

Division/Station: Traffic Management Milton Keynes

From: Mr.N.M.Biggs  
Traffic Management

To : Josh Tomlinson  
Senior Project Manager BC

Subject:

Ref: NB 2/24

Date: 15.1.24

Tel.No. 07970 145588

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## **Proposed Traffic Calming Castlefield, High Wycombe, Bucks**

### **Reference**

I refer to the e-mail dated the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023 from Josh Tomlinson, Senior Project Manager, Transport Infrastructure and Delivery, Communities Directorate, Buckinghamshire Council indicating the following Statutory Consultation due to commence on **1 December 2023**, for the implementation of various proposed Traffic Calming Measures on the following streets in the Castlefield Area of High Wycombe:

- **Rutland Avenue** (From the Chairborough Road / Albion Road junction to the Desborough Castle Settlement)
- **Booker Lane** (from Rutland Avenue to Chiltern Avenue)
- **Middleway** (Junction with Spearing Road)
- **Spearing Road** (from The Middleway to Rutland Avenue)
- **Cross Road** (between Spearing Road and Rutland Avenue)
- **Whitelands Road** (between Chiltern Avenue and Whitelands Way)

Buckinghamshire Highways are proposing to introduce traffic calming measures across several roads in the Castlefield Area.

These measures have been proposed in order to limit and deter anti-social driving from occurring in the area and to improve safety amenities for road users and pedestrians.

Proposed measures include **speed humps, speed cushions, raised tables, modifying junctions** and a **chicane**.

### **History**

The Castlefield area of High Wycombe has been the subject of anti-social driving behaviour for a considerable period of time.

On Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2021 PCSO Michael Allington e-mailed the then Road Safety Officer Pc Liz Johnson stating 'We have visited nearly 1000 houses within this area to speak with residents to gain quantitative data regarding the priority issues within the area from the perspective of the residents.

Over 80% stated speeding was the main concern, especially as the main road for speeding also is less than 30 meters away from the local primary school, bringing in a large amount of safeguarding concerns as well. With 96.5% of residents on the main road (over 300 houses) have stated speeding is the main issue. We've looked at the statistics for reported road related incidents within the area and can see it is not as exaggerated like speeding complaints may be sometimes.

I was hoping to get some knowledge from yourself about our potential ability to help with these issues within the long term, as we know that we can only help speeding whilst we are visible, which is not feasible to maintain 100% of the time on shift (or off shift).'

A speeding report which was issued in May 2022 by Thames Valley Police (TVP) is attached, the report states;

‘TVP have conducted multiple meetings with one of the local councillors who has Castlefield within their ward, within these meetings we will spend multiple hours conducting house to house along the main roads within Castlefield. At this current point, roads we have covered are Rutland Avenue, Chairborough Road, Pettifer Way, and Longland Way.

Speaking with residents of Rutland Avenue and Chairborough Road, they all resonated the same issues within the area. The largest issue which was raised was the speeding of vehicles are obscene speeds, purposefully trying to go fast throughout Castlefield.

However, despite not being on roads where speeding is prevalent and known to police, the main topics presented were yet again speeding along the main roads such as Rutland Avenue and Chairborough Road.

Speeding of cars, as well as the noise pollution from these vehicles, was mentioned by nearly every single house that we spoke to on these roads. There was mention about driving anti-socially as well as speeding, though it is apparent the category which holds the most weight and should be the largest priority as dictated by the community, is vehicle based ASB.

We have been in contact with the head of the community speed watch, unfortunately due to the large amount of cars parked along the side of the road, they have stated we are unable to set up a community speed watch group for this area. This poses as an issue, as a long term solution is now harder to obtain as speed calming measures have already been put in place and to have dedicated resources to monitor Castlefield throughout the day and night is not feasible.’

The report then goes on to give statistical collision data for the five year period 01/11/16 to 31/10/21 indicating there had been one serious and nine slight injuries caused as a result of road traffic collisions on Rutland Avenue, High Wycombe.

