

11th March 2019

Shoscombe Parish Council CTE Panel statement

We are Mary Upton and Jackie Withers representing Shoscombe Parish Council. We would like help with the problems posed by the current legal 60mph limits on our narrow country roads throughout the Parish. This situation threatens the safety of all of our Parishioners. Most importantly, children using the walking bus to school each morning, to alleviate parking problems, and those walking to and from school across the Parish are particularly vulnerable.

We have advisory 20mph limits on one road by the school. To protect our parishioners and children in particular we request an extension of these 20mph limits throughout the Parish, and a change from advisory to mandatory status of those speed limits.

Our Parish consists of five small hamlets linked by roads with blind bends and no pavements. We are experiencing more traffic incidents and accidents due to an increasing volume of traffic including delivery vans and cars using our roads as 'rat runs'. This is having a detrimental impact on the safety of local car drivers and pedestrians. In addition, we have cyclists travelling sometimes at speed along the Sustrans route no. 24, and horse riders from two horse riding schools in the vicinity.

For example, in one location, two recent recorded accidents on Hang Hill were caused in each case by the excess speed of one vehicle. These accidents caused injury and in both cases one vehicle was written off. Other accidents have occurred in this location due to the local terrain and the blind bends in this particular vicinity.

Other accidents and incidents across the Parish include an earlier collision between a van and a pedestrian and a cyclist riding at speed and a pedestrian. The first pedestrian was knocked from her feet and the other was admitted to A&E and immobilised for some time. Incidents and accidents such as these are not rare occurrences; they are very frightening to experience and inhibit free movement of pedestrians. 'Near misses' between cyclists and cars at junctions occur quite frequently.

Our question is: How can the Council justify allowing vehicles travelling at speeds of up to 60mph in our Parish?

Thank you for your time and consideration

Mary Upton

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Detail of accidents between cars on Hang Hill:

On 8th January 2019, the post van records report a speed of 7mph as it was hit by a car. In the same location, on 21st February 2019 delivery van doing 45mph collided with a car.