

Dorrington A49 Road Safety Meeting, Thursday 21st November 2019, 7.30pm, Dorington Village Hall

These notes are provided publicly as a record of discussions around community concerns relating to safety on the A49 through Dorington. These will now form the basis of further consideration by Condover Parish Council for feasible action and investigation.

Present:

Cllr Dan Morris, Edward Marvin (Parish Council Chair), Kate King (Parish Council Vice Chair), PC Mark Milton, Richard Field (Moderator, A49 Facebook Information Pages).

Also present: 28 members of the public.

Introductions:

Cllr Morris welcomed everybody and gave introductions. He also thanked Richard Field and volunteer moderator team for their significant work running A49 pages that reach approximately 10k people.

Summary of actions to date (by Cllrs Morris and Marvin):

- 25th May 2019 – met with Police and Crime Commissioner re. funding
- 26th June 2019 – met with Highways England re. signage, regulations and costs
- 10th Sept 2109 – met with Highways England re info about speed checks.
- 27th Sept 2019 – met with Kate King, Richard Field and Rev. Laura Dalton to scope this meeting

Summary of achievements to date (Cllr Marvin):

- Pedestrian Crossing
- Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS)
- Shrewsbury and Atcham MP has written to the Minister for Transport expressing the Parish Council and Community's Concerns
- Exploring traffic calming measures with partners e.g. white gates at the entry to the village
- Exploring improved VAS (with funding)
- Proposed Community Speed Watch Programme – requires volunteers.

The panel emphasised the need for public contribution and feedback to support Condover Parish Council (CPC) to empower them in influencing national bodies (which is invariably very slow and difficult). They also recognised the importance of communicating progress outwardly and invited suggestions.

Meeting open for public contributions:

A49 issues & suggestions:

- VAS placed at speed limit signs either end of village and much bigger (e.g. Bayston Hill)
- Need a graduated speed reduction and increase into and out of village e.g. Leebotwood and Church Stretton. Note: extending speed into the rural approaches, people will slow down and then speed up if they don't see any other features.

- Extend 30mph beyond Cross Brook.
- Make proper consideration for pedestrian safety and speed restriction in future housing development
- Current speed enforcement arrangements are ineffective especially relating to HGVs at dawn and dusk.
- Cars overtaking turning tractors into Strawberry fields farm – suggestion of “tractors turning” signage and speed restrictions (e.g. 30mph extended beyond railway overbridge).
- Query addressing overtaking in village e.g. road markings
- Query if it is possible to add speed cameras in VAS
- Concerns around late breaking especially of HGVs at pedestrian crossing
- Proposals regarding commissioning of data collection (funded by Parish Council) independently of current provision
- Query how residents can log concerns regarding specific vehicles with authorities
- Encouragement for residents to use forward and rear dash cams and submit them to <https://www.nextbase.com/en-gb/national-dash-cam-safety-portal/> police site
- Query 20mph in every village as per Powys and implications for trunk roads. (Note there is a motion due before council next month to look at blanket 20mph outside schools and hospitals)
- Query how we can challenge statutes relating to speed restrictions and road diversions on trunk roads
- Proposal has been made to MP to reduce speed limits nationally for safety and emissions (Netherlands are doing 2020)
- Query how we can influence behaviour e.g. encourage messaging about lack of progress by overtaking, infinitesimal saving by speeding increases risk of death unacceptably etc.
- Urgent issue: two of four bollards which have saved lives at pedestrian crossing have not been replaced, the footpath is still damaged
- Query quality of footpath and lack over metal fence / barrier along bus stop to shop – elderly and parents with pram affected by instability caused by large vehicles. Single file nature requires pedestrians stepping into road.
- Suggestion for a pedestrian line marked outside the shop for better access without cars parking too far across.
- Query how/if we start influencing very long-term significant strategies (e.g. historic issue of by-pass that was turned down) e.g. how do we measure journey type and path.
- Egress from The Fold and Bank Drive is nightmarish. Suggested enforcements relating to parking in layby (goods delivery), a mirror opposite junctions and ‘blind junction’ signage.
- Query permanent speed cameras. Note: huge consensus that these really do work but concern expressed that people see, slow down and then instantly speed after. Desire to explore average speed cameras.

Church road issues & suggestions:

- Weight restriction during school drop off and pick up times.
- Proper signage and/or speed signs i.e. road markings outside school
- Pedestrian barrier at end of school path to school entrance
- Speed signs at turning off A49
- Parking intrudes on pavement. Query could parents be encouraged to park in village hall. Issues exist around access from village hall and visibility when crossing church road.

- Explore innovative solutions e.g. using church path for better pedestrian access. Note: road clutter can actually be effective in slowing traffic.
- Farm machinery size has quadrupled where roads haven't. Access should be restricted by weight during school pick up and drop off (i.e. Oakley's dairy farm and Focus Environmental. This in turn will reduce the need to park on pavements.
- Query if we could we revisit using the school's back entrance – this would require community input (to help monitor).
- Query how we influence people leaving five minutes earlier to reduce need for parking outside school?

Communication:

For feedback from Community: how can CPC communicate effectively in order that the community properly input into future opportunities e.g. Forge Way development car park and collecting data e.g. reporting accidents (not recorded by emergency services).

Appeal: please contact Richard Field if you have any suggestions about how the A49 information page (with 6,400) can be used even more effectively or the chat page.