

Correspondence with CW&C Highways Places Engineer for Huntington

To be presented at October 2018 Parish Council Meeting

CONTEXT

The Parish Council have been investigating ways to introduce speed measures in Huntington, specifically Chester Road and the site surrounding the new school (Rake Roundabout). We invited Kay Parry to visit the sites and discuss ideas that had been put forward by Cllrs at the June 2018 Parish Council meeting

Following the PC meeting in September (Please see below) for information presented at that meeting), Cllrs went back to CWaC to ask about a 'countdown' to the new 30 mph zone by the new school, a potential 'buffer zone so motorists have to reduce their speed before reducing it further once they enter the 30mph zone and concerns regarding the visibility coming out of Sedum Close.

CW&C RESPONSE TO 'COUNTDOWN SUGGESTION' TO NEW 30 MPH ZONE AND A 'BUFFER ZONE' TO REDUCE SPEED FROM 60 MPH BEFORE THEN REDUCING SPEED AGAIN TO 30 MPH IN NEW ZONE.

The speed limit proposal has been reviewed by the police prior to advertising and they have asked for a roundel and yellow backed signs to be put up to ensure good advance visibility. In order for an advance speed limit to be implemented it would need to be assessed by our road safety team and funding identified if it met the criteria. If that is something the PC would like to support funding we could ask for the assessment but it would not be achieved to tie in to the school opening and they may need to assess the full lane to where there is a change in character. [There would be] no cost for the assessment but would need to commit to the cost of implantation which, if a long length were proposed, would involve posts for repeater signs along the full length so quite costly and complicated I expect by crossing PC boundaries.

We would not be looking to put count down signs as they are not an approved sign.

CW&C RESPONSE TO RESIDENT QUERY (VIA PC) ABOUT WHY NEW HUNTINGTON PRIMARY WON'T BE 20 MPH OUTSIDE SCHOOL:

We are rolling out a 4 programme of 20mph speed limits in residential areas across the Borough which meet the agreed criteria. This is where the average speed of traffic on a road is below 24mph or when on a road past a school where it is below 30mph. We are rolling out 20's routinely past all schools.

CW&C RESPONSE TO SEDUM CLOSE COMPLAINTS:

On Sedum Close visibility is determined by the road layout so there would not be any action we could take to improve it. It is in the 30 mph limit and there is an interactive sign for vehicles approaching the junction. We can't approve mirrors for use at junctions I'm afraid so that wouldn't be an option. We follow Department of Transport guidance which states it's not considered safe for drivers to rely on a mirror at a junction, even for driveways there are tight restrictions.

Speeding Measures on Chester Rd – ALREADY CONSIDERED BY PARISH COUNCIL IN SEPTEMBER MEETING

- There is the option of a speed camera which Highways and Cheshire Police would support but this would need to be funded by the PC for approximately £10,000
- CW&C have offered a flashing sign indicating the current speed of drivers and that they need to slow down. They have offered to split the cost so that PC pay 50% and CW&C pay 50%. This would be approximately £3000 each (£6000 in total). This cost covers installation and on-going maintenance annually thereafter.
- CW&C Highways would NOT endorse cheaper flashing signs to be erected. It must be the sign approved by CW&C.
- The Flashing sign would have to be erected over 100 metres from the start of the 30 mph zone. We looked at various options and Kay would suggest in the dip after the Red House or on the A55 bridge or slightly after from the other direction. You could have both if you can afford it! She would not recommend putting a flashing sign by the shops or near the Gorse Way junction due to the parking which reduces speed anyway and the slowing up of traffic to enter the service road by the shops or accessing Gorse Way.
- CW&C will NOT allow children designed signs on Chester Rd or around the new school. CW&C believe that they are mainly a distraction to drivers. They are sometimes used (for example, in Hoole) when a new speeding zone is introduced but should be temporary. There would be NO POSSIBILITY of putting them by the new school because there is far too many traffic hazards at Rake Roundabout (negotiating the roundabout, a new speed zone, entrance to Walkers Nurseries, entrance to the school, entrance to the pub, 2 puffin crossings, bus stop..... list is on-going) so any additional signs would be far too much distraction. Kay reminded me that the new 30 mph speed zone will be very adequately signposted.