



# MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 12 DECEMBER 2023, 7.30pm Village Hall

Present: Parish Councillors, Simon Richards (Chairman), James Ashmore, Ian Bowman, Rick Scholes; Clerk Susan Turner. Guests County Councillor Tim Davies; Gerda Bennett and Sue Skellern for Hartley Wintney Twinning Association

2023.

57

## WELCOME & APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Dianne Kirk and Ward Cllr Anne Crampton.

58

## PUBLIC SESSION

### Hartley Wintney Twinning Association

Gerda Bennett and Sue Skellern, Twinning Association Chairman and Treasurer respectively, spoke on behalf of the Hartley Wintney Twinning Association:

- To make Heckfield aware that are part of the Twinning Association which includes Hartley Wintney and a number of surrounding Parishes.
- Encouraging all the Parishes to be involved, not least because would like them to give money. Looking for grant funding for weekend visit – Friday 17 to Sunday 19 May – of 40 guests from Saint Savin and Malo. Arranging events and visits over weekend, the hosts will provide breakfast and evening meals.
- For the Saturday and Sunday need to provide transport and a picnic lunch budgeted at £10 per head plus one drink each at a pay bar. Asking for a affordable grant – County Councillor has provided £300, Winchfield £300, Mattingley £150. Also started a just-giving crowd funding page. (Parish Council noted the grant request will be considered under Agenda item later in the meeting.)
- Also looking for sponsors – food producers, cafes, hotels – contributions in kind, plus help with communication and raising awareness. Hartley Wintney Parish Council is not providing a grant directly, but paying for our insurance worth £400 and providing website. There is also a Facebook Page. The ‘twinned with’ roadsigns are a great help if we could have these in all Villages.
- Looking for any type and level of involvement from Heckfield and Mattingley in the Twinning Association, and if anyone would like to be future hosts. We are a group of six looking to resurrect the Twinning Association which used to be very active in Hartley Wintney. The original group have all grown older together, need to bring new people in, and seeking to extend the area of involvement to the associated Villages.
- Also would like to get youngsters involved; if grow up knowing what it is like to live in a French or Belgium family, gives different insights, appreciate different ways of doing things that can be a great help in future career.
- Looking for activities, features, places of special interest in your Parish or visits, guided walks. Appreciate the Parish Council doesn’t have enough time to do all this, but hoping to bring in more local people to be more involved longer term.

Simon Richards volunteered to present a history talk on Heckfield (depending on dates). Heckfield is part of the Holdshott Hundred, its courts held under the ‘The Hundred Oak’ in Heckfield; Holdshott Mill is in the Doomsday book.

Gerda: ‘This would really work well at Rosie’s Tea Room where hosting lunch on the Sunday 18 May: a 45 minute talk on history – thank you!’ On the Sunday morning there will be a guided tour of Hazeley Heath, then lunch at Rosie’s Tea rooms – with the history talk – then a walk to Mattingley Church.

*Twining Association left the meeting with the thanks of the Parish Council*

59

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** of 24 October agreed and signed

60

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** in items on the Agenda. Ref 63.1 Planning, Ian Bowman declared his interest in the application for solar panels at Highfield Lodge.

61

## VILLAGE HALL AND COTTAGES

.1 **Cottage update** – *Simon Richards report*

i Energy efficiency rating The Cottage will need an Exemption certificate from

For signature (p1 of 4) .....

specialy qualified surveyor in order to be let. Cost of the exemption certificate will be £149 plus Vat, the surveyor isn't required to come out for a site visit.

Also further work needed to improve energy efficiency as far as possible. Will need to seal off the chimney, and add secondary glazing. (The chimney could be lined but blocking it off is at present the least expensive.) To do as much as possible but Cottage will continue to fail energy efficiency rating unless it has wall insulation. The Exemption certificate will need to be renewed after five years.

As soon as occupied will have double benefit of income and lower council tax, can ask surveyor for full structural survey of the second cottage.

ii Cottage garden

TO RECORD THANKS to Village working party Saturday 04 November who cleared Cottage and Village hall gardens of junk via a Hippobag.

**.2 Village Hall**

i Drainage in front driveway and garden. Gully, drain and soakaway.

Groundsman cleared to best possible by hand – visit 04 December. His notes:

- Cleared the gully to the bottom and it only has 1.5 inch pipe which is blocked. Unable to clear much due to width of pipe.
- The pipe to the soakaway needs clearing or replacing; the soakaway to be investigated.
- Not sure how a pipe that small can be cleared, not sure if it can be jetted. To do things in price order would be to see if it can be jetted; otherwise it's digging down to the pipe and then trenching until the soakaway is found, then excavating the soakaway.

AGREED To monitor. Important to prevent flooding, but at present short of funds.

ii Energy Efficiency Audit Funded by first phase of HCC's Parish & Town Council investment grant. Site visit 11 October, report received 17 November.