To bring the collision history up to date the data set is now for the latest five year period 1/7/2018 - 30/6/2023. The previous report showed ten collisions, this has now been increased to eleven within the dataset although I am aware that there are other incidents that have occurred from the end of the current dataset to the present date not included within the figures.

### Collision History

Having checked our incident platform on Rutland Avenue I have found one non-stop collision on 25/8/23, an off road motorcycle in collision with a vehicle where the rider failed

to stop but was clearly injured on 16/11/23. Also on the 6/12/23 where V1 overtook another vehicle and ended up hitting three parked vehicles and a brick wall.

In fig.1 below is the ACCSMAP collision history denoting the slight injury collisions in yellow and the serious in blue, a total of 21 slight and 4 serious. The one serious that you cannot see is captured on the smaller junction detail.

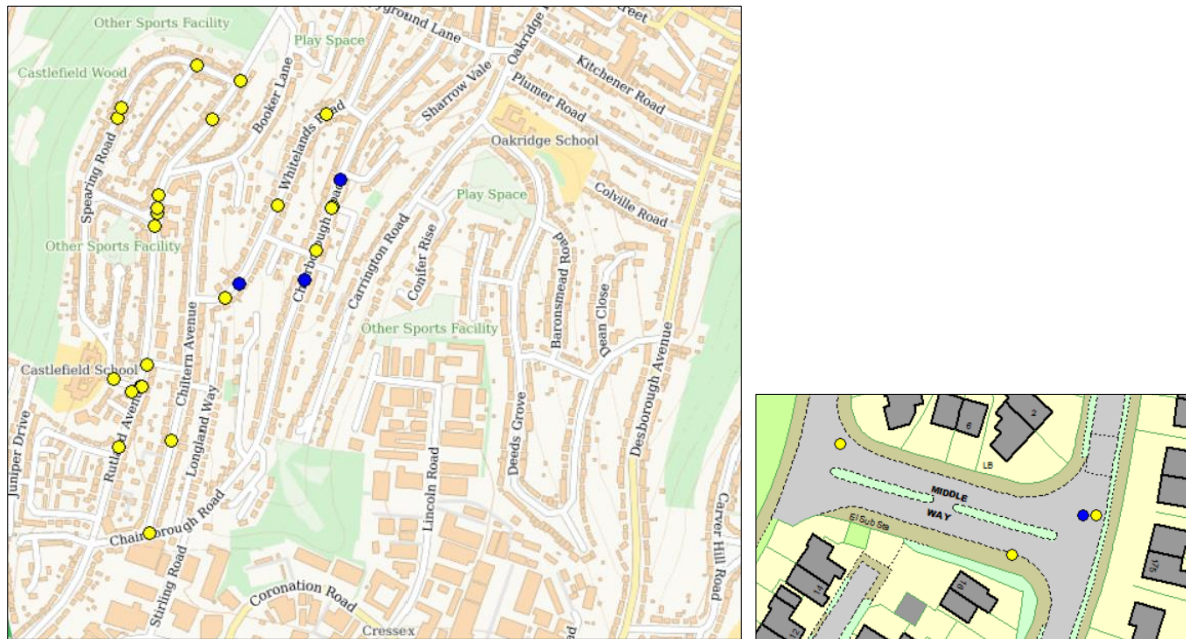


Figure 1 Collision data for the proposed traffic calming area for the five year period 1/7/2018 - 30/6/2023

## Rutland Avenue

Starting from the south

- The collision to the south was where a pedal cycle travelling south was hit by a car reversing out of a driveway to travel in the same direction causing slight injury.
- Vehicle 2 turned left from Spearing Road to travel SE on Middleway when it collided head on with V1 on the wrong carriageway, V1 failed to stop causing slight injury.
- V1 Goods vehicle turned into Middleway at speed and hit pedestrian on footway waiting to cross causing slight injury
- V1 travelling south drifted across to opposing lane hitting V2 travelling in opposing direction causing serious injury.
- V1 turned right from Middleway into Rutland Avenue at excessive speed and hit vehicle two on the offside travelling in same direction, V1 failed to stop slight injury.
- V1 travelling south at speed failed to give way at roundabout for V2 on roundabout turning right from Chiltern Avenue slight injury
- V1 moped travelling north towards Cross End undertook V2 which then turned left into Cross end slight injury.

