

A51 NEWS

January 2009



SPEED LIMIT REVIEW SET FOR SPRING 2009

The review of speed limits on the A51 is set for the spring of this year. In a letter dated 4 November 2008 to a local resident Mr Ed Sandham of the Highways Department stated that the A51 in the Hill Chorlton area will be assessed "early in the financial year 2009–2010".

The Highways Department will review the entire length of the A51 in Staffordshire but states in the letter that it "will treat the length of road between the A34 at Meaford and the County Boundary as one section". The letter goes on to say, "additional weighting by the Police has enabled us to place the A51 in a higher position than the one originally determined by accident rate alone".

This additional weighting will support attempts to get the speed limit reduced on the Hill Chorlton–Stableford stretch, but residents will need to continue pressing their case.

OVERWHELMING RESPONSE

Residents responded overwhelmingly to the request last spring to bring their concerns to the attention of the Highways Department. As a result the A51 Hill Chorlton–Stableford has been designated a "Community Concern Site" (see more below).

WHAT ELSE CAN I DO?

Please write to your County Councillor, Mr Frank Chapman. As our elected representative he can present our views directly to the Highways Department and other bodies at county level that have influence over decisions about the road. He will

need a strong portfolio of letters from residents in order to present a convincing case.

Mr Frank Chapman

17 Redhills
Eccleshall
Staffs, ST21 6JW

You may also want to write to Mr Ed Sandham, who is leading the speed limit review:

Mr Ed Sandham

Highways Department
Riverway
Stafford, ST16 3TJ

REGULAR POLICE PATROLS ON A51 HILL CHORLTON–STABLEFORD

As a result of being designated a "Community Concern Site" the A51 Hill Chorlton–Stableford now has regular police patrols. It is included in the mobile camera routes between two and five times each week.

REMEMBER: *These patrols are happening because YOU wrote a letter!*

Bye bye bikers...



POINTS TO MENTION IN YOUR LETTER

You can include the same points in your letter to Mr Chapman as you did in your letter to Highways. It is important for your letter to be focused on the subject of road safety. Here is a reminder of some of the issues that you can include.

Blind accesses

If you have a blind access onto the road from your property this will be a particular hazard.

Road junctions

The turns into and out of local lanes are also hazardous.

Overtaking

Mention any problems you experience from overtaking vehicles.

Vulnerable road users

Vulnerable road users are pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians. Do you use the road in any of these capacities?

Farmers' concerns

Draw attention to any points that affect your normal use of the road in your capacity as a farmer.

Narrow footway

The narrow footway in Hill Chorlton (3ft wide in the centre of the village) exposes pedestrians to dangers from passing vehicles. Even if you only use the footway when you go to post letters you are at risk.

Appropriate speed limit

Say what you think the appropriate speed limit would be.

REMEMBER: You don't have to be an expert letter writer. Just write and express your views. When people tell their stories in their own words it's a very powerful way of persuading those in authority to take note.

THINGS YOU CAN REQUEST

- **Better road markings/signs.** Tell them what you want.
- **Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS).** Like the sign in Baldwin's Gate.
- **New village signs:** "Please drive carefully".
- **No overtaking through Hill Chorlton village.**

***By acting together we've made progress, but it's still not a done deal.
Get your pen and paper out NOW!***

BIKERS

In spring 2008 a local resident found that several biker websites were recommending the route Darlaston–Woore because of its low level of policing. This information was brought to the attention of the Police.

A photograph of one of the red SLOW DOWN biker signs in Hill Chorlton village was found on one biker website!

Reduced biker activity

From the middle of June 2008 there was a marked decline in biker activity on local roads, including the A51 and especially on the Thursday "bike nights". This was very likely due to an accident outside the Stormy Petrel pub at Tern Hill on 19 June, in which a biker who had been pulling "wheelies" on the A41 outside the pub came off his bike and was killed.

Byeeee.....

