

Chairman, Members of Cabinet, Councillors,

Thank you for the opportunity to present this petition for a light controlled pedestrian crossing for A39 Marksbury.

The petition has been signed by residents, local businesses and their employees, with additional letters of support from a Day Care provider, and St Peters church and some photographic evidence.

Whilst Marksbury Primary school has once again written to the Parish Council asking that it seeks a safer crossing for the A39.

We are a small village of some 100 dwellings. The Parish council area, which includes Stanton Prior and Hunstrete only, has 321 on the Electoral role.

73% of dwellings, school and village hall are on one side of the A39, with 27% and the church on the other. Businesses at Westway garage, and the co-operative supermarket are to the western end of the village, at the junction of the A39 and A368.

From there These two busy A roads then, merge to become just one road through the village, until it reaches the Two Headed Man junction with the B3116 for Keynsham where traffic divides.

Concern about the volume and speed of traffic through Marksbury is nothing new. The Parish Council are very grateful for the advice it has received in the past from Council officers. Particularly from Kelvin Packer and his team.

The police have tried putting speed traps in the village, but it seems that there are technical difficulties to do with sight line which makes them useless.

The Church is a community asset. Holding monthly afternoon teas, a weekend music festival in May, summer barbecue, as well as the usual services.

Whenever the school attend a function at the church, they have to get Police there to stop the traffic to allow children to cross the road.

There are bus stops on both sides of the road, and older children have to cross to catch school transport to Wellsway school to College at Radstock, or public transport for Keynsham, or Midsomer Norton.

There is a refuge in the middle of the road. It is narrow, and is seldom used because of its location. There is not enough room for parents with small children, with maybe a buggy to stand on it. It is a very dangerous and frightening experience.

To join in events at the village hall – you have to cross the road.

Many parents choose not to allow their children to use the play area because it means crossing the A39.

To shop at the supermarket, you have to take your life in your hands cross both main roads and dodge the traffic at least four times!

For elderly or less mobile people it often means not being able to join in community activities.

We are a divided village, a community split in two by a large volume of speeding traffic. This council already recognises that crossing the A39 is a dangerous route to school and provides transport as a result.

To quote the leader of the Council in a recent press release,

‘invest in the future, and put the interests of Residents first

Please, provide a safe crossing, a safer route to school, and quite literally, connect our community.

We ask that you provide a light controlled pedestrian crossing for the A39 at Marksbury.

Thank you