

## Broadwas and Cotheridge Parish Council

Report for Agenda item 26/69 - 15.4.26

### Re Speeding and Safety on A44

Councillors will be aware that sadly, there has been another fatality as a result of an accident on the bends between Cotheridge and Hill Top Bend. This is the second fatality in under a year, in addition to number of other serious and significant accidents and incidents.

As with all serious accidents and incidents it falls to the Local Authority and the Police to investigate and take action as judged appropriate. The Parish Council is therefore not in a position at this point to prejudge the outcome of any investigations.

However the Parish Council is aware that at the time of the incident (which involved a motor cyclist) a commercial firm was taking photographs in the vicinity. The Parish Council is not aware of any connection between this activity and the incident, but has made the Police aware of this information.

In line with current efforts to bring to the attention of the County Council the seriousness of the risks and hazards relating to the A44 as it passes through the Parish the following has occurred.

- County Councillor Mel Fordington contacted the new cabinet member responsible for Highways to advise him of the incident and to seek a commitment that the County Council will re evaluate its current priority, plans and position regarding the A44.
- The Chair of the Parish Council supported this and reminded all interested and concerned parties of the Parish Council public position and suggestions.

In addition to the above Councillors are advised of and asked to consider the following

- As per the decision made at the last meeting the Clerk has ordered 3 new VAS (1 solar 2 mains powered) - these should be delivered shortly and arrangements are being made for these to be erected in place of the current VAS in Broadwas.
- Councillors will be asked for their views as to what messages should be adopted on the new VAS (these can easily be changed) and to agree arrangements for collecting and managing the data the VAS provide. (NB The cost of an on line supported package that would allow remote collection and analysis is significant and is presently judged by the Clerk and the Chair to be difficult to justify - However should Councillors feel they would like to consider this option details can be brought forward). It is possible to collect the data via blue tooth or USB and this requires someone to do this as to collect by blue tooth you have to be in proximity of the VAS.
- The County Council have been reminded to their commitment to share with the Parish Council details of the proposed changes to signage and road markings
- There is a temporary 40 mph speed limit in place on a section of the A44 between Cotheridge and the Laylocks straight - The Parish Council has requested further information as to purpose and how long it will be in place
- The County Council is continuing to explore a revised drainage arrangement for the corner adjacent to the Howsens Farm entrance.
- Speed data has been shared following a recent survey by Highways at each end of Broadwas. - This requires further analysis and information and could helpfully be considered alongside updated data from Police enforcement activity
- In addition to Police enforcement activity in Broadwas we have been offered some time from a mobile hand held camera, and a number of site points have been sent to the Police to reflect the Parish Council's concerns re other parts of the A44.
- There continue to be reports of horse running free on sections of the A44 and our District Councillor has pursued this with the Police and the County Council as well as the PCC. There appeared to be some initial reluctance on the part of all parties to

identify this as a priority and recognise the hazard it creates, and it is hoped that shortly the County Council and the Police will come forward with a more direct and coordinated response to this long standing problem.

- It is suggested that the Parish Council through the County Councillor ask the Local Authority to make available the outcomes of recent investigations and reports into serious and significant incidents/accidents and fatalities.

## Summary

It is to be hoped with the continued support of our MP, County and District Councillors that the actions agreed and taken so far will move us one step closer to a more comprehensive and forward looking strategy to reduce risks and promote responsible behaviours by road users.

It remains the case that as yet the County Council does not recognise the Parish Councils position and proposals for reductions in the speed limit (Cootheridge) and the introduction of buffer zones to reduce the speed limit either side of Broadwas.

Councillors will want to consider the above and whether any further steps are required.

Richard Burrows

Chair