

Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Roads, Footpaths, and Commons 06/012/2025

Summary of Speeding complaints

Agenda item 24/031 2.3:

- a. To review recent correspondence from members of the public regarding speeding concerns.

Summary

Following a recent flurry of speeding complaints from members of the public, which have also involved the West Berkshire Council Speed Management Technician and Member of Parliament Olivia Bailey, I have summarised the key points of the correspondence below:

Summary of complaint emails

- **2024-11-28**- An Email was received from a resident who raised concerns about traffic congestion and parking issues near St. Mary's School during drop-off and pick-up times, citing frequent vehicle damage, safety risks, and delays. They suggested creating a designated car park near the school to alleviate the problem, noting the increasing number of cars and housing in the area.
- **2024-11-29**- The Parish Clerk acknowledged receipt of the email regarding congestion and parking issues on The Street. The response confirmed that both the Council and the school are aware of the concerns. The school is exploring solutions, including a potential car park, and Councillors have offered advice and support. West Berkshire Council has been consulted about improving current parking restrictions and introducing new ones. The Road, Footpath, and Commons Committee will be informed of the comments.
- **2025-01-06** - An email was received from a member of the public expressing ongoing concerns about persistent speeding and dangerous driving along the mid-section of The Street. The member of the public suggested installing fixed speed indicator signs as a potential resolution and reported non-working SFS and VAS signs near the school and at the corner of Pitfield Lane.
- **2025-01-06/07**- Cllr Bridgman and Cllr D Kilshaw responded (separately) to the email with recommendations, including volunteering to deploy the ASWC, attending the next NAG meeting, and participating in the Roads, Footpaths, and Commons Committee meeting on 6 February, Cllr Bridgman also updated the member of the public on the status of the SFS and VAS signs by the school.
- **2025-01-08**- Correspondence was forwarded to the council from WBC Speed Management Technician asking for support with responding. Correspondence was received by them on **24-09-18** from a resident of West End Road reporting frequent

speeding, with vehicles exceeding the 30mph limit, often reaching 50mph+. They stated despite raising the issue with the Parish Council, police, and local speed group, no effective solutions have been implemented. The resident highlighted safety risks for those exiting driveways, cyclists, and the blind entrance to Mortimer, urging urgent action.

- **2025-01-09**- Cllr Bridgman responded to the above correspondence. The response acknowledged concerns about speeding on West End Road but noted disagreement with claims that local speed monitoring efforts have had no impact. It highlighted the use of speed devices, plans to purchase more SIDs, and the need for volunteer support. Speeding issues will also be addressed at the upcoming Neighbourhood Action Group meeting with Thames Valley Police.
- **2025-01-08**- Correspondence was forwarded to the council from WBC Speed Management Technician asking for support with responding. Correspondence was received by them on **24-09-07**. A resident raised concerns about frequent speeding by cars and motorbikes on The Street, Mortimer, posing risks to pedestrians and vehicles exiting driveways. They also reported cars congregating near St. Mary's Church before speeding off.
- **2025-01-09** Cllr Bridgman responded to the above correspondence. The response acknowledged the speeding concerns on The Street but noted no personal awareness of frequent incidents near the complainant's father's property. It highlighted the use of speed monitoring devices, plans to purchase additional SIDs, and the need for volunteer support to deploy equipment. Speeding concerns will also be addressed at the upcoming Neighbourhood Action Group meeting with Thames Valley Police.
- **25-01-10** A note was posted through Cllr Bridgman's door amongst others from a member of the public, highlighting concerns about speeding and dangerous driving on The Street. The note encouraged residents to attend NAG and Roads, Footpaths, and Commons Committee meetings and urged them to share their concerns with the Parish Council. **Note the full correspondence is found in meeting paper 24-033 3.2.**
- **2025-01-13** Olivia Bailey, MP for Reading West and Mid Berkshire, raised a constituent's concerns about persistent speeding and dangerous driving along the mid-section of The Street, Mortimer. The constituent detailed a number of accidents over recent years, highlighting risks to residents and property and citing insufficient long-term solutions despite previous reports to authorities. Suggestions included implementing a Speedwatch campaign, deploying temporary speed cameras, and addressing non-functional road signage. Olivia Bailey has also contacted WBC and Thames Valley Police and requested a response from the Parish Council to share with the constituent. **Note the full correspondence is found in meeting paper 24-033 3.1.**
- **2025-01-16** An acknowledgment email was sent to Olivia Bailey's office, advising that full correspondence would follow the Roads, Footpaths, and Commons Committee meeting on 6 February. The office inquired if the constituent could attend, and confirmation was provided.

- **2025-01-14** The council was cc'd into correspondence from a member of the public to the WBC Speed Management Technician which they received on **25-01-06**, the resident raised ongoing concerns about speeding and dangerous driving on The Street, Mortimer. The resident cited numerous accidents and near misses, highlighting inadequate long-term solutions despite previous reports, including issues with a poorly maintained road sign and ineffective speed camera deployments. They suggested setting up a temporary speed camera to record dangerous speeds and requested action to address the situation.

2025-01-14 The Speed Management Technician for WBC responded to the above correspondence. The technician acknowledged the issue and informed the Parish Council was already aware of the concerns. They mentioned ongoing discussions at the upcoming Parish Council meeting and offered assistance with data collection. Regarding the non-functioning speed activated sign at Pitfield Lane, the technician explained that it is under review for potential repair, and the reports had been closed due to cost considerations. Additionally, the technician proposed deploying a traffic monitoring radar device to gather data before the meeting.

2025-01-25 A member of the public has requested to extend the double yellow lines to cover Church Farm Barns to Church Lane citing that they have seen regular near miss incidents opposite Mortimer Lane at school drop off/pick up times. They have requested that this stretch of road be made a no parking area.

Danielle Davis, Clerk