NOTED The recommended measures as would be expected, but given no priority. The value of/main purpose of the report is in the data and potential energy saving calculations. Priorities (provisional)

1. Install PV and battery. Turns expense into revenue. Get proper quote - suspect circa £20-£25k if done properly
2. Stratification fans. Low cost and appears that it will reduce the use of oil. Get proper quote - then decide whether at same time as 1. or to wait until some returns from 1.
3. Get a quote for secondary double glazing. Would be good to better understand costs.
4. Quote for interior insulation. Better understanding of costs.
5. Air source / ground source. No point without having completed 4&5.

AGREED A Teams meeting with Focus Green to discuss report, potential ways forward. (Outcomes and recommendations would be presented with the report to Hart as part of Listed Building Consent applications where needed.)

ACTION Clerk to arrange meeting.

**62 FINANCE & GOVERNANCE**

**.1 Accounts to date APPENDIX I**

Payments since last meeting

22	Larkstel – Empty bin x2 Oct	£36.00
23	HCC – Traffic survey	£245.00
24	Larkstel – Bin empty x11 Nov-Mar	£198.00
25	Clerk – Salary-Oct and Nov	£600.00

Bank reconciliation at 06 December = £4,115.88

Income pending – VAT reclaim April to Nov 2023 = £1,512.89

**.2 Budget update APPENDIX II**

**.3 Precept request 2024/25**

PROVISIONALLY AGREED last meeting Precept to remain at £16K.

TO NOTE Hart's recently published provisional tax base for 2024/5 = 256.31 APPENDIX III a slight reduction (-1.22%) on this year's 259.48.

For signature (p2 of 4) .....

This year (2023/24) £16K / 259.48 = £61.66 per band D household  
 For next (2024/25) £16K / 256.31 = £62.42 per band D household  
 (bearing in mind will be half for band A and double for band H).

AGREED

Precept request of 16K for 2024/25.

Form completed and signed, to be submitted to Hart (Action Clerk).

**.4 Grant funding request** from Hartley Wintney Twinning Association.

AGREED

To a grant of £150, match-funding that provided by Mattingley.

**63 PLANNING**

**.1 Parish Planning Applications** Planning update **APPENDIX IV**

i New applications since last meeting.

[23/02635/HOU](#) (Validated 07 Dec 2023) Highfield Lodge. Installation of PV panels on South face of 2011 extension and South face of 2001 existing Pool House/Pergola. Parish Council no objection.

[23/02378/HOU](#) (Validated 13 Nov 2023) Mill Lane Cottage, Mill Road, Riseley. Demolition of single storey side extension and erection of a two storey side extension, open front porch, installation of solar panels to rear and side roof slope and alterations to windows and doors to the front and rear elevation. Parish Council no objection

ii Ongoing applications of note – ‘Land to E & W Dukes Field Cottage’

Recent additional biodiversity supporting docs submitted. Ecology officer now saying no objection subject to conditions – and the ‘purchase of biodiversity net gain units’. The application should be refused but if goes to the Planning Committee, Parish Council will need to speak.

**.2 Land at Chamberlains Meadow**

i TPO request for Oak trees / groups of trees. Awaiting Hart Tree officer report.

ii Land for sale.

AGREED

To write to landowner expressing wish for Parish Council to buy the land – at reasonable cost – for the benefit of the Village. Action Rick Scholes.

**64 HIGHWAYS AND MAINTENANCE**

**.1 Parish Lengthsman**

Recent tasks

- Cut back hedge, Church Lane approaching / opposite the Village Hall
- Investigate drainage front garden Village Hall (see 61.2). Clear gully and pipe as far as possible.

Pending – Church Lane hedge, where the hedge cut, to cut back roots and push back verge as encroaching on road.

**65 HIGHWAYS & TRAFFIC**

**.1 Drifting and road racing** – *Report from Dianne Kirk*. Continues to be a few individuals racing but not the organised meets.

*Report from Ian Bowman*. Racing continues along the Odiham Road from Riseley.

**.2 B3349 Speed Limit** Traffic count and speed survey for B3349. Automatic survey completed by HCC on behalf of the Parish Council (63.1 above).

Email correspondence from Portfolio holder for Highways, Transport etc (now Universal Services) **APPENDIX V**.

**.3 Bramshill Road triangle** Question raised re extent of Highway. Cllr Davies meeting with HCC Highways manager James Holt, will request extract from Highways map.

*Discussion: a main issue is those taking the left turn at the triangle to then go right. Mostly low impact collisions as people generally turning or slowing down, but overall cost will be massive. A T junction would work better.*

**.4 White lining** Cllr Davies noted that some funding has been released from Government for white lining. Noted some white lining has been done, not in vicinity of Bramshill Road triangle.

