

KIT MALTHOUSE MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Bradley W Norton
Chairmain, Highclere Parish Council
The Croft
Pantings Lane
Highclere Newbury RG20 9PS

23 May 2019

Dear Mr Norton

Mr Malthouse has asked me to send you the attached reply he has received from Cllr Rob Humby, Hampshire County Council's Executive Member for Environment and Transport, to the enquiries he made on your behalf.

With very best wishes

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ann Addington'.

Ann Addington
Parliamentary Assistant



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Kit Malthouse MP
House of Commons

Enquiries to

Cllr Rob Humby

My reference

RH/JW

Direct Line

01962 847441

Your reference

Date

Email

rob.humby@hants.gov.uk

Dear Kit

Highclere Speed Data and Penwood Crossroads

In my letter of 5th April, I promised to write further in response to the issues you raised when we last met relating to Highclere and Penwood Crossroads.

Penwood Crossroads

The Penwood crossroads has been subject to casualty reduction measures on a number of occasions, the most recent being completed in July 2015, although as part of major resurfacing works at the junction in September 2016, alterations were also made to the coloured surfacing and the road markings were changed to match today's standards.

Prior to the casualty reduction scheme in July 2015, there were six injury accidents at this location in the five year study period (two serious in severity and four slight). Since the scheme was introduced, in the latest three years and six months after-period, there have been two slight severity injury accidents at the crossroads, which equates to a 50% reduction. It is too early to draw any conclusions as to the 2015 scheme's success, but we will continue to closely monitor accidents at this location.

When we met, you suggested that a mini-roundabout might be investigated as a possible solution. However, mini-roundabouts are only suitable where traffic approaches a junction at lower speeds. Such schemes are therefore more suitable in lower speed, urban environments where both the speed and path of vehicles on each approach can be easily controlled and maintained by means of road alignments. Also, the presence of street lighting is a fundamental element of their safe operation.

*Deputy Leader
Executive Member for Environment and Transport
Councillor Rob Humby*

Highclere Speed Data

Thank you for sending me the data collected by the parish council: officers have now reviewed this. However, as presented the data doesn't seem to show readings for any one specific site, so it is difficult for us to form a view, not least because the average speed of 36mph would appear to be averaged from sites with both 30 and 40mph speed limits. The County Council maintains a permanent traffic counter on the A343 in Highclere which produces data every day, and this shows an average speed of between 31 and 32 mph for the totality of 2018, with the highest average monthly speed at 32.6mph. If the parish have specific data relating to Fox's Lane, the team would be happy to have a look, but it is difficult to form a judgement based on the combined results as presented in the slides you shared with me. While the isolated incidents highlighted by the parish are of course concerning, they would appear to be rare occurrences.

A study of the injury accident record at Highclere shows it to be relatively good compared with other locations across the County. Injury accident records for this location do not demonstrate a common cause or treatable pattern of accidents, and it would therefore be difficult to target effective remedial measures that will reduce casualties and make a significant difference to road safety in the village.

However, the County Council does have a mechanism whereby Parish and Town councils and other local community groups can fund minor highway and transport improvements themselves, particularly those that are considered to be of a high value to the community but are not necessarily led by a road casualty reduction need. The installation of speed limit roundels painted on the road surface, creating village gateways, and the deployment of temporary speed reminder signs are the types of measure that can be considered and developed through this initiative. Our webpage contains further information which may be useful.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadsafety/makingroadssafer>

I will be in Westminster again for my next "surgery" on the 19 June. Also attending will be Dr Nick Broughton FRCPsych, Chief Executive of the Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust, who will be available to discuss the Trust's work, progress, and future direction. Please let us know if you would like to meet on that date, and particularly if you wish to meet with Nick, and we will reserve a slot for you.

Yours sincerely



Cllr Rob Humby
Deputy Leader
Executive Member for Environment and Transport