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Cllr D Harmer
Newdale
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20th June 2019
Ref 4501579

Dear Mr Aitken

Thank you for taking the time to respond to our concern, your letter was very informative. As highlighted in the closing paragraph, it wasn't the response we had hoped for, however, it was able to direct me to some useful reading material.

As a parish council we acknowledge the stringent cuts that our local resources and services have faced and imagine that a £5m cut to the highway budget has stretched your team to new limits. I cannot imagine that 2020/21 will be much easier for Shropshire Council and therefore the general outlook could be the same.

That said, we as a PC feel that there is still an issue to be investigated at Forton Heath as well as other areas within the Bomere Heath Parish. I aim to pursue this matter further in a hope that we can work together to better deal with the highlighted problem.

Your response makes reference to "high priority sites" and that you have referenced "Personal Injury Data" for Forton. Could you explain what constitutes as a high priority site, and could the PC see the list of sites within north Shropshire? Is this information publically available or could you direct me to a national register, also what are the parameters of being included on this list? And is this list limited to vehicular issues with injury as a benchmark?

Since receiving your letter, we have made enquiries with West Mercia Police regarding their thoughts on Forton Heath. I have spoken at length with our STN contact and he has contacted the West Mercia Traffic Management Officer Brian Williams. We have been told that Mr Williams has not been consulted or had an issue raised regarding Forton Heath "for several years". I would therefore challenge the comment about them not supporting a speed reduction, and respectfully request that Forton Heath be placed on your next police liaison meeting agenda? In the meantime Mr Williams will stop off at Forton when he is next passing to refresh himself on the layout of the road and new housing.

The DfT Guidance Appendix E suggests that any scheme needs backing of

- Local SCC member – We have this in Cllr Picton
- Parish Council – This is happening
- West Mercia Police – This is to be confirmed
- Local Traffic Engineer – The PC would like to arrange this

In note that the DfT Setting Local Speed Limits 01/13 document details in 7.3 the government policy for Villages. Points 133 – 139 offer advice of speed limits and whilst the layout of the B5067 doesn't lend itself to be a 'village' 30mph limit, it does have certain characteristics that would support a reduction in speed. Coupled with other beneficial traffic calming techniques.

The DfT LTN Traffic Calming 01/2007 document would seem to advocate "Gateways" or striking visual items to the village can assist in speed reduction.

To reiterate, Bomere Heath Parish Council understand that the Council Highway budget will not necessarily allow for SCC to carry out investigations and fund any perceived local safety concerns. However, if costs are transparent and forthcoming, this may be something that we as a parish could fund through other means. Traffic within the parish has been a hot topic for several years and I would relish the opportunity to work with Highways to try and find a solution to the situation in spite of the financial backdrop.

To that end, would there be a cost incurred to arrange a Traffic Engineer to attend the parish for a day and spend time reviewing areas such as; Forton Heath, Walford Heath, Bomere Heath and Huffley Lane? I can arrange to be available to meet and review the areas with him/her. This will hopefully show commitment to our parishioners and allow the Parish Council to get a detailed insight into what we could realistically do to help, without burdening your dept. with any initial survey costs.

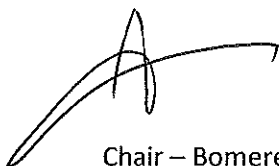
Should there be support from the Engineer and the Police, we can then discuss further about pragmatic actions and associated costs.

I trust that this helps and that we can speak soon about Forton.

Please don't hesitate to contact me directly should you wish.

Many Thanks

Dan Harmer

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'A' shape with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Chair – Bomere Heath Parish Council