

19th July 2019

### **Ref. Traffic speed issues at Flowers Drove, Lytchett Matravers**

Since 2013 my family have lived at The Glade in Flowers Drove, which is 4 houses down from the Lime Kiln Road T-junction. I would like to make the following observations concerning the recent deterioration of traffic issues.

Prior to December 2018, occasional speeding occurred in the drove, but not sufficiently to cause us ongoing concern. However, in December 2018, gas infrastructure problems resulted in the main A350 initially being closed over the Christmas period, followed thereafter by traffic lights for almost 6 months. This resulted in extensive traffic build-up on the A350 and numerous diversions being taken to bypass it.

The worst affected roads over this period (approx. 6 months) were Flowers Drove, Castle Farm Road and Sandy Lane, since these were the main options available to traffic travelling along the A350 to and from Poole.

Damage to these roads was particularly bad due to high volumes of traffic and restricted carriageway widths, as evidenced by extensive edge deterioration and potholing/surface delamination. Furthermore, drivers were often frustrated due to the A350 delays and the tightness of these diversionary roads, and so often ended up speeding along straighter sections of road. Unfortunately for the residents of Flowers Drove, the 30mph section where people live is almost dead straight with good visibility from along its whole length. Therefore, a high frequency of dangerously speeding vehicles occurred and, what was previously a popular walker's route around the village, was pretty much abandoned due to safety. Although I have no hard evidence, my observations were that a very high frequency of vehicles passed up and down Flowers Drove during this period, the large majority of which significantly broke the 30 mph speed limit. Many were accelerating either from entry into the 30 mph zone at the bottom, or at the top when dropping into Flowers Drove from Lime Kiln Road where a relatively steep section of road encourages acceleration.

At our location at The Glade, the sound of vehicles accelerating hard down the road was extremely frequent and particularly noticeable at night. In fact, we often commented at night that it sounded like we lived by a race track! My estimate of some of the speeds being travelled would be in excess of 60 mph, an extremely dangerous and reckless act in a residential area with a 30 mph limit. As a result, we have become very concerned about the safety of our 2.5 year old son, who is no longer allowed in the front of the property except when being placed in our car. We also no longer walk around the village due to safety concerns in Flowers Drove and Castle Farm Road. Furthermore, exiting our property has also become more risky due to the excessive speeds of some drivers.

These issues are without doubt not acceptable in a residential 30 mph zone and we are amazed that nobody has been hurt during 2019. However, it is only a matter of time. Only earlier this week, when returning home and parking on the drive, I witnessed a van owned by a local company (Holmans) accelerate so hard down the Drove that he was easily doing more than 50 mph towards the bottom of the road. If our son had wandered into the road, or anyone else for that matter, they would have been killed if hit directly.

Since the main A350 has been fully opened around June 2019, the volume of traffic and therefore frequency of speeding vehicles has of course reduced. However, this is by no



means back to previous levels with a high frequency of speeding still occurring. Our view is that drivers have now discovered rat-runs or alternate routes which suite them, and so continue to use these roads and blatantly ignore the 30 mph speed limit.

I understand from other residents that a 20 mph restriction is being sought. Whilst I fully support such a reduction, I am uncertain whether drivers would even comply with this without introducing some means of traffic calming. Therefore, my request, irrespective of any decision made by the council/highways on a 20 mph limit, is that traffic calming measures be introduced in the existing 30mph zone. Whilst I appreciate there are budgetary constraints on the council/highways, there are many affordable traffic calming options available which could be implemented. As an example, this could include any or all of the following:

1. Placing a speed limit signpost at the top of Flowers Drive at the junction with Lime Kiln Road. At present there is only a speed limit sign at the bottom of Flowers Drive near to the Wessex Water pumping station, and at present this is barely visible due to vegetation growth.
2. Introduction of thermoplastic road markings, hatching, rumble strips etc in the road. This could at least be in the entry/exit points to the speed limit zones.
3. Introduction of speed bumps within the speed zone.
4. Construction of chicane/s within the speed limit zone.
5. Provision of electronic speed warnings to notify drivers of their speed. These are more commonly used and appear to be quite effective.

Unfortunately, I am unable to attend the Parish Council Meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> July but am more than happy to discuss any aspect of the problems we are facing. Please feel free to contact me if so.