- V2 waiting to turn right into Cross End with stationary vehicles behind, V1 overtakes stationary vehicles and hits V2 turning right and fails to stop causing slight injury.
- V1 goods vehicle travelling south when pedestrian steps into road travelling west causing slight injury.
- V2 stopped at zebra crossing, V1 behind failed to stop and hit V2 driver decamped from scene slight injury.
- V1 travelling north when believed driver had a medical episode and collided with parked vehicles causing slight injury.
- V2 travelling south stops to give way at roundabout, V1 fails to stop and hits rear of V2. V1 fails to stop slight injury.

### Spearing Road

- The most southerly slight collision was where V1 believed travelling north hit a child pedestrian who ran out into the road.
- The next most southerly slight collision was where V1 reversed out of a driveway and hit the rear offside of V2.
- The next slight collision was where V2 turned right out of Grenfell Avenue and was hit by V1 a goods vehicle travelling the wrong way down a one way street.

### Whitelands Road

- From the south the first slight injury collision was where V1 travelling at speed hit V2 parked on the nearside which pushed.
- Serious collision where pedestrian taking bags out of rear offside door of V2, V1 clipped offside of V2 and ran over pedestrians foot and failed to stop.
- V1 direction not known but believe excess speed drifted across carriageway and hit V2 travelling in opposing direction causing slight injury.
- V1 travelling round left hand bend hit V2 travelling in opposite direction as a result V3/4 both hit which were parked.

### Chairborough Road

Starting from the south;

- V1 turned right out of Chiltern Avenue across path of motorcycle travelling east causing slight injury.
- V1 motorcycle direction not known hit two parked cars causing serious injury
- V1 slowed for pedestrian to cross in a westerly direction when driver pulled away running over pedestrians foot and failed to stop causing slight injury.
- V1 motorcycle turned right across path of V2 travelling south causing slight injury.
- V1 travelling north hit rear of V2 goods vehicle propelling it through a garden fence then V1 hit PSV which then shunted into V4 which was parked causing serious injury.

It is clear from the collision history that there are issues with drivers travelling at inappropriate speeds and also leaving the scene or failing to stop and give details.

Below is the area where the proposed traffic calming is to take place;

