

Correspondence with Dorset Council about speed limits in the village

*Letter sent to Road Safety Manager at Dorset Council*

I am writing to you on behalf of Broadmayne Parish Council (BPC) on highway issues following contact from some concerned residents and discussions at the most recent meeting of Broadmayne Parish Council.

Concerns of residents

We believe the residents concerned have already contacted Dorset Council (DC), Dorset Councillor Roland Tarr and West Dorset MP Chris Loder on this subject and we would like to add Broadmayne Parish Council's views and support where appropriate on the matters raised. The issues raised by the resident in question are at Appendix A. At the Parish Council meeting on 7 February there was a lengthy discussion of these concerns, concentrating on the issue of traffic speeds, both within and on the approach to the village.

It is the perception of residents that a great proportion of the traffic within the 30 mph limit is speeding. A considerable proportion of the A352 within the village does not have a footway. This has the effect of deterring users on foot and on bicycle, particularly those with children, forcing additional use of cars to access the school and other facilities.

At a presentation to the Parish Meeting in 2017, those present were told that a reduction of the speed limit to 20 mph on the A352 was not possible because it was a strategic route. However, circumstances have altered considerably. BPC is aware that central government guidance on this has changed and that Dorset Council is now reviewing its own policies in this respect. Also, the recent revision of the Highway Code changed the hierarchy of road users and, given the relatively poor facilities for more vulnerable users on the A352, BPC would strongly support the proposal for a change from 30mph to 20mph within the village. It is noted that Beaminster has recently had a reduction in speed limit from 30mph to 20mph over an approximate 0.3miles length of the A3066. BPC would support DC considering the built-up area of the village, which stretches for approximately 0.6miles, as an urban area similar to Beaminster so that a reduction can be applied while remaining within policy.

A particular issue which was raised about the speed of traffic beyond the 30 mph zone is the situation at Little Mayne (to the west of the village) where there is difficulty with egress from and access to the property. Although drivers travelling east slow in the vicinity of the bend before Little Mayne, they accelerate again on the approach to the village, rendering the Little Mayne exit dangerous. BPC understands that Royal Mail and other delivery drivers have indicated they may not be able to continue to deliver to Little Mayne because of the dangers posed. BPC welcomed the 50mph speed limit enacted in 2016 and confirmed in 2017 but now supports a reduction to 40mph between Sunnymead and the start of the village

30mph zone. This would also have the effect of improving safety for pedestrians accessing the rights of way which run in both directions from the A352 at Sunnymeade. If a 20mph zone is introduced in the village this would ease the transition to the lower speed.

BPC would welcome discussion either on line or in person at a site meeting with DC officers to discuss this issue. BPC is keen that the change in hierarchy in road users is seen as an opportunity to enhance the safety of residents and vulnerable road user groups.

We would request that first contact is made through the Clerk to the Council who can then make arrangements for attendance from within BPC.

*Reply received*

I can advise that a revised Dorset Council process for assessing 20mph requests is being developed and will go to committee in April. The process is likely to include a requirement for an application form to be submitted by the Parish Council. As a general rule, unless in exceptional circumstances, A or B classification locations will not be considered for 20mph schemes. Once the new assessment process has been agreed I can make contact and explain how an application for a 20mph scheme can be made.

I can confirm that the Road Safety Team are in the process of reviewing the safety concerns at Little Mayne and as soon as I have an update I or a member of the team will update.