

Highclere Parish Council

07 October 2019

Dear Cllr Humby

I write in response to your letter sent to Kit Malthouse MP earlier this year, in which you provided comments to the two high priority road issues in Highclere parish: speeding and traffic control at Penwood Crossroads.

Penwood Crossroads

I have been using the Penwood Crossroads for nearly twenty years and, whilst I accept that some work has been done to improve this dangerous junction, there is still scope for further improvements which could result in the avoidance of a future fatal collision, at or near the crossroads.

As a local resident, I am regularly made aware of accidents at the crossroads; thankfully, these tend to be non-fatal incidents, which we are all grateful for. However, due to the fact that they are non-fatal, these road traffic accidents do not seem to be captured in official accident logs and, as such, I suspect do not appear on any logs that you may have at Hampshire County Council. However, I appreciate that I am not be fully aware of how these things are tracked by the Council and I note that you state that you “closely monitor accidents at this location”. With that in mind, I was hoping you would be able to 1) confirm how you undertake this accident monitoring and 2) whether you would be able to share the current accident log that you have, to allow the Parish Council to compare this with our local knowledge. If we can see that the non-fatal incidents are being tracked, as well as the fatal ones, we will be able to provide reassurance to our parishioners.

Speeding in Highclere

In your letter you mention that data has not been presented for any particular site. So, we have taken this feedback onboard and, accordingly, I attach a further data analysis report which now includes data for specific sites. I have summarised the report below:

- The first set of graphs shows data taken between 10 and 23 April 2019, on the A343, on the approach to Penwood Crossroads (40mph speed limit). The data shows that approximately **80%** of traffic was above the speed limit with maximum speeds approaching **100 mph** and average speeds of around **60 mph**.
- The second set of graphs show a similar set of data, this time from between 29 April and 3 May 2019 on the A343, opposite Highclere Village Hall (30 mph speed limit). Again, we have approximately **70%** of vehicles in excess of the speed limit with a maximum speed of in excess of **90 mph** and an average speed of between 40 and 50 mph.
- The third set of graphs presents data from between 8 and 16 May 2019 in various locations along the A343 through Highclere village (30 mph). Over this short distance through

the village, we have recordings presented over 24 hours and is clear that the majority of traffic is in excess of the 30mph speed limit and the maximum speeds throughout the day are consistently approaching twice this. The data also shows that between 15:00 and 7:00, the vast majority of traffic is in excess of the speed limit (when considering the density of the green and red points on the top graph).

- The fourth set of graphs show the data taken between 19 and 27 May 2019, on the A343, opposite Flexford Close (30 mph speed limit). In this set of figures, we have approximately **80%** of traffic above the speed limit with maximum speeds over **80 mph**.

- The final set of figures shows data from between 1 June and 12 June 2019 on the A343 by the junction with Star Lane. Our data still shows over 50% speeding and our belief is that this figure has been reduced due to traffic turning down this road, so slowing on the approach. This is demonstrated by a large number of readings between 0 and 10mph.

You mention in your letter that there is a permanent traffic counter on the A343 in Highclere. I was hoping that you would be able to provide further details of this (including its location) as it was very surprising to the Parish Council to read that your data is in stark contrast to that which we have gathered from our own Speed Indicator Device. Given our data across a number of different time periods and from a number of different locations, I think that it is difficult to reach the conclusion that corresponds with the Councils; i.e. that the highest average monthly speed is 32.6 mph.

I would be grateful if you could reconsider your conclusions that you present in your letter. Highclere Parish Council firmly believes that we **do** have a speeding problem through Highclere village, along Foxes Lane in Penwood (further data can be provided if required) and along the A343 on the approach to Penwood Crossroads. We would urge you to consider possible mechanisms to control speeds in our parish more effectively.

Finally, we would like to extend an invitation to you, or one of your colleagues, to attend one of our meetings in the near future, with the aim of discussing these issues in more detail.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Brad Norton

Chair, Highclere Parish Council.