

BROXTON & DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL

Notes of meeting with Police & Crime Commission (PCC) on A534 Wednesday 9th August 2023

Present:

Broxton & District Parish Council – Carol Shadbolt, Mark Henshall, David Williams, Ann Wright (Acting Clerk).

CW&C – Cllr Mike Jones

Police & Crime Commissioners Office – John Dwyer, Kate Harrington-Lambert.

Purpose of Meeting: To discuss A534 Road Safety Issues

The meeting took place at the junction of Sherrington Lane, Harthill Lane and the A534 next to the Sandstone Inn. It was highlighted the main issues which need to be addressed are:

- Speeding despite the 50mph speed limit.
- Vehicles overtaking while people are exiting the junctions.
- Lack of visibility at the junction for those exiting.
- Lack of visibility of junction to drivers on the A534 and incorrect signage (there is no signage warning of the junction just a sign showing a left turn to Harthill).
- Danger to vehicles slowing down to turn off the A534 including into their own properties.

It was noted the signage issues have been reported to CW&C Highways.

It was also noted that temporary signage installed for events at Bolesworth Castle also block visibility.

It was noted that double white lines have been requested to stop overtaking however Highways have refused these. An alternative of broken white lines with hatching has also been requested as seen elsewhere in the Borough and Highways have said the road is too narrow for these to be installed. It was questioned whether this is true (each carriage way is 3.56m).

Highways had agreed interactive flashing signs could be installed but would have to be funded by the Parish Council at a cost of approx. £12k, noting the Council's precept is £6k.

It was noted the green open reach box has been damaged at least twice on the roadside by vehicles hitting it.

It was noted that motorbikes are a particular concern given their speed and noise. The PCC reported that a trial is taking place in Wilmslow using an acoustic traffic camera which can identify vehicles producing high levels of noise. He confirmed that CW&C had to manage the device as it is the Local Authority rather than the Police who have powers over noise issues.

The PCC confirmed that the Police now have radar boxes which can be installed for a set period of time and will record the number, type, and speed of vehicles and that he would request the local police installed one on the A534. The information collected from the box will inform what enforcement should be carried out.

It was noted that the junction is well use with approx. 100 dwellings using the junction from Brown Knowl etc as their main route out of the village as well as visitors to the Sandstone Inn and those who use the car park for walking in the area.

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It was noted that volunteers could not man the speed indicator device (SID) on the A534 as it can only be used where speed limits are 40mph or below due to health and safety regulations.

It was discussed that cutting back the hedge on the corner of the junction belonging to The Woodlands would make a significant improvement to visibility.

The PCC reported that a trial was also taking place where average speed cameras had been installed in parishes and a report on these is expected in the autumn. It was understood the cameras costed £50k which could be paid for over a 10-year period. The cameras monitor traffic speed in both directions. One of the discussions around this trial is if the fines collected could be used to help fund the cameras.

It was noted the installation of speed cameras would be a long-term strategy, in the short-term cutting back the hedge on the corner of Sherrington Lane would have a big impact. It was agreed the Clerk would write to the property owner and ask that hedge is given a hard prune back to the boundary line and confirm that there was a possibility of the works being done when a local contractor is cutting other hedges in the area.

The PCC confirmed he would write to Cllr Karen Shore, CW&C Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways and Transport raising the concerns discussed.

All were thanked for attending the meeting,

Ann Wright
10/08/2023