

Cheselbourne 20 is Plenty public consultation.

During the week commencing 5th December 2022 129 questionnaires were delivered, one to each household within the parish boundary. The closing date for the consultation was 23rd December. 38 questionnaires were returned, 22 by hand and 16 by email. One third of the households in Cheselbourne responded, and of these 90% overwhelmingly supported a 20mph speed limit.

Comments from those who did not support the lower speed limit:

- Drivers who don't observe the 30mph limit are even more unlikely to observe a 20mph limit
- Risk of losing the good will of those who observe the 30mph limit
- More diesel and petrol will be used if driving at 20mph in lower gear, hence increase pollution
- Police records show Cheselbourne is a low accident village. Number of accidents/incidents does not support a reduced speed limit.

Comments from those who supported a 20mph speed limit:

- provide much greater discipline on drivers who speed through the village
- sends the message that we care about our village and the people who live in it
- 30 is too fast for comfort and safety of walkers, with or without children, pushchairs or dogs, cyclists, horse riders or wheelchair users.
- There are no pavements, paths, verges, cycle lanes or disabled lane
- Children attending Cheselbourne Primary School are unable to walk to school because it is too dangerous and children attending St Mary's Middle School in Puddletown have to walk to the bus pickup point around bends in the road where the road is also very narrow
- No night time lighting
- Narrow roads, often single track with no passing places, sharp bends and blind spots, not compatible with the size and volume of modern vehicles
- Increase in online deliveries contributes to volume of traffic and vans parked in the road while the driver drops off his delivery.

Of those who supported a 20mph speed limit, 3 supported a 20mph speed limit over a reduced area, suggested sections being:

- from the Manor House to Hayes Cottage
- within 100 yards of the school
- From the Council Houses to Snails Creep

4 responses were concerned about enforcement and 1 concerned that, if introduced, street lighting might be an unwanted consequence.

Examples of incidents or near misses in the last 12 months:

- Many times outside Clematis Cottage and Eastfield House wall where it is very narrow, wing mirrors have been inches from me and the same for my husband who regularly cycles through the village.
- When driving through the village I regularly have to brake sharply and reverse to allow vehicles travelling too quickly (for the turns and widths) to pass
- As a walker it is extremely stressful to have any vehicle flash by at 30
- On numerous occasions I have been forced to take evasive action even in my own drive when cars sweep by at over 30mph.
- There are numerous skid marks from vehicles travelling too fast.

- We have regularly faced oncoming traffic in this bottleneck by 'Vermont'. It won't be long before an accident occurs there.
- Dustbins encroach onto road on refuse days.
- Electric cars are silent so children cannot hear them coming.
- I have had numerous 'near misses' with vehicles going too fast through the village while walking my dogs. I have been forced to squeeze into the hedgerow to avoid cars and have been sprayed with mud and water by speeding vehicles
- Anecdotally, parents do not walk their children to Cheselbourne First School because of the danger posed by speeding motorists contributing to (next point)
- The volume of vehicles parked near the school causes additional road safety problems.
- Too many drivers ignore the white painted road markings at the bottom of Streetway Lane and all too often enter the lane at high speed and on the wrong side of the road.
- I am a cyclist. I am most aware of cars and lorries going much too fast through the village. Hardly any stick to the 2m rule when overtaking and few slow down.
- I have experienced two particularly scary incidents in the past 12 months, both instances concerned HGVs and both instances concerned the stretch of road where the bend leans into the hardstanding behind Rectory Cottage. Having heard the vehicle approaching I tried to walk faster to get out of the way, but the driver showed no intention of slowing down. On the first occasion I had to flatten myself beside the bins and on the second occasion I didn't have time to get across the road to the hardstanding and had to flatten myself against the boundary of the cottage opposite, where the HGV thundered past me at speed with inches to spare and one of my dogs particularly distressed.
- In the summer months due to 'no mow May, June, July, August, September etc' the lanes appear narrower; the nettles get higher and wider, therefore a walker, cyclist etc have to make the choice of getting knocked down or stung, or faces/bodies scratched by brambles.