

Quarterly Report – Travel and Road Safety

Here are the main areas of concern as far as traffic and highways are concerned.

1. **The A377 crossing at Tytheing Close** near the old school building. I have had a site meeting with Damian Hodge representing the residents of Tytheing Close. Although the speed limit here is 30mph, many vehicles passing exceed that speed and it makes it unsafe for young children and the aged to cross the road, but they have to do so to get into the main village as there is no pavement on the north side of the road. A pedestrian crossing would be best, but I understand that the county council are reluctant because of the proximity to the one in the main village. A central traffic island is an alternative which would also help.
2. **The A377 crossing at Smallbrooke.** National speed limit applies here, but you would have to be insane to drive through this chicane at 60mph (although some do according to DCC speed monitoring). There are light up signs in both directions warning drivers to slow down. The main reason for crossing the road would be to get to the bus stop, which once again would be very challenging for young children (going to or returning from school) and the aged. I have had an email exchange with Jocelyn who has provided some very helpful suggestions. Any new ideas would be gratefully received.
3. **The school and Station Road.** I have had a site meeting with James Ackhurst (head of school). There is no signage at all and it would be almost impossible for anyone to realise there is a school there unless you are a NSC resident. We need parking restrictions, zig-zag lines, proper signage and 'wigwag' lights with timed speed restrictions to 20mph during school drop off and pick up times. The DCC realise this and have 'offered' a small contribution to the cost. We have reapplied for a 20mph speed restriction to DCC. The school also need to complete a school travel plan - I have forwarded this to the head of school, but it is a major piece of work.

There has also been concern about speeding along the A377 and some (including me) feel a 40mph speed limit from NSC (Quicke's farm entrance) to Crediton would be best, enforced by speed cameras. This proposal has been rejected by DCC on the basis of their speed monitoring (SCARF) assessment reported in May 2023. We have now had 6 volunteers come forward who would be prepared to take part in a community speed watch scheme. I will be arranging a meeting soon to hopefully restart this project.

My next step is to meet up with Steve Tucker who is head of traffic and roads for the DCC and discuss all these points with him. To date, I have had no response to my

emails, phone calls and texts. I will continue to try and arrange a meeting. If anyone can help to facilitate this, I would be very grateful.

4. **Road Wardens.** We are very fortunate to have an enthusiastic and dedicated group of volunteers in the parish led by Nick Gillon. Their work includes pothole repairs, drain clearance and unblocking, clearing debris from footpaths and roadside verges, sign cleaning and repair etc. They have generated some income for the PCC by carrying out work on a private basis.
5. **The Boniface trail** is a proposed cycle path/footpath from Crediton to Exeter. Since my election as parish councillor in May 2023, I have attended one meeting where the results of an engineering scoping project were presented. So far, this work has covered the length of the trail from Crediton to Newton St Cyres. There are some formidable engineering issues to overcome, with even more on the stretch from NSC to Exeter. The proposed route hugs the A377 and consequently has significant gradients that would be a disincentive to inexperienced cyclists. I understand that a proposal to adopt a route adjacent to the railway line (which would be much flatter) has been considered and rejected.

John Dean 28th March 2024