

The article below summarises the activities of the Parish Council in 2017 and 2018 to revisit potential options associated with reducing the speed of vehicles driving through Moulsoford. The material is extracted from the "From Your Parish Council" articles published in the February and April 2018 editions of Moulsoford News and the Parish Council minutes in November 2018.

Miles Powell

Speeding Vehicles

The on-site meeting held with OCC Highways staff in October 2017 was discussed at the December 2017 Parish Council meeting and it is worthwhile highlighting what is not possible before summarising what we can do!

This meeting with OCC Highways was against a background of the Parish Council re-visiting the topic of speeding vehicles and whether the law/options had fundamentally changed since it was last explored a few years ago. Briefly then:

- Double white lines through the village are not an option for us as there is adequate vision along the road.
- There is no option for speed humps or speed cushions as our street lighting is not adequate; the cost of improving street lighting would also be prohibitive.
- We could have the "white gates" at each end of the village – but these gates are not speed related and are purely symbolic indicating a settlement.
- Today installation of these gates would only be viable at the Wallingford end of the village as at the Streatley end of the village, the speed limit should line up with the village sign (boundary) but it doesn't. To get this adjusted would require legal activity that we'd have to fund (about £2,600 ex VAT) which we're not planning to do anytime soon.
- Installing white gates (at Wallingford end of village) would require OCC to install them using their sub-contractor as it would have to comply with legislation etc. Even if the Parish Council bought the gates direct from the supplier (several hundred pounds) the OCC installation cost would be approximately £1000. This is not an option that is going to be progressed.
- A chicane could be built in the village – typical cost £20k (we'd have to fund) but typically this would be on straight stretch of road and usually generates complaints from residents with traffic queuing so this is also something we're not progressing.
- We can request a speed survey (cost of £100). The benefit of doing this – at each end of the village – would be to get the latest factual data on how much traffic is actually speeding through the village.
- As the speeding issue has been reported as an issue at the Streatley end of the village a speed survey here will be requested to be set up in school term time so most likely after the Easter holidays.
- If the data from this speed survey supported it, then it can be used with the Police to then register Moulsoford as a "Community Concern Site" for speeding such that we'd be on a regular speed camera deployment timetable rather than ad hoc as we have today.
- Be careful what you wish for as this would almost certainly catch villagers who on occasion may inadvertently exceed 30mph..... It would also mean that we can get some (more) "speed camera" type signs in the village.

- It is though highly unlikely that the speed limit through the village could be brought down to 20mph. The speed survey data will likely show that more than 85% of the traffic through the village is >24mph which means a 20mph limit is a no go.
- The observation from OCC Highways staff was that if people are breaking the 30mph limit then there is little point having a 20mph speed limit.

As highlighted in Moulsoford News in late 2017, there was limited budget for OCC Highways to do anything in 2017 but we'll be booked in to have the 30mph road markings refreshed at the start of the next financial year and we did have the central road white lines through the village repainted in the summer of 2017.

Summary then is that we'll be having road markings refreshed in 2018 courtesy of OCC Highways and the Parish Council will spend £100 on a speed survey - through OCC Highways - to be located at the Streatley end of the village in the first half of 2018.

At the Parish Council meeting on 14th November 2018, the Traffic Speed Survey detail was reviewed and Item 11 of the minutes are as follows:

Evidence from vehicle speed survey shows that although a request for more frequent enforcement presence would be warranted at the Streatley end of the village only, it was noted that any such activity would only be during the working day (as is current practice) and at the same location in the pavilion lay by.

Given that most speeding was outside these times a unanimous decision was made to keep measures as they were and MPC noted that it had now exhausted all current speeding control measures that were available to it.

Miles Powell, MPC Chair, 2015 -2019