

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Wem Road – Speed Cushions:

Parish Councillors are aware of the feelings of many residents about the speed cushions that have been placed in Wem Road and that a petition asking for them to be removed has been sent to Shropshire Council. The project has been discussed at Council meetings and the complaints raised and emails received from residents have all been forwarded to Shropshire Councillor Simon Jones and Mr. Richard Ayton, the highways officer responsible for the project. The Council has received a reply from Mr. Ayton stating that all the concerns and questions had been noted and that they were in the process of monitoring the scheme, which would include speed surveys. As soon as he received the feedback and results he would respond to all the concerns that had been raised.

Members considered in detail the complaints raised by parishioners, the comments made by Group Captain Appleton (RAF Shawbury), a report that there was some public support for the scheme and the confirmation that the petition being delivered simply asked for the cushions to be removed.

Shropshire Councillor Simon Jones confirmed that the units were of an approved standard and used throughout the County.

After due consideration the following motion was proposed, seconded and unanimously approved.

'The Parish Council fully supports the extension of the 30mph speed limit on Wem Road, understands the need for Shropshire Council to take note of the request from the police for traffic calming measures and also the concerns of local residents. It is felt that the system used is not suitable for this road and that a more appropriate form of control should be used.'

Other Highway concerns:

Several Councillors and the Parish Clerk recently met with Mr. David. Gradwell (Shropshire Council's road safety engineer) to look at:

The problems of speeding traffic in White Lodge Park, where he promised to arrange for additional signs and road marking to increase the awareness of the 20 mph speed limit and the dangerous situation on the A53, caused by traffic leaving the Elephant and Castle public house, speeding traffic, inconsiderate parking by the Co-op and other shops and the short distance between the traffic lights and the pedestrian crossing, concealed by the bend in the road.

A variety of suggestions were considered to help improve the situation but providing a solution was complex. There is insufficient distance between the traffic lights and the entrance to the public house to erect a warning flashing light but a sign saying crossing ahead would be considered. Legislation did not allow a 'Concealed Entrance' sign to be erected, although a private sign could be put in place and the erection of a mirror on the opposite side of the road to the car park would need the permission of the owner of the private property there.

The police have agreed to take action against offending motorists and approach the manager of the Co-op to see if attempts can be made to restrict off-road parking at the site.

Members feel that they have done all they can to alleviate the problem and it was generally agreed that much of the problem would be resolved if motorists used the excellent Council car park and walked the short distance to the shops.