

Speed in Hermitage Village April 2019

I am sure that most of you are concerned about the speed within Hermitage – whether it is on the B4009 or the Yattendon road. In this brief article I would like to inform residents about the measures that the Parish Council and West Berkshire Council are undertaking in an attempt to reduce speed and make the village safer for all.

The process is quite a long one as evidence is required that there is a problem with vehicles exceeding the speed limit. The process has been started and you may have noticed that the Speed Indicator Device (SID) was deployed for two weeks during December and March. Scrutiny of the data has shown that for the next stage of the process to happen more than 25% of the vehicles surveyed during a particular time have to be travelling over 35mph (not 30mph). During certain times on the Northbound B4009 Hampstead Norreys Rd this threshold was reached. Unfortunately, the Southbound side did not reach the threshold so we will be monitoring this side again.

As the threshold has been reached the Community Speed Watch box will now be deployed – this piece of equipment videos vehicles travelling at over 35mph and will result in a letter being sent to the registered owner of the vehicle (not necessarily the driver) from Thames Valley Police (TVP). In some cases, prosecution may occur if the speed or driving is reckless. Data can be collected regarding the demographic of the speeding drivers – questions such as is it a local issue or are drivers travelling through the village.

After analysis of this data and subsequent letters from TVP, SID will be deployed again, to see whether there has been a change in behaviour of drivers in Hermitage. If not, then the Parish Council and West Berkshire Council, together with TVP, will discuss what further measures to limit speed in the village would be appropriate.

At the Annual Parish Assembly comment was also made about speeding along the Yattendon Road. SID will be deployed again in the near future to collect further evidence along this road.

In the meantime, should any member of the community have any concerns or witness any incidents they are asked to report them to either the Parish Council or directly to West Berkshire Council.

Parish Councillor Carolyn Purchase