



Report to Wendover and Villages Community Board

- Date:** 01/02/2023
- Title:** Church Lane, Weston Turville
- Relevant councillor(s):** Bill Chapple OBE, Michael Collins, Julie Ward
- Author and/or contact officer:** Neil O'Leary, Network Safety Team Leader, TfB
- Ward(s) affected:** Aston Clinton & Bierton
- Recommendations:**
- I. Commission speed data collection, if the data supports a potential reduction, then -
 - a. Commission Speed Limit Assessment
 - b. Erect signage warning of the likelihood of pedestrians in carriageway
 - II. Commission a lighting survey with a view to sympathetically improve lighting at points where pedestrians enter the carriageway.

1. Summary

Buckinghamshire Council have received an ePetition, attracting 244 signatures, requesting pedestrian warning signage and a reduction in the posted speed limit to 20mph on Church Lane, Weston Turville. This report sets out the considerations made by Buckinghamshire Council's Network Safety Team in preparing its response.

2. Background information

Church Lane, Weston Turville is predominantly a residential road situated between Worlds End Lane and Brookside in Western Turville. A concern has been raised by residents that there

is insufficient signage to warn of the likely presence of pedestrians in the carriageway along those sections on Church Lane where footways are not provided. To emphasise this likelihood the petitioners also ask for the introduction of a 20mph limit. The ePetition also states that Church Lane is also a “rat run” for vehicles accessing Wendover Road from the A41/Aston Clinton.

In terms of collision history, there have been no recorded injury collisions within the last 5 years of data (01/07/2017 – 30/06/2022) on Church Lane.

In evaluating the road for a lower speed limit, Buckinghamshire Council must consider relevant guidance. Requests for speed limit changes can only be formally consulted upon and implemented if they comply with the National Guidance on setting speed limits as set out in Department for Transport Circular 01/2013 ‘Setting local Speed Limits’.

Requests for speed limit changes must also be supported by the local community, and it is evident from this ePetition that support is present and could proceed to the formal application and assessment stage. In the first instance speed data could be collected to determine the likelihood of compliance with a lower speed limit. Should this be the case a speed limit assessment should then be conducted. A fee would be charged to enable the collection of speed data and the formal assessment of this request to take place. This assessment will include:

- a site visit.
- analysis of existing traffic data (speed, flow and crash records).
- comparison of the proposal with the criteria of the national speed limit guidance.
- evaluation of the implications on the local road network.
- assessment of factors affecting cost of implementation (e.g. sign placement, vegetation issues, lighting).
- liaison with police traffic management officer and identification of enforcement issues.
- identification of the suitability of the proposed extent of the speed limit and possible alternatives.
- assessment of signing changes required including illuminated signs.
- need for and potential environmental impact of additional engineering/other measures to encourage compliance with proposed speed limit.

Parish Councils and Community Groups can request a speed survey from the Traffic Information Data Team at Transport for Buckinghamshire. The cost is £504.70 for a 7-day survey per location, some requests will require more than one collection site to ensure the data collected accurately represents the speed of traffic, requests can be made by e-mailing tfbtrafficinfo@buckinghamshire.gov.uk or phone 01296 382416.

A formal report would then be produced, which would cost an additional £921, detailing the outcome of the speed limit appraisal.

Following the speed limit appraisal, changing the speed limit requires a legal process to be followed which includes a formal public consultation. This includes the following:

- advertisement in local newspaper(s) of the proposed and final Traffic Order.
- legal services' fees.
- analysis of consultation feedback.
- formal consultation report.
- sign installation.
- preparatory work and correspondence associated with all the above.

However, due to the absence of any reported injury incidents on Church Lane, Buckinghamshire Council are unable to fund the speed limit assessment or reduction in speed limit from the Network Safety Local Safety Scheme budget.

The ePetition also calls for the erection of signage to warn of the likelihood of pedestrians in the carriageway. Due to the absence of data identifying the risk to pedestrians is greater than at other similar locations throughout the county where pedestrians make use of the carriageway to complete their journeys, Buckinghamshire Council would be unable to fund the installation of pedestrian in carriageway warning signs, from the Network Safety Local Safety Scheme budget. However, should funding become available Buckinghamshire Council can advise on the correct siting in terms of visibility, clearance to the carriageway, headroom clearance and illumination requirements for the signage.

3. Other options considered

The ePetition describes Church Lane as a “walkers and dog walkers haven” and a key section of numerous pedestrian journeys within the village. An option could be to enhance the route for users particularly during periods of reduced visibility, through the provision of sympathetic, energy efficient lighting to enable pedestrians to reduce the likelihood of slips, trips and falls and also provide improved inter-visibility between pedestrians and approaching drivers/riders.

4. Legal and financial implications

4.1 Changes to speed limits are subject to statutory public consultation.

5. Corporate implications

a) None identified

6. Local councillors & community boards consultation & views

6.1 N/A

7. Communication, engagement & further consultation

7.1 N/A.

8. Next steps and review

8.1 N/A

9. Background papers

Buckinghamshire Council follow Department of Transport Guidance when setting local speed limits. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/setting-local-speed-limits/setting-local-speed-limits>

Network Safety Policy: <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/parking-roads-and-transport/policies/highway-policies/network-safety-policy/>

Criteria for Road Safety Improvement works within Buckinghamshire:

<https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/parking-roads-and-transport/road-safety/road-traffic-collisions/>

Department for Transport Circular 01/2013 'Setting local Speed Limits' [Setting local speed limits - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/setting-local-speed-limits)

10. Your questions and views (for key decisions)

10.1 N/A

