

Broadwas and Cotheridge Parish Council

Report for meeting of the Parish Council 10.1.24

Subject: Road Safety

For some time parishioners have expressed their concerns regarding the measures in place to ensure that in particular the stretch of the A44 that runs through the parish are as effective as they could be.

Both the County and District Councillors have responded to these concerns in partnership with the Parish Council and raised with the relevant agencies.

There remains some frustration that as yet the response to these concerns from Worcestershire County Council and West Mercia Police have yet to result in outcomes, that will result in parishioners having confidence that things will improve.

There are at present 2 areas of significant concern.

1. The stretch to the A44 that runs through Cotheridge from the Lightwood Lane junction through to the end of the "S" bends at Hilltop. The road layout in combination with the present speed limit (the national limit) has resulted in at least 6 significant incidents involving collisions and or vehicles going off the road. In addition there is felt to be a significant hazard in terms of safety for pedestrians (including children waiting for school transport) along the stretch adjacent to the Church Lane turning.
2. The stretch of the A44 that leads up to and runs through Broadwas. Whilst there are fewer incidents involving collisions and accidents, parishioners continue to report examples of vehicles ignoring the 30-mph speed limit.

In regard to (1) The District Councillor has led an engagement with the Police and Crime Commissioner, and with the County Councillor have sought to have the County Council address the issue of speed limits and other measures to reduce risk and improve safety. To date this has resulted in the introduction of some precautionary markings on the road surface.

In regard to (2) The Parish Council has engaged with the West Mercia Police Road Safety Team.(WMPRST)

In 2023 the Parish Council formally resolved to explore setting up a Community Speed Watch scheme. This resulted in the WMPRST conducting a number of speed surveys. Unfortunately the outcome from this was that they did not feel that there was the basis to support the setting up of a Community Speed Watch scheme.

There has been a positive outcome however in that West Mercia Police now appear to site in different locations speed camera vehicles. It is unclear, however, as to what impact this is having on the problem.

The Road Safety Community Toolkit produced by West Mercia Police, The Police and Crime Commissioner and Worcestershire County Council highlights the importance of data in assessing and understanding the concerns experienced by parishioners. The Parish Council has formally requested the sharing of this data but as yet this has not been made available by either the County Council or West Mercia Police.

The present position is therefore that despite the best intentions of all parties, there are as yet no concrete proposals on the table, to address our concerns.

Parish Councillors may wish to consider and discuss the following:

- Is there more that we as a Parish Council can do to encourage the statutory agencies to adopt a more proactive and joined up approach to our concerns?

- Is it reasonable to expect that officers from the relevant statutory agencies should respond to the concerns raised with some clear proposals?
- Or is the case that we should accept that these agencies do not share our view of the problem?
- Councillors will be aware that the Police and Crime Commissioner holds funding for Community Led Schemes, (the current round has a February deadline for applications) Should we therefore consider making an application? (Noting that Community led schemes require WCC road safety engineer approval).
- Are there other steps or actions the Parish Council should consider?

Richard Burrows

Chair

Broadwas and Cotheridge Parish Council