

PROPOSAL FOR A NEW SPEED LIMIT OF 30mph FROM THE BATH
ROUNABOUT, UP DUNKERTON HILL TO THE BEGINNING OF
ASHGROVE, PEASEDOWN ST JOHN

Throughout Peasedown St John there is a 20mph speed limit. This speed limit is rarely observed whether coming into the village from Dunkerton Hill or from the A367 onto Bath Road or on Orchard Way from the A367.

At present the speed limit from the Bath roundabout up Dunkerton Hill is 50mph.

This ends at the beginning of Ashgrove which has a 20mph speed limit.

This results in vehicles arriving on Ashgrove and the first speed bump at a far greater speed than 20mph.

Vehicles leaving the village along Ashgrove can see whether something is coming the other way and generally speed up long before leaving the 20mph zone as they can see they are heading for a 50mph zone down Dunkerton Hill.

The current speed bumps and traffic controls - a build-out at the beginning of Ashgrove - do little to slow the traffic down or deter drivers from racing through the traffic control. Ashgrove is a long straight road which allows some drivers to see what is coming in the opposite direction and race to beat the oncoming traffic through the traffic control.

This also has an impact on drivers coming out of Eckweek Lane onto Ashgrove. On turning left into Ashgrove they are entering a 20mph zone but on turning right they are facing into the end of a 50mph zone and all the traffic racing to get through the traffic calming. I have witnessed many many near misses whilst waiting at the bus stop. Exiting Eckweek Lane is not for the faint hearted.

There are many problems along the Bath Road leading to Ashgrove and some solutions have been put in place over the years but what would be really useful would be an overall assessment of what could be done

to make a bigger impact on controlling the speed of traffic through our village.

I would not suggest speed cameras or anything that involves fining anybody should be used but I do believe with some well placed signage and a limit to 30mph on Dunkerton Hill a difference could be made.

There are many different aspects to getting drivers to respect the 20mph speed limit in the village - the main road through the village is pretty straight which somehow makes it "difficult" to maintain a 20mph speed - I have been told!

We have four bus routes going through the village and a coach company in the heart of the village.

PARKING

Last year the build-out on Ashgrove had double yellow lines put around it meaning we lost 2 parking spaces. Half of the houses on Ashgrove between the two traffic calming build-outs do not have a driveway or the possibility of one and therefore have to park on the road. Many of us park around the corner on Eckweek Lane but again we are about to lose two spaces there when a new-build currently being constructed is completed. The driveway to this property, the one next door and one across the road are the width of two spaces each. As much as we want people to use public transport we all do inevitably have at least one car per household and it is becoming more and more difficult to park within walking distance of our front doors.

Perhaps parking could be allowed for in a more creative way on Ashgrove instead of the build-outs?

As a Parish Counsellor I have listened to residents on Wellow Lane, Braysdown Lane and Orchard Way all ask the Parish Council to do something about speeding but as a council we feel there is little we can do without the help of BANES as these are all major traffic routes.

I have canvassed my neighbours on Ashgrove, Eckweek Road, Eckweek Lane, Gordon Road and North Meadows and I have the results here. Of the 121 homes I leafleted I have 46 responses from residents concerned about the ever increasing speeds they are seeing on a daily basis.

We are asking for a temporary speed bar to be installed on Ashgrove to collect the data needed to really understand what is happening with the average speed of the vehicles coming into and leaving the village at this location.

Coupled with the 30mph limit on Dunkerton the general consensus is that new signage - perhaps “welcome to our 20mph village”, “thank you for driving carefully” or even “welcome to our 20mph eco village” would be appropriate. In an effort to reduce emissions we do need to observe the lower speed limits in all areas and not just in towns and cities. I appreciate it is hard for some people to agree that pollution is a major problem for us when you are up the hill in Peasedown but this is also about helping to change hearts and minds wherever people drive.

For a 20mph limit to become the norm rather than an annoying nuisance. At present in Peasedown the speed limit is not observed by cars, vans, lorries or buses causing pollution, noise and danger for residents.

Thank you for your time and I hope you are able to help us with ensuring the 20mph limit is better observed in our village.