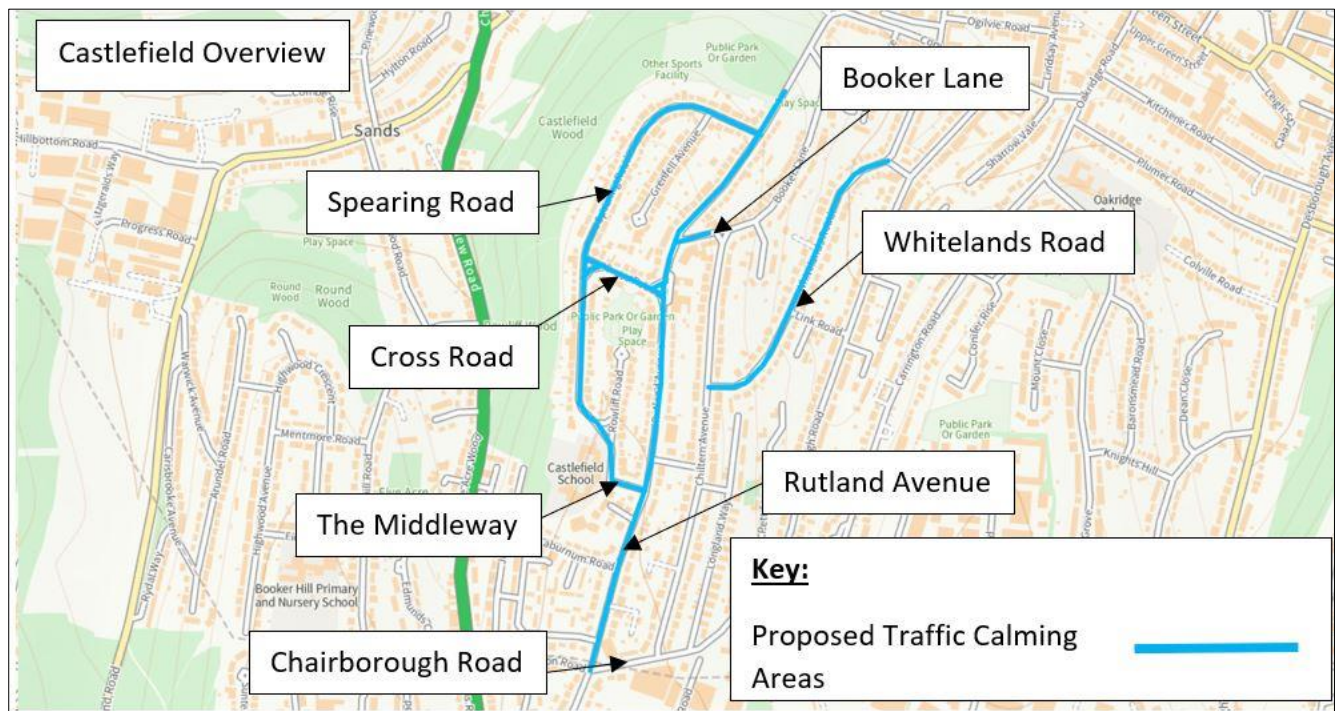


Figure 2 proposed Traffic Calming for the Castlefield area

## Investigation

Since the initial enquiries were made regarding measures to be put in place there have been numerous meetings both on site with local community leaders, councillors, the headmaster from the local school, officers from Buckinghamshire Council and TVP neighbourhood and Traffic Management.

As a result of these meetings funding was made available to traffic calm the area identified above in Figure 2, the challenge was to reduce the excessive speeds and driving behaviour which the local community had previously indicated was there number one priority.

BC have proposed measures which include speed humps, speed cushions, raised tables, modifying junctions and a chicane.

Details of these measures can be found in the appendices to this report;

## Appendices

- A - Rutland Avenue to the north and south of Laburnham Road.
- B – Rutland Avenue/Middleway.
- C – Rutland Avenue/Spearing Road
- D – Whitelands Road
- E – Spearing Road
- F – Rutland Avenue junction Spearing Road and Whitelands Road

The measures that are proposed are comprehensive in their nature and also either replace or add to the existing traffic calming that was originally put in in Rutland Avenue to reduce driver speeds.

Upon receiving the details of the consultation and details of the traffic calming in early January 2024 I did a site visit to look at the road environment and took a number of photos;



*Figure 3 Rutland Avenue just to the north of The Middleway which will become a raised table in the proposals*



*Figure 4 Chairborough Road looking NE showing on street parked vehicles*



*Figure 5 Spearing Road showing use of parking restrictions to provide two way traffic at this location*

A feature of this whole area is the on street parking which is evident in all locations where parking is of a premium. In the picture above in Spearing Road there is the use of parking restrictions on one side to allow the passage of vehicles in either direction

### **Summary**

This proposal is to provide a comprehensive solution to the excessive speed and anti-social behaviour that accompanies it and that the local community have endured for a considerable period of time.

It had been identified in the initial stages of this proposal by TVP when officers visited 1000 homes in the area to get a picture of what the residents saw as their prime issue listed above.

With the support and engagement of the local community leaders, councillors, headmaster of the local school, Buckinghamshire Officers and the TVP Neighbourhood Officers and Traffic Management developing the scheme it has been finalised ready for statutory consultation.

It is now hoped that the scheme will start to be built in the spring of this year.

It will be worth monitoring the situation closely once the scheme is in for at least the first six months to see how well the scheme is performing, to that end I will consult with the Area Commander on how we would feed that information back

### **Consultation**

I have consulted together with Josh Tomlinson, Senior Project Manager, Transport Infrastructure and Delivery, Communities Directorate, Buckinghamshire Council in relation to this proposal.

