

The Chesham and Chiltern Villages Local Area Forum

Title: Petition regarding the speed of vehicles on Hivings Hill, Chesham.
Date: 8 January 2013
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Electoral divisions affected: Chesham North West, Chesham East and Chess Valley.

Summary

Hivings Hill Residents Association is petitioning the County Council to take action over speeding traffic in Hivings Hill Chesham.

Residents are requesting installation of:

- permanent speed cameras
- speed limit repeater signs
- speed indicator devices.

The residents also request patrols by Thames Valley Police Roads policing department.

Response and recommendations:

Request for permanent speed cameras:

The current Government administration is not supportive of any new fixed safety cameras being installed, as a result and in the current financial climate Buckinghamshire County Council do not have funds allocated for the installation of new fixed cameras.

Additionally guidelines issued by the Department for Transport stress that fixed cameras may only be considered for use if; there are a specific number of injury collisions that have already occurred along a set length of road within a three-year time period and only as a last resort where all other alternatives have failed to reduce injury crash rates.



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The injury collisions referred to are those that have been reported to Police. I have checked the reported injury collision record for Hivings Hill over the last 5 years (01/11/2007 to 31/10/2012). In this period there were 4 reported collisions resulting in 2 serious and 5 slight injuries. 2 of these collisions were shown to have speed related contributory factors. 2 of these collisions occurred in 2008 and the other 2 in 2009. There have been no reported injury collisions on Hivings Hill since 2009.

As a result the installation of fixed camera housing is not an option

Community Concern scheme

Whilst a fixed safety camera is not possible Thames Valley Police operate a Community Concern scheme where requests from the public about speeding are considered for enforcement, either by Police presence/speed checks or mobile camera enforcement through a "dealing with speeding traffic" scheme.

Further requests for the Police to Patrol Chesham and Hivings Hill in particular can be made through this route.

A request for this enforcement can be made by contacting the Thames Valley Police either by email at: SpeedSolutions@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Or by post to:

Speed Solutions

Thames Valley Police

Roads Policing Three Mile Cross

270 Whitley Wood Road

Reading

Berkshire

RG28FT

Request for 30 mph repeater signs:

Hivings Hill has a 30 mph speed limit due to the presence of a system of street lights. This is therefore classified as a restricted road. The traffic signs regulations do not permit 30 mph repeater signs to be erected in such a restricted road

However, Transport for Buckinghamshire may be able to erect temporary "30 for a reason" posters on street lighting columns for a period of time to remind drivers of the posted speed limit.

Alternatively, the Community may wish to develop their own posters to be displayed appropriately. I have attached a copy of the Roadside Poster Policy for information.

Request for Speed Indicator Devices/Vehicle Activated Signs:

There is a policy in place to enable Parish/Town councils to provide signs which 'flash up' a message to drivers who exceed a predetermined speed. Also a Temporary Speed Indicating Device (TSID) is available at each area office. These devices can be booked by Parish or Town councils or by county councillors at a cost £100 for two weeks. If this is desirable please contact skhan@buckscc.gov.uk or the Local Area Technician.

The police also own their own portable Speed Indicator Devices. PCSO Michael Shepherd plans to use this device on Hivings Hill on 18 January 2013 For more information on using this device in the future please contact Michael.sheppherd2@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Educational Campaigns

There are educational options which could be progressed to raise awareness of the dangers of inappropriate or excessive speeding. The Residents Association may wish to consider implementing a 'Make the Commitment' initiative or utilise 'Community Speedwatch' as follows:

Make the Commitment (MTC)

If the majority of road users are local residents it may be that the 'Make the Commitment' scheme is suitable. The scheme asks drivers to sign a pledge that they will try to keep to the speed limits at all times. The idea behind this is that it will focus a driver's attention on the speed at which they travel and help them maintain a lower speed. This initiative is most effective when the majority of users are local residents who travel the road regularly and therefore leaflets regarding this scheme could be distributed within the local area alongside further publicity.

Community Speedwatch

A scheme where a speed detection device is used at the roadside and registration numbers of vehicles that have been seen speeding are noted down. The information is fed into a Thames Valley Police database and a warning letter is issued to the registered vehicle owner. Should the vehicle be identified speeding on a subsequent occasion, a further letter will be sent to the owner informing them that the information has been passed to Roads Policing (RP) for possible future action.

Driver Assessments

TfB have developed and offer a suite of courses aimed at all road users types to encourage all safe driving. These are available for young novice drivers, business drivers and older mature drivers.

The above courses and campaigns are offered by the TfB Casualty Reduction Team and are available to be used by residents. Further information can be found about these and other Road Safety initiatives on the BCC web pages at:

http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/bcc/transport/road_safety.page

20 mph speed limits

Recently there have been an increasing number of requests for 20mph speed limits/zones. Transport for Buckinghamshire is currently developing a 20mph policy to ensure that it will have a fair, consistent and constructive response to demands for 20mph limits in the future. This policy will be directly affected by emerging National developments relating to speed limit policy, legislation and signing, which are expected to be finalised during the early part of 2013.

The **Department for Transport published its Strategic Framework for Road Safety in May 2011**. This states that speed limits can have impacts on the economy, the environment and communities and that in residential streets and town centres, where there is likely to be a conflict between vehicles and pedestrians, carefully implemented 20mph zones can contribute to an improvement in road safety.

It confirmed (para3.26) that **local authorities may introduce 20mph speed limit zones**

a) on major streets, where business on foot is more important than slowing down road traffic and

b) on lesser residential roads in cities, towns and villages, particularly where this would be

- reasonable for the road environment,
- there is community support and
- streets are being used by pedestrians and cyclists.

An update from the D.f.T., due in early 2013, of Traffic Advisory Leaflet 9/99 “20mph speed limits and zones”, will provide more clarity on where and how 20mph schemes should be installed

Because various changes at a National level will directly affect the County Council’s new 20mph policy, Transport for Buckinghamshire will not be finalising its new 20mph policy until the National policy and legislation details have been clarified.

It is not anticipated that there will be any change in the current National Policy that all 20mph limits should be self-enforcing and therefore not require any enforcement by the Police.

The County Council has completed a review of the speed limit on every one of its roads. As a result and due to competing demands on resources the County Council is no longer able to fund requests for speed limit changes. However, a new process is being developed, and subject to Key Decision by TfB, to enable communities to request and fund a change in a speed limit. This will include requests for 20 mph limits. Any changes proposed will need to be in accordance with National Guidance on setting speed limits.

For information a draft outline of the current process and cost of installing a new speed limit is attached. The basic cost is currently estimated to be around £7,000. This sum covers the costs involved with preparatory work, legal requirements and installation of a speed limit. This cost will vary dependent on the extent of the limit and if any additional features are required. This cost could be higher for a 20mph zone, where some additional measures, other than signs/markings may be required to achieve speeds around 20mph.

Feedback from Members:

Cllr Brand is supportive of measures to educate drivers on the dangers of speeding in Chesham. A copy of his response to this petition is attached.

Appendices:

Background Papers

1. Advice on dealing with speeding traffic.
2. Roadside Poster Policy.
3. DfT camera guidelines.
4. Extract from the VAS policy.
5. ‘The cost of speed limit change’ document.
6. Response from Cllr Michael Brand.

