

A51 NEWS

December 2009



SO – IS YOUR ROAD ANY SAFER?

Highway resurfacing work through Hill Chorlton has now been completed and new road signs have been installed on the stretch of the A51 from Maerfield Gate to Stableford, although some work is still pending around Kennels Lane junction and the bends towards Stableford. The bikers will now have a smoother, faster ride through Hill Chorlton village – BUT IS YOUR ROAD REALLY ANY SAFER?

WHAT THE WORKMEN SAID

A number of residents spoke to the workmen on the project. They commented that the road through Hill Chorlton is very hazardous. They said that the big trucks were travelling too fast and that because of the narrow carriageway they were coming very close to where they were working. And these are men who work on the roads every day of their lives!!! We can't get rid of the trucks – but we can persuade Highways to make them less of a danger for all road users.

Take a little time during the Christmas / New Year break to remind Highways of your concerns and to raise any new issues you may have. All the people listed here can be contacted by letter and by email:

Address for all letters:

Highways Department
Riverway
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Speed limit review:

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Motorcycle casualty reduction project:

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Cc your emails to development.services@staffordshire.gov.uk

MOTORCYCLE CASUALTY REDUCTION PROJECT

The recent works have been done as part of a national Motorcycle Casualty Reduction Project, part funded by Central Government. Unhelpfully, Highways have not published their plans for comment and when we asked for a copy by email we were told we would have to



make an appointment at Riverway in Stafford if we wanted to see them. We have also made a number of suggestions about what could be done to make the narrow footpath through Hill Chorlton safer. So far Highways' response has been unhelpful and unimaginative, but solutions are there, and eventually, with enough pressure from residents, they will happen. As for motorcycles: the only thing that will reduce casualties is to **SLOW THEM DOWN**.

WHAT LOCAL RESIDENTS SAY

We have spoken to some of the local residents all along the road from Hill Chorlton to Stableford. This is what they had to say:

- 'The concealed accesses are the biggest problem.'
 - 'I can't see vehicles coming over the hump when I come out of my drive.'
 - 'The new signs are in the wrong place. They don't make sense.'
 - 'The work at Kennels Lane is just going to make the problem worse.'
 - 'We need a 40mph limit on the bends from Kennels Lane down to Stableford.'
 - 'We need 'no overtaking' and 'pedestrians' signs through the village.'
 - 'You haven't got the acceleration on a tractor and when you pull out they don't realise you've got a trailer on. By the time they realise it's nearly too late.'
 - 'I don't see that what they're doing [at the end of Kennels Lane] is going to help any. They'll just come through even faster.'
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SPEED LIMIT REVIEW

The A51 from Darlaston to Woore is subject to the National Speed Limit Review and work should have been completed in the Spring. We still cannot get any information from Staffordshire Highways about what is happening on this – unlike other County Councils who are publishing information on their websites as the review progresses.

According to the Department of Transport guidance, Hill Chorlton should qualify for a 30mph speed limit, however, we have seen nothing from Highways that might suggest that this is on the cards.

WHAT TO DO ...

As ever, the most important thing to do is to **WRITE, WRITE and WRITE AGAIN**. You may not get replies to all your letters: they are hoping you will get bored and go away, but **DON'T GIVE UP**. There's no magic formula, just say it as you see it, your experiences, and what you think should be done.

- Write from the heart, say **exactly** what you think in your own way.
 - Ask for **specific things** to be done e.g. reduced speed limit, pedestrian warning signs, concealed entrance warnings, Vehicle Activated Signs, etc.
 - **Demand** that the planning officials come here and see for themselves.
 - **Complain** if you are not being kept informed.
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WEBSITE ...

We will shortly be setting up a campaign website at www.hillchorlton.co.uk so keep an eye on this for any new developments, and if you hear anything then please let us know.