## **Recommendation**

I recommend that this report be forwarded to Josh Tomlinson, Senior Project Manager, Transport Infrastructure and Delivery, Communities Directorate, Buckinghamshire Council stating that the police have no objection to these proposals but making note of the comments made within the report.

Mr.N.M.Biggs  
Traffic Management





THAMES VALLEY  
POLICE

## **Thames Valley Police Speeding report**

**Date: May 2022**

TVP have conducted multiple meetings with one of the local councillors who has Castlefield within their ward, within these meetings we will spend multiple hours conducting house to house along the main roads within Castlefield. At this current point, roads we have covered are Rutland Avenue, Chairborough Road, Pettifer Way, and Longland Way.

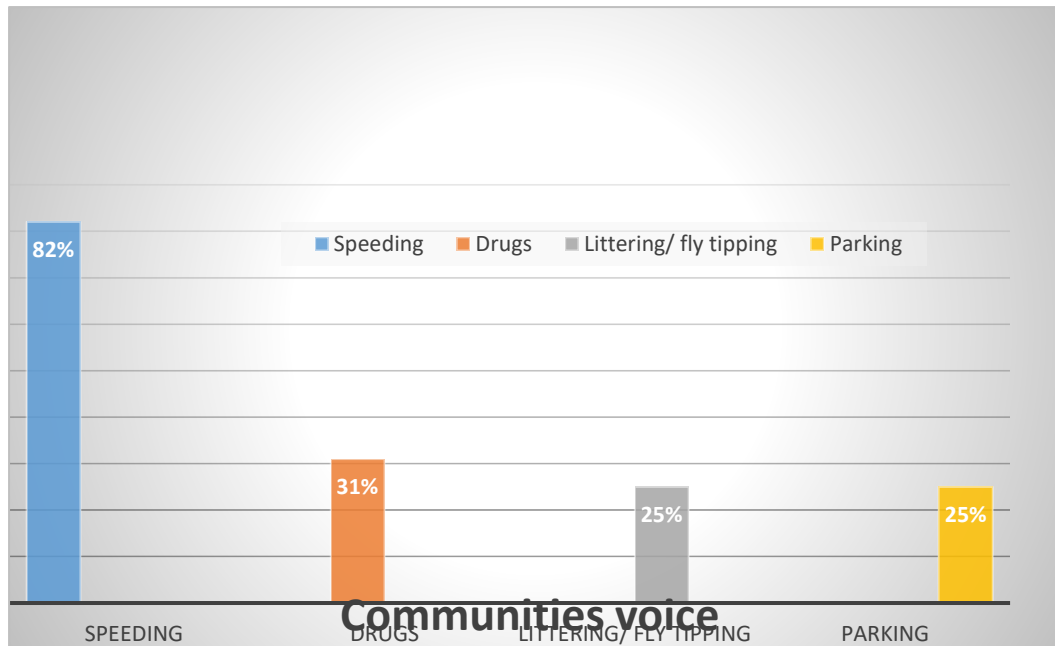
Speaking with residents of Rutland Avenue and Chairborough Road, they all resonated the same issues within the area. The largest issue which was raised was the speeding of vehicles are obscene speeds, purposefully trying to go fast throughout Castlefield.

However, despite not being on roads where speeding is prevalent and known to police, the main topics presented were yet again speeding along the main roads such as Rutland Avenue and Chairborough Road.

Speeding of cars, as well as the noise pollution from these vehicles, was mentioned by nearly every single house that we spoke to on these roads. There was mention about driving anti-socially as well as speeding, though it is apparent the category which holds the most weight and should be the largest priority as dictated by the community, is vehicle based ASB.

We have been in contact with the head of the community speed watch, unfortunately due to the large amount of cars parked along the side of the road, they have stated we are unable to set up a community speed watch group for this area. This poses as an issue, as a long term solution is now harder to obtain as speed calming measures have already been put in place and to have dedicated resources to monitor Castlefield throughout the day and night is not feasible.

