

ESBG Parish Council discuss parish speeding concerns

The ESBG Parish Council held talks at the Parish Council meeting on the 10th of November with residents of the site of a recent accident and a representative of the Hampshire County in order to press home its case for measures to reduce the speed of traffic through the village and specifically went on to discuss the accidents that have happened over the past three years down near the bridge on Echinswell Road in Bishops Green.



Derek Mellor, our Hampshire County Councillor, told us that they had an engineer on site on the 10th November to review the risks and issues with this stretch of the road and will be taking further measures to try to safeguard parish residents. They found that there were defects on this part of the road with inadequate and misplaced warning signage and will soon be placing more chevrons, white lining and yellow boxing to warn drivers earlier of the dangers on this corner. They are also working with West Berkshire Council about improving their side of the border. Derek also mentioned the possibility of a speed camera, but this was still in discussion at the moment and no decision has yet been made.



The main issue for the whole Parish is that all three of the accidents here have been with local drivers, whom we assume know the road, but have decided to speed anyway. From a recent traffic measuring survey that the Parish Council undertook, we can see certain vehicles travelling at 60+ mph at times on this section of the road and not following the 40 mph speed limit that is in place, which is putting local lives at high risk.

Owners of the house walked us through the three accidents that have occurred over the past three years and discussed the cost in terms of injuries to drivers and passengers, damage to property and the real fear as to the safety of their young child when playing in their garden. They also spoke about the financial aspects of these accidents, with their excess on insurance claims rising now to a £1000 and the cost of rebuilding the fencing three times over. They went on to discuss the building of a more solid brick wall

Following the Parish's traffic and speeding survey and the creation of a traffic and speed working group, there has been a spotlight pointed at speeding issues throughout the Parish, with calls from residents for speed cameras, Speed Indicator Systems (SIDs), chicanes and the reduction of speed limits in order to better protect its residents, which the Parish Council fully supports. As you may be aware, we have already had 'SLOW' markers painted on roads around the Parish and the rest of the road markings have now been put down in Ecchinswell and Sydmonton. We are still investigating the use of a SID and will be looking to deploy one in the New Year around the Parish.



In the meantime, we ask local residents to stay under the speed limits throughout the Parish in order to keep everyone safe and protect local lives.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held at the Ecchinswell Village Hall on Wednesday 8th December 2021 at 7.30pm in Ecchinswell Village Hall. Everyone welcome.

Mark Stamp
Parish Councillor