

Parish Council Matters for March 2014

Dealing with the speeding problems in The Ridgeway

Residents in The Ridgeway have expressed increasing concern to the Parish Council about the dangers of traffic driving above the 30mph limit along their road. It seems that far too many drivers are failing to reduce their speed in both directions along The Ridgeway.

With financial support from Kent County Council, the Parish Council has decided to install an interactive road sign flashing the speed limit of 30mph to any driver whose vehicle is driving in excess of this restriction in The Ridgeway. The sign, which will face traffic travelling from Brewers Road, will be installed on the right side of the gate leading into the football field. Some trees will be trimmed back in order to increase the visibility of the sign to drivers approaching The Ridgeway.

The sign is due to be installed and in use from the end of this March.

Some local residents have arranged with Claire Croucher [Kent Police], our police community support officer [PCSO], to be supplied and trained to use special equipment to measure speed levels in The Ridgeway. Details will be taken of the registration number, make and colour of any vehicle which is found to be speeding. This information will be reported to Kent Police who, having verified the details supplied, will send a warning letter to the driver. A second offence will attract a further warning letter after which, in the event of any further offence, the Police will interview the individual ahead of possible prosecution.

The speed checks are now under way. The Council greatly appreciates the invaluable contribution which the local residents are making to this exercise.

Since this activity requires three persons for each session to record all the information required, we are keen to increase the size of the existing team of three. This is in order to ensure that these exercises can be mounted on a regular basis in future and to extend them elsewhere in the parish where speeding traffic is also a major concern.

We are therefore seeking further volunteers to join the team to carry on this good work. Each session lasts no more than one hour and there is no requirement, once enlisted, for volunteers to commit more time than they are comfortable with. Training and provision of suitable high visibility clothing and all equipment will be supplied without cost. Please let Brian Wilkinson, the Parish Council's Vice Chairman, know on 01474 536131 or by email on brian.wilkinson@blueyonder.co.uk if you would be interested in assisting with this valuable work.

Roy Dinnis
Shorne Parish Council