

Broadwas and Cotheridge Parish Council

Agenda item 24/27. 19.6.24

Report author; Richard Burrows

Road safety and speeding.

Purpose of report: To ask Parish Councillors to consider undertaking a petition in order to press the relevant authorities to take the many and previous concerns raised with them by Parishioners, The Parish Council and the elected representative at District and County Level.

Background

For many years there have been concerns and complaints about the overall safety of the A44 that passes through the parish. These have focused on speeding, especially through Broadwas and Cotheridge, flooding, motor cycle traffic especially at weekends and in the summer. There are a number of high risk points which have been the subject of incidents. The major construction activity in the Worcester and surrounding areas, has also led to a high level of HGV traffic carrying aggregates from quarries in mid Wales.

The Parish Council applied to be considered for the Community Speed Watch scheme, in 2021 but was turned down, on the basis that the conditions required to operate the scheme would not be safe enough.

The Parish Council has repeatedly requests data in respect of enforcement activity and also in terms of road usage and traffic statistics. The former have been promised by West Mercia Police on a regular basis but have only been received once in the last 5 years. The latter is partially available in the public domain <https://roadtraffic.dft.gov.uk/local-authorities/69>, but is in a form that in fact requires additional expertise.

The Parish Councils own Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) sited on the entry to Broadwas coming from the west, captures in excess of 2000 occasions a week where the speed of vehicles is over the limit of 30 mph. (The Parish Council accepts that this data source is not recognised as valid by the authorities but it is indicative). The Parish Council supports 3 of these in Broadwas.

Both the District and the County Councillor have been active in raising concerns and pressing the Local Authority and West Mercia Police to come forward with proposals that would allow parishioners to a) better understand the problem, and b) be able to have some confidence that the Local Authority, West Mercia Police and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, were in fact serious about their statutory responsibilities and policy pledges.

Next steps?

Parishioners and the Parish Council have made a number of suggestions in the past to address the problem.

These include:

- The introduction of staged speed limits either side of the 2 villages, in order to help reduce entry speeds where for example the limit goes from 60 mph to 30 mph.
- The consideration of other traffic management and calming measures, to re configure the layout and appearance of stretches of the road that passes through the villages
- The use of available technology such as Automatic Number Plate Recognition cameras (ANPR).

The Parish Council has consulted with and researched across the country, how other local authorities and police forces appear able to implement schemes and measures that focus on prevention and improving overall safety, as well as compliance.

It is not uncommon for people to feel that their concerns are not taken seriously, or that these are not seen as a priority. In such

circumstances it appears that a petition to demonstrate the level of concerns people have, can help bring about a more positive and focused engagement from the responsible bodies.

Therefore Parish Councillors are asked to consider whether they

- A) feel this would be an appropriate course of action and
- B) If so how best to progress this or if not then
- C) To consider other courses of action.