

TRAFFIC MEETING NOTES HELD ON THE 16TH NOVEMBER 2018 AT MELBURY OSMOND VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT- Councillor M. Smith, PCSO Alex Bishop (Police), Paul Thatcher (Dorset Highways), Mary Penfold (District Councillor), Ben Jones (Ilchester Estates), Jodie Carter (Clerk) and 21 members of public including Councillors R. Caesley and A. Roxburgh.

1 SPEED LIMIT

The Public – There were concerns about the speed of traffic through the village especially from the main road to the Holt Mill Junction. It was perceived that some vehicles were driving up to 50 miles an hour. It was suggested that overall the traffic from Ilchester Estates was very good. However there was an understanding that some of their contractors and other commercial delivery vehicles were being driven without due care and at speed. This led the public to inquire as to whether there was any possibility for a speed limit and/or speed limit signage on this road.

The Response – The Representatives stated that the road came under a national speed limit and therefore speeding was not the issue. However driving without due care and consideration is a matter for the Police and should also be reported to the commercial operators concerned.

It was reported that the road had been ranked for its suitability in regards to speed limits. Unfortunately the ranking is far too low for Highways to consider a speed restriction due to the lack of significant buildings such as Hospitals/Schools and the low density of residential properties. The 2013 Traffic Survey had supported the road ranking. This was argued as out of date by some members of the public. The Highways Representative maintained that the levels were far too low to be considered for a new count to be undertaken by Dorset Highways. However the Parish Council could undertake a new traffic survey that would cost a minimum of 200 pounds and realistically there would be no real prospect of the ranking changing.

2 PASSING PLACES

The Public – There were concerns about vehicles using private drives as passing places especially from the A37 to Holt Junction. Some members of the public had reported damage to property and also that gates had been opened on private drives in order to facilitate passing. In response to this some residents had placed obstacles (such as blocks and wheelie bins) in their drives to prevent them being used in this fashion.

The Response – Firstly the Highways Representative explained that there was nothing to stop people placing objects in their driveways however these should be 450mm back from the edge of the road. He also acknowledged that it was difficult to assess the exact edge of the road.

Secondly the Police Representative stated that any damage to property should be reported to the Police.

Lastly the general conclusion was that there was not enough need to consider having more dedicated passing places.

3 ADDITIONAL SIGNAGE

The Public – asked for additional signage in order to help reduce speeds.

The Response – from the representatives was that the ranking of the road was too low to warrant this being undertaken.

4 SIZE AND SPEED OF FARM VEHICLES

The Public – From the A37 to Holt Mill junction residents complained of houses “...*bouncing and shaking*...” when farm vehicles pass. There was then a suggestion that farm vehicles use an alternative route which could be created opposite the Yetminster turning (on the A37) to Brake’s Hill. Although it was conceded that the majority of vehicles were being considerate to residents.

Lastly there was a request for a curfew on farming hours and another request for Ilchester Estates to operate a one-way system that came via Holt Mill.

The Response – Highways stated that the condition of the road had been investigated, within the planning application for the Bio-digester, and had been considered acceptable. It was again repeated that inconsiderate driving should be reported to the Police and vehicle operators.

The proposed alternative route had previously been looked into and dismissed by Dorset Highways as would create a dangerous junction. Furthermore Ilchester Estates had ruled it out because of costs. The curfew suggestion was also dismissed as farming operated 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. In regard to the one-way system Ilchester Estates stated that they already operated a one-way system via Holt Mill when possible.

5 SIZE AND SPEED OF DELIVERY VEHICLES

The Public – A number of residents complained that large vehicles going to the Townsend Industrial Units miss the turning on Brake's Hill causing traffic problems in the main village. It was suggested this may be due to SAT NAV issues. It was recognized that both of the businesses operating from the Townsend Units had tried to stop deliveries going down through the village.

Again it was voiced that the size and speed of vehicles were issues for residents. It was also suggested that delivery deadlines were unrealistic and this contributed to speeding. There were also concerns that the traffic priority at Holt Junction was unclear.

The Response – There was little that could be done regarding the SAT NAV issues. It was suggested that the issue of delivery deadlines could be raised with our MP. Sir Oliver Letwin. An on-site meeting was organized between Ilchester Estates, Dorset Highways and Melbury Parish Reps. concerning the Holt Junction and Townsend Industrial Units Junction. This meeting took place immediately after the Traffic Meeting.

The Outcomes of this further meeting were as follows;

A HOLT JUNCTION

- Highways agreed to paint a continuous white line defining the major road and turning into Melbury Dairies. This has now been completed.
- Highways would look into adding an 'Unsuitable for HGV's' sign to the existing signpost. This is still under consideration.
- A representative of MPC suggested a mirror at the junction. This was dismissed by Dorset Highways as they can give false readings and are of little use at night. Therefore they declined to put one up.

B TOWNSEND INDUSTRIAL UNITS JUNCTION

- Ilchester Estates agree to reposition the sign nearer to the road and add an additional arrow for clarity. This has now been completed.

C OVERVIEW OF TRAFFIC ISSUES

- The Dorset Highways representative drove around the village accompanied by the Chairman of MOPC in order to analyse all the issues and thus continue to work together in order to seek solutions.