

A51 NEWS

April 2008



HILL CHORLTON TO GET SPEED LIMIT REVIEW

The A51 through Hill Chorlton is among the top 30 in a list of A and B roads that will have their speed limits reviewed by the County Council. The review will commence in late summer 2008. This one-off, never-to-be-repeated exercise offers residents of Hill Chorlton a unique chance to take action that will make a difference.

In summer 2006 the Department for Transport issued new guidelines on setting speed limits and instructed all county highways departments to review speed limits on the roads under their jurisdiction.

During the last 12 months a group of Hill Chorlton residents has been in regular contact with the Highways Department and Staffordshire Police to raise the profile of the A51 through Hill Chorlton. This has surely contributed to the high priority now being given to Hill Chorlton.

ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME CHANCE

The review presents a once-in-a-lifetime chance to get the traffic speeds through Hill Chorlton reduced to a safe and acceptable level.

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?

You can help by writing in with your concerns and expressing your views as to what would be a suitable speed limit through Hill Chorlton and also on the

approaches to the village, especially the road between Hill Chorlton and Stableford.

PLEASE WRITE TO:

Nick Lloyd
Head of Road Safety
Development Services Directorate
Riverway
Stafford, ST16 3TU

email: nick.lloyd@staffordshire.gov.uk

REMEMBER: It's not yet a done deal. The more people who write in before the review, the more likely it is that the speed limit will be reduced.

WHAT SPEED LIMIT?

Hill Chorlton meets the government's criteria for a 30mph limit, although it is more likely that if the limit is reduced, it will be to 40mph. But there's nothing to lose by asking for 30mph if that's what you think is appropriate.

WHAT ARE THE ARGUMENTS?

It is best if people who write in give their own reasons in their own words, but over the page are some points you may like include. Some of them relate to criteria in the Department for Transport's circular 01/2006.

Bye bye bikers...



- 1. Make it from the heart – you don't have to be an expert letter writer.** If you've had a near-miss or an accident or have a concern about some aspect of the road, then write in and tell them about it. When people tell their own stories in their own words it's a very powerful way of persuading those in authority to take note.
- 2. Make sure you send in your letter.** We all like to complain to each other about the road and the traffic, but that won't make any difference. ***A pile of letters on the decision maker's desk at the right time WILL.***
- 3. If you have your own particular points or reasons, then write them down and send them in.** Some of the points below may help you with your letter.

BLIND ACCESSES

Hill Chorlton has a large number of vehicle accesses onto the road. Many of them are blind in one or both directions. What makes the exit from your gate difficult or dangerous? Have you experienced any incidents? ***Write and tell them!***

ROAD JUNCTIONS

We all know about the poor visibility and the hazards of turning out of Sandy Lane and Moss Lane into the main road. Have you had any near misses? ***Write about it!***

NARROW FOOTWAY

We measured the footway – it's 0.93 metres (3ft) wide in the centre of the village. Have you ever been clipped on the shoulder by the mirror of a passing vehicle? Or been knocked sideways by the turbulence from a passing truck or

when an overtaking car passes inches from you? ***Tell them!***

OVERTAKING

How do you feel about overtaking through the village? Does it cause you problems or has it put you in danger, either as a motorist or as a pedestrian/equestrian? ***Tell them about it!***

FARM VEHICLES

Do you drive a farm vehicle or transport livestock? Do you have special concerns that would be resolved by lowering the speed limit? ***Write about them!***

STABLEFORD–HILL CHORLTON

This road with its many bends, junctions and accesses is also full of hazards. ***Tell Highways*** about any concerns or difficulties, or any incidents you've had.

Pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians are classed as 'vulnerable road users'. Whether you walk, cycle or ride, you're bound to have concerns.

OTHER THINGS YOU CAN REQUEST

- **Better road markings/signs.** Tell them what you want.
- **Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS).** Like the sign in Baldwin's Gate.
- **New village signs:** 'Please drive carefully'.
- **No overtaking through the village.**
- **Lower speed limit from Stableford to Hill Chorlton.** Tell them what you want.
- **Regular safety camera patrols.**

DON'T DELAY: It's not a done deal yet. Get your pen and paper out NOW!

Bye bye bikers...

