.

As you are probably aware; Clutton currently is due to expand in the next few years and there is currently planning permission for roughly 60 new houses in total and this is not counting any more successful planning applications in the future. This is bound to increase the traffic flow on some of the dangerous junctions. Also, thanks to this Cabinet there is also a relatively new puffin crossing on this stretch. I'm sure that people would feel safer using this in the knowledge that it is less likely that they may have a vehicle heading for them at some considerable speed. Another possible future change which could easily lead to more residents needing to cross this road is talk of a new farm shop on the west side of the A37 which is another thing which needs to be considered.

Therefore I am here to present this petition to the Cabinet member for transport. My residents, the parish council and I would be most grateful for her assistance where she can in this matter.