

Case Ref: OB03772

Dear Guy

Further to my email below, the Council's Roads, Footpaths and Commons Committee met yesterday as anticipated, and agreed the following response to Ms Bailey regarding the email from her constituent (and our resident – we have seen a very similar email sent to the Traffic and Road Safety Team at West Berkshire Council (WBC)).

At the meeting, the agenda included an item regarding, and the Committee discussed, the issue of vehicle speeds within the village and, especially, that of vehicles coming into or leaving the village via, (a) West End Road (at the western end), and (b) The Street (eastwardly).

The Committee's first comment is that the email details six incidents over an 11 year and 10 month period, three (or possibly four) of which allege that speeding was the cause. It is not clear which of the incidents occasioned "*serious injury*" as alleged. Whether an average of one incident every two years indicates an issue, the Committee leaves to you.

This is not to say that vehicles don't exceed the speed limit along that stretch of road – some definitely do. But to describe that "*from early evening right through to 8am, The Street is like a race track*" is in the Committee's view (and in particular in that of the Committee Chairman who lives in a house bordering The Street to the east of your constituent) is stretching things very far.

The "road sign" on the corner of Pitfield Lane and The Street is, in fact, a vehicle activated (speed) sign (VAS) and we have this from WBC's Senior Road Safety Officer (15 November 2024) regarding it: "*Unfortunately, the VAS is considered to be beyond economic repair (report attached), it was installed July 2008 so 16 years old, this sign will be removed at some point and won't be replaced. We are reviewing the policy and have a full procurement exercise that needs to be completed before any replacements or new signage would be considered.*"

As a Council, and uniquely amongst WBC parish and town councils, we own our own speed camera – an Automatic Speed Watch Camera (ASWC). This takes photographs of vehicles travelling above a set parameter and records their registrations, resulting in a reference to Thames Valley Police's Community Speed Watch Team.

In addition we own a Speed Indicator Device (SID), and the meeting yesterday [discussed][agreed] the purchase of [] more SIDs.

We do deploy the ASWC as regularly as we can on various sites in the village, including on The Street, but a critical limiting factor is the number of volunteers available to crew it, since our CSW agreement with TVP requires a minimum of two operatives to be with it when in use. Thus far we have had a very limited response to pleas to residents to help us to deploy the ASWC more often than we are presently able. If we had more volunteers we would be

far more effective in seeking to modify driving behaviour. To this end we would welcome your constituent responding positively to our general invitation to assist us.

We understand that WBC will be setting up a Black Cat traffic monitoring radar device outside the constituent's home to record data, and we await that data with interest.

As a general overview of the issue in Mortimer, I attach an article from our Summer 2024 Newsletter that may be of some interest ("The Pillbox" is the same spot where your constituent says that "*Police speed camera vans do occasionally set up, further down The Street*" – there are limited places that we can agree ASWC locations with TVP and this is one we have permission to use).