Below is a table showing the results of the house to house enquires that TVP conducted to ask residents there main concerns in the area as it shows 82% of residents raised concerns about speeding.



Data

from TVP and Hampshire roads safety show over the last 5 years between (01/11/16) to 31/10/21) there has been one serious and nine slight injuries caused as a result of Road Traffic Collisions on Rutland Avenue, High Wycombe.

3 slights 2018

3 Slights 2019

1 Serious 2020

3 slights 2021

Map below – yellow dot are slights blue are serious. The serious injury is at the junction with Middle Way at a similar position to the slight at this junction.

Road traffic collisions are reported by injury to person not damage to vehicle. A slight meaning the occupants of the vehicle involved in the Collision are uninjured or minor injury. TVP police do not record damage to the vehicle.



In the last 5 years according to data from TVP there have been 62 road related incidents on Rutland Avenue.

TVP have conducted speeding operations in the area involving a speed gun however, this had little impact long term. The short-term impact has shown to be very effective, as residents have reminded road users of police presence during these operations resulting in no vehicles exceeding the speed limit subsequently. However, once police leave the area, the lack of police presence results in the aforementioned speeding instances increasing as a result.

As TVP are not able to be present 24/7 in policing the area, it appears that long-term traffic calming measures are the only effective way to reduce this type of ASB/offending ensuring the safety of residents.

Below is the reports to TVP over the past year relating to traffic incidents. In total, there have been 36 reports relating to speeding/dangerous driving in the area.

Street Name	Reported Time/Date	Occurrence Type	Summary
Rutland Avenue	07/04/2021 04:25	Suspicious Vehicle	Vehicle made off from police
Rutland Avenue	13/05/2021	RTC	Vehicle lost control
Rutland Avenue	15/05/2021 16:51	Dangerous Driving	vehicle driving dangerously
Rutland Avenue	13/06/2021 22:45	RTC	RTC
Rutland Avenue	17/06/2021 17:13	RTC	RTC
Rutland Avenue	26/06/2021 21:35	Dangerous Driving	Car driving dangerously on the road, doing donuts.
Rutland Avenue	01/07/2021 22:34	Road related incident	Failed to stop and driving with speed on Rutland Avenue.
Rutland Avenue	14/07/2021 18:37	Road related incident	Failed to stop for police.
Rutland Avenue	21/07/2021 22:04	ASB Community	Various vehicles driving at speed.
Rutland Avenue	22/08/2021 15:43	ASB Community	Cars racing around.
Rutland Avenue	01/09/2021 00:52	Dangerous Driving	Car driving dangerously.
Rutland Avenue	19/09/2021 16:22	Dangerous driver	Dangerous driver
Rutland Avenue	10/10/2021 12:54	Dangerous driving	Vehicles racing
Rutland Avenue	13/10/2021 21:29	Suspicious Vehicle	Vehicle made off from police at speed.
Rutland Avenue	27/10/2021 19:43	Road related incident	Vehicle driving erratically
Rutland Avenue	01/11/2021 22:25	Road related incident	Vehicle speeding around the area.
Rutland Avenue	03/11/2021 08:00	RTC	Car hit a wall
Rutland Avenue	08/12/2021 19:51	Road related incident	Vehicle speeding.
Rutland Avenue	31/12/2021 21:17	Dangerous Driving	Dangerous Driving
Rutland Avenue	03/01/2022 15:05	RTC	RTC vehicle made off
Rutland Avenue	14/02/2022 21:12	Suspicious vehicle	vehicle made off from police at speed
Rutland Avenue	18/02/2022 22:32	Road related incident	Vehicle speeding.
Rutland Avenue	21/02/2022 15:55	ASB Community	Dangerous driving
Rutland Avenue	04/03/2022 01:10	RTC	RTC Driver made off from seen.
Rutland Avenue	09/03/2021 15:06	ASB Community	3 cars speeding around the area.
Rutland Avenue	12/03/2022 14:49	ASB community	Vehicles speeding around the area
Rutland Avenue	19/03/2022	Dangerous Driving	Quad bike speeding around the area.
Rutland Avenue	08/04/2022	ASB Community	2 vehicles dangerous driving
Rutland Avenue	09/04/22 12:29	RTC	RTC
Rutland Avenue	16/04/2022 18:39	Road related incident	Vehicles racing up and down the road
Rutland Avenue	22/04/2022 23:52	Suspicious Vehicle	Car is driving at dangerous speed
Rutland Avenue	24/04/2022 19:55	Road related incident	Cars racing around the road
Rutland Avenue	26/04/2022 20:13	ASB Community	2 vehicles racing at speed
Rutland Avenue	05/05/2022 14:25	Road related incident	cars racing around at speed
Rutland Avenue	08/05/2022	ASB Community	2 cars racing along Rutland Avenue
Rutland Avenue	12/05/2022 23:37	ASB Community	Car driving anti socially
<b>Total</b>			36
Dangerous Driving			7
ASB community			7
RTC			7
Road related incidents			3
Suspicious vehicle			

