Buckland Dinham Parish Council Road Safety Issues, Priorities and possible Solutions – meeting with Clare Moody, Police and Crime Commissioner February 2025

1. Speed – In excess of the 20mph legal limit

High levels of non-compliance are observed by Community Speedwatch (csw) and Police Speed Enforcement team.

Why it Matters

- Increases noise levels for all residents.
- Residents must be extremely cautious in their own vehicles leaving their driveways onto the road and returning to their homes, many needing a 'Banksman' or only turning into the direction of travel and not crossing the highway even when they want to go that way.
- Residents must be vigilant at all points when crossing: listening and looking for traffic – at the Bell (daily newspaper collection point); to and from the Playing Field (many youngsters in the Village); at Lower Street (another newspaper collection point and post box); getting to the bus stop.
- It can be particularly difficult for families with pushchairs, more than one child walking, elderly residents who may walk slower, with difficulty, those with hearing and sight impairments.
- Exercise for walkers, cyclists and runners. We live in a beautiful, rural area with lovely countryside walks. Getting to them from our homes involves all the above along many areas of narrow pavements and crossing the road.

Accidents, Incidents and Near Misses

- People have been hit on elbows and heads by wing mirrors.
- Damage to vehicles - stationary and parked vehicles are regularly damaged.
- Vehicles overtake those doing 20mph.
- Several accidents on the A362 near Lower Street as vehicles hit black ice or standing water.

2. Some statistics recorded by Community Speedwatch

Average of 780 vehicles/hour

Lowest 270 at 11.30am, Highest 1150 at 4.30pm

Average % of vehicles recorded in excess of the threshold is 7.8%

Highest 18.5%

Total daily vehicles approximately 10,000

3. Larger Vehicles and Road Designation

We know we live on an A road necessarily used by local farm and industrial vehicles.
Larger freight vehicles on longer journeys are potentially using our A road instead of more suitable routes.

4. Possible Road Safety Solutions

- Permanent, fixed camera taking ANPR photos to issue fines, points 24 hours a day. The cost of implementation would be offset against income (average of 780 vehicles/daylight hour).
  Would this be effective or would drivers learn where the camera is and slow down, speeding up when out of range making the problem worse?

- Automatic Speedwatch devices.
  Pilot schemes in other Police force areas have proved efficacy but data is not being accepted or acted on by Avon and Somerset.
  There will be a lot of data but a Village team could select high volume offence times, repeat high speeders or other criteria to target Police enforcement opportunities.

- Huge increase needed in Police Speed Enforcement Units including night vision vehicles and operators.

- Rumble strips on entry, repainting of on-road signs (completed in May 2025), red strip down centre line (like A303) to indicate no overtaking, no overtaking signs, hidden bend signs, better hedge trimming to show signs.

- Narrow pavement signs. Can pavement edges be painted yellow?

- Multiple pedestrian activated crossing points which will need multiple repeater warnings either side.

- Weight restrictions, confirm, redesignate road.

5. What we, the Village are doing

- We have a highly active and effective csw team but we can't be at the roadside at all hours.
- BD Parish Council have purchased and had installed Speed Indication Devices, one at each end of the Village.
- We have started (February 2025) sending Thank You and Reminder emails to Commercial vehicles seen travelling through.

6. What we have considered will Not work:

- Double yellow lines.
  Residents, at their substantial risk to vehicles and themselves need to park on the main road. Off road parking is already highly congested.
- Speed Bumps
  This would increase noise, vibration, pollution and potentially increase light pollution as the bumps need to be lit from above for drivers to see them for their safety.
- Restriction, filter or priority lanes
  As above.
- Village entrance plant displays which require maintenance to look good and the road is too dangerous for Volunteers to work on or nearby.

It's only half a mile at 20!