

## **Birlingham Village Speeding Report - March 2017**

Following the results received from the most recent 'Road Strip' survey carried out, concerns have been raised by both residents of the village and the Parish Council.

The results clearly showed that the existing speed limit of 30 mph is being exceeded on an unacceptable number of occasions which is causing safety concerns for all residents. The speed limit is being exceeded on a regular basis on both access roads to the village namely Upper End and New Barn Road.

The results surprisingly showed that the limit was been exceeded during the daytime, outside of 'rush hours' which was unexpected. Many theories have been put forward as to why this is happening and who is actually exceeding the limits. Over the last few years following ease of access to internet ordering and the growth of businesses in the village, it has been noted that the amount of courier and delivery services around the village have increased considerably. Whilst not isolated to this type of traffic, it has added to the issue. As there are few houses on the access roads, drivers seem to speed along these roads more often than not, this includes residents and visitors to the village.

### **Investigation**

It has been found that there are a number of areas that can be looked into to ease the issue, these being:

1. Decrease the current speed limit from 30 mph to 20 mph.  
Any speed limit displayed in a red circle **IS** enforceable. This would slow traffic down through the village and ease part of the current issue. However, the limit must be adhered to in order for it to be effective.
2. Enforceable Mobile Speed Gun.  
Arrangements can and have been made for an enforceable mobile speed gun to be put in place at varying locations in the village covering the times that have been found to be the most productive for speeding. This will be happening shortly.

UPDATE – Has been seen in the village and speeds recorded. Data to be received shortly.

3. Villager Led Speed Gun.  
The introduction of a villager controlled speed gun can be facilitated and has been effective in other villages around the country. However, this would pit villager against villager as it would actually have to be run by the villagers and may cause issues.

UPDATE – Councillors have agreed that they, and other villagers would be prepared to hold the speed guns and notify any corporate companies involved where their drivers are speeding. Clerk to source speed guns.

4. Road Narrowing  
In order for the road to have chicanes to narrow the roads street lighting and bollards would have to be put in place.

5. Speed Bumps

As above, these have to be lit and signage put in place. Where would they be put?. Would this cause potentially more issues with noise of lorries going over them?.

6. Illuminated Digital Sign.

These types of signs capture the speed of the vehicle and highlight via a digital display. From previous research it was found that these signs cost around £ 3,000 and require an electricity supply to enable it to work. The sign needs to be purchased privately and is not provided by Highways etc.

UPDATE – Signs can be free standing with solar panels to power them. PA to investigate and report at next meeting.

7. Wheelie Bin Speed Stickers.

Local villages already have these in place and it helps to highlight the speed limit at least 1 day per week when bins are out. Arrangements have been made to obtain these stickers and they will be distributed to each household once received.

UPDATE – Have now been received and will be distributed shortly.

8. Drive Safely Signs

An application can be made for signs to be placed alongside the roads asking drivers to be careful and considerate.

9. Use of New Homes Bonus to fund traffic calming measures.

A suggestion from a villager has been put forward to use the funds we currently have under the NHB scheme to be used for village organisations. These funds can only be used on a 50/50 basis so the remaining costs would have to be met by another village organisation.

Expanding on this point, a further suggestion has been received that does give a firm idea and again reminds that Birlingham does not start at Upper End and finish at New Barn Road  
Details as below:

*In other villages, like Birlingham, where the centre is off a main road and yet the village itself is much larger than just the centre, you see a “Welcome – Please drive carefully” sign at each of the entry points into the village. These signs are often attached to a short piece of post and rail fence at right angles to the road and on each side of the road which act as a visual marker for the start of the village.*

*In our case these signs would not be placed on New Barn Lane or Upper End but would be placed where the parish boundary is crossed by the A4104 (By Tiddesley Wood and at the bottom of Bakers Hill) and the B4080 (near Eckington Bridge).*

*This could have the following benefits:*

- 1. It would correctly identify the full extent of the village and make people realise that the village of Birlingham is much more than just its centre.*
- 2. It makes the village more inclusive by reminding people on the outskirts that they are part of OUR village.*

3. *Drivers passing these signs would be reminded that they are entering a village and are being encouraged to drive carefully. I personally find myself slowing when I pass these entry points as it makes me think I am entering a built up or restricted area.*
4. *Over time this may even persuade the Highways Authority to adjust the speed limits to coincide with the village entry points.*

*The benefits are psychological and so unproven but something makes me think this might be worthwhile.*

*So we could have a "Welcome to BIRLINGHAM, Please drive carefully" or "BIRLINGHAM – Welcomes careful drivers". Costs should be affordable if the NHB pays for the signs and the other 50% is the cost of labour (provided free by volunteers) to install them.*