Below shows further reports from 2020-2021 which shows 17 road related incident that have been reported in that year.

Street Name	Reported date/time	Occurence Type	Summary
Spearing Road	03/01/2021 01:50	Road related incident	Pedestrian hit by vehicle
Spearing Road	05/01/2021 00:54	Suspicious vehicle	Vehicle failed to stop for police
Spearing Road	07/01/2021 12:18	Suspicious vehicle	Vehicle failed to stop for police
Spearing Road	12/04/2021 11:30	Dangerous driving	Cars speeding doing laps of the area.
Spearing Road	04/05/2021 00:13	RTC	Minor RTC
Spearing Road	07/05/2021 21:25	ASB Community	Mopeds driving at speed
Spearing Road	13/05/2021 13:49	Suspicious vehicle	Suspicious vehicle
Spearing Road	02/06/2021 16:13	ASB Community	Trail bikes causing a nuisance
Spearing Road	12/06/2021 20:00	ASB community	Riding dirt bikes dangerously
Spearing Road	25/06/2021 01:40	Suspicious vehicle	Vehicle made off at speed from police
Spearing Road	24/07/2021 01:32	RTC	RTC
Spearing Road	24/07/2021 09:02	RTC	RTC
Spearing Road	01/08/2021 14:47	RTC	RTC
Spearing Road	02/12/2021 02:53	Suspicious vehicle	Vehicle made off from police
Spearing Road	07/12/2021 18:54	Road related incident	Van driving round suspiciously
Spearing Road	07/03/2022 22:44	ASB Community	Cars racing around the area
Spearing Road	08/03/2022 07:47	ASB Community	Cars racing around the area
<b>Total - 17</b>			
Rutland Avenue	24/02/2021 14:58	Dangerous Driving	Quad bikes driving dangerously
Rutland Avenue	26/02/2021 23:55	Suspicious vehicle	Vehicle made off from police
Rutland Avenue	27/02/2021 15:58	ASB community	Mopeds speeding
Rutland Avenue	27/02/2021 16:29	ASB community	Motorbikes speeding
Rutland Avenue	28/02/2021 16:34	ASB community	Riding quad bike inappropriately
Rutland Avenue	04/03/2021 18:26	ASB community	Car driving dangerously
Rutland Avenue	06/03/2021 15:07	ASB community	Motorbikes driving dangerously
Rutland Avenue	20/03/2021 14:54	ASB community	Motorbikes driving fast around the area.
Rutland Avenue	07/04/2021 04:24	Suspicious vehicle	Vehicle made off from police

Thames valley police conducted door knocks on Rutland Avenue on 07/05/22 to ask residents if they would consent to speeding measures being put in place on Rutland Avenue. There are approximately 216 houses on Rutland Avenue, we spoke to 133 in total and 129 signed to consent to measures being put in place and raised concerns about speeding on Rutland Avenue.