

Many thanks for letting us know that there are many Great Hinton residents who are interested in finding a way forward to address growing concerns over the volume and speed of traffic through the village. Now that we know there is a body of support to provide us with solid information, the Parish Council will be asked at its next meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024 to consider whether to apply for a traffic survey request.

So that everybody has the full picture, it may be useful to summarise ways in which the Parish Council has looked at traffic issues this year.

In March we sought advice on how to change the speed limit in the village from 30mph to 20mph. This was in response to a request from a resident. The information we received from Mark Stansby, Senior Traffic Engineer, Highways, Wiltshire Council was as follows:

*"A formal speed assessment is charged at £2,500. Changes to a speed limit, assuming that the assessment recommends any changes, might cost in the region of £5,000 (inclusive of legal fees) although without knowing the extent of the area to be reviewed this is very much a guesstimate at this time. Currently, your Parish would be expected to contribute 25% of costs.*

*An option the Parish might wish to consider, is to request a traffic survey, to determine current speeds at a given point within the village. This is a free service and details of how to apply can be found via this link:*

*Local Highway and Footway Improvement Groups - Wiltshire Council*

*I should point out that a Traffic Survey is not a substitute for a formal assessment, but it could help inform the Parish on whether to pursue this or not."*

Just for information, to see what the outcome of a recent traffic survey looks like click on [Vehicle speed in Broad Hinton \(bhwbparishcouncil.org.uk\)](https://www.bhwbparishcouncil.org.uk). Opening the PDF will show an example of the way the results will be presented. As you can see, as a result of the survey, Wiltshire Council informed them that no further action will be taken.

It's also worth noting that the option of a Community Speedwatch depends on the outcome of a traffic survey.

In June, the requester submitted a traffic survey request form to the PC, and the option of applying for a traffic survey was discussed at the PC meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2023. For various reasons, including balancing a probable outcome with appropriate use of public funding, a lack of information at the time of wider community support for the potential costs of a speed assessment, the results of an informal vehicle-count during the morning "rush-hour" which showed a total of 28 vehicles (the equivalent of one every two minutes) passing the phone box between 8.10 a.m. and 9.10 a.m. on a term-time Tuesday morning and advice from Jonathan Seed that there is virtually no enforcement of the 20mph limits, it was decided we were not ready to make an application at that meeting. We continued to research local examples, and other options (such as speed awareness stickers).

As part of this research, in July our Clerk supplied us with the speed assessment received by West Ashton Council, [2023-028-West-Ashton-20-mph-Speed-Restriction-Assessment-Report\\_FINAL.pdf](#). This is a example of the exercise referred to by Mark Stansby as being charged at £2,500, but the cost to our PC should only be £625 (25%). It is important to read it, as it explains the process of analysis against Wiltshire County Policy, and directs you to the national legislation, DfT Circular 01/2013, and Traffic Advisory Leaflet 01/04 – "Village Speed Limits". It's also interesting to see what costs are likely to be involved for West Ashton.

As a result of an informal meeting of Parish Councillors on 12<sup>th</sup> October, it was agreed to apply to the LHFIFG (Local Highway and Footpath Improvement Group) for a 'single track with passing places' sign to be placed at each end of the main route through the village, i.e. at the crossroads at the top of the village and at the junction with the A361 at the Strand. It was felt that such signs might discourage motorists from using the village as a through route. We have contacted Keevil Parish Council to keep them informed as the sign at the junction at The Strand would be in their parish. As we expect the cost of each sign to be under £500, there shouldn't be a cost to either PC. We also discussed traffic issues with Mike Sankey, chair of the Melksham LHFIFG, when he attended our PC meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> November. We were able to show him a picture of a lorry that

passed through the village that was well over the 7.5 ton limit (it could have required access). On behalf of the Parish Council, Mary Winterburn has attended Melksham LHFIF meetings, and will be attending the Area Board meeting (with a focus of Highways Matters) on 6<sup>th</sup> December.

#### How can residents help the Parish Council?

- If any resident has experience of successfully achieving a 30mph to 20mph limit change, it would be most helpful if they could contact the PC via the Clerk
- Please familiarise yourselves with the process outlined by Mark Stansby (in blue italics above)
- Please read the information relating to the survey process  
[https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/media/11956/Traffic-Survey-Request-Process-Information-April-2023/default/Traffic\\_Survey\\_Request\\_Process\\_Information\\_April\\_2023.odt?m=1695727187760](https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/media/11956/Traffic-Survey-Request-Process-Information-April-2023/default/Traffic_Survey_Request_Process_Information_April_2023.odt?m=1695727187760)
- Please read the form so you can understand what information needs to be included  
[https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/media/11957/Traffic-survey-request-form-February-2022/default/Traffic-survey-request-form\\_February\\_2022.odt?m=1695727242347](https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/media/11957/Traffic-survey-request-form-February-2022/default/Traffic-survey-request-form_February_2022.odt?m=1695727242347)
- Please read the PDF we have researched from West Ashton. If we are to take action it is most important that we all understand the next stage of the process.
- If we are assessed as qualifying for a [Community Speedwatch \(wiltshire-pcc.gov.uk\)](https://www.wiltshire-pcc.gov.uk). We will need volunteers prepared to be trained and willing to carry it out.
- Include Traffic Survey request form (with our support if needed) on our agenda for the meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024.
- One important aspect of the traffic survey is the placement of the equipment, so those who have been monitoring the problem may be able to offer advice on the location for this (using the criteria in Appendix 3 of process and information).
- It will be vital to capture as much specific information as we can, so if everybody can document their individual experiences, particularly the exact location of the bad experiences with drivers. We realise time and date is difficult now, but if that is available, please record that too.
- DfT Circular 01/2013 [Setting local speed limits - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk), section 3 and section 7 (particularly 7.2, 123,124,126 and 7.3) are worth reading.
- Traffic Advisory Leaflet 01/04 – “Village Speed Limits”. [\[ARCHIVED CONTENT\] \(nationalarchives.gov.uk\)](https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk). This and the DfT Circular 01/2013 above are the documents mentioned earlier in relation to guiding Wiltshire Council Policy.

Unfortunately, it is a daunting list. If we are to act efficiently, but also manage expectations, it is important that all involved understand the process. Please take the time to read it and help us work towards the common goal of making Great Hinton a safer place for all residents.