**66 FURTHER REPORTS / UPDATES**

**.1 Dukes Meadow** Following October PC meeting and presentation from Clive England for Dukes’ Meadow Residents Association, Cllr Crampton contacted Hart Housing and Community Safety Officers:

*'They cannot share any details but I have been told all relevant services have had input. I take this to mean that Home Group are also aware.'*

**.2 Police Update**

PCSO Nick Greenwood – resignation 15 November 2023

As you will no doubt be aware I have been away from the workplace for some time. Apologies for the lack of responses and I trust any urgent issues have been raised online or via 101.

After a lot of thought and consideration I have decided to resign from my role with effect from today.

This is not a decision I have made easily however; I do feel it is time for pastures new. The landscape of policing has changed a lot in recent years and this has proved challenging to adjust to.

I have always had a deep routed passion for serving the Hart District and I am proud to have spent the 17 years of my career within it. I have thoroughly enjoyed working alongside all of you and I wish you the very best for the future. Many thanks for all of your support over the years.

**.3 Remembrance wreath** Remembrance wreath laid at the Cemetery.

**.4 Loan of thermal imaging camera** for February – Chased Hart for update.

**.5 Community orchards and mini forests** (tennis court sized), Cllr Davies raised question; have looked at long and hard, only possible location is at the Cemetery, no room without taking existing native trees out which defeats the object.

**67 NEXT MEETING** 2024, 7.30pm Village Hall meeting room  
Next meeting date February tba

*Meeting closed at 9pm with thanks to all*

For signature (p4 of 4) ..... Date ..... .....

**APPENDIX I - ACCOUNTS TO DATE**

**HECKFIELD PARISH COUNCIL INCOME 2023/24 - 06-Dec** £9,246.72  
 Balance brought forward 1st April 2023

Date received	Payee	Description	Precept	Grant	Returned funds	VAT reclaim	Interest	Total
13/04/23	Hart DC	Parish Precept	£16,000.00					£16,000.00
	HMRC-VTR	VAT refund (to end Mar 23)				£2,031.74		£2,031.74
11/09/23	HCC (CountyCllr)	Grant (bin)		£1,000.00				£1,000.00
11/10/23	HCC PTCI fund	Energy audit		£1,495.00				£1,495.00
2023-24	Metrobank Inst Access	Bank interest					£53.72	£53.72
<b>Total</b>			<b>£16,000.00</b>	<b>£2,495.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£2,031.74</b>	<b>£53.72</b>	<b>£20,580.46</b>

£20,580.46

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS SUMMARY	
Bal brought forward 1st April 2023	£9,246.72
Plus income	£20,580.46
Minus expenditure	£25,711.30
<b>Balance</b>	<b>£4,115.88</b>
BANK RECONCILIATION	
Metro Current	£516.00
METRO Business instant access	£3,599.88
<b>TOTAL ACCOUNTS</b>	<b>£4,115.88</b>

HECKFIELD PARISH COUNCIL  
Business Community Current Ac

**£516.00**

Send

View upcom

HECKFIELD PARISH COUNCIL  
Business Instant Access Account

**£3,599.88**

**HECKFIELD PARISH COUNCIL - EXPENDITURE 2023/2024 - 06 Dec**

Date invoice	Date Paid	Supplier	Description	Salary	Finance / Governance	Community	Maintenance / Access	Village Hall maint/nce	Village Hall renovation	VAT	Total
1 08/04/23	03/05/23	B/clough-16944	VH - Renovation						£10,441.00	£522.05	£10,963.05
2 11/04/23	15/05/23	HALC/NALC	Subscription 2022/23		£254.76						£254.76
3 April	15/05/23	Clerk	Salary - April 2023	£300.00							£300.00
4 May	15/05/23	Clerk	Salary -May2023	£300.00							£300.00
5 16/06/23	16/06/23	Peter Brown	Internal audit		£75.00						£75.00
6 24/05/23	01/07/23	ST-for Zurich	Insurance 2023/24		£218.96						£218.96
7 June	01/07/23	Clerk	Salay - June	£120.00							£120.00
8 June	01/07/23	HMRC	PAYE-Tax-Apri-May-Jun	£180.00							£180.00
9 07/07/23	07/07/23	B/clough-16979	VH - Renovation						£7,249.15	£362.46	£7,611.61
10 14/06/23	11/08/23	Hart District C	Election admin costs		£62.64						£62.64
11 July	11/08/23	Clerk	Salary -July2023	£300.00							£300.00
12 17/08/23	17/08/23	ICO	Data protection register		£35.00						£35.00
13 02/09/23	02/09/23	WVPS	Subscription 2022/23			£50.00					£50.00
14 Aug	02/09/23	Clerk	Salary -Aug2023	£300.00							£300.00
15 01/10/23	01/10/23	Larkstell	Bin-supply-install-1emt				£1,140.00			£228.00	£1,368.00
16 Sept	01/10/23	Clerk	Salay - Sept	£120.00							£120.00
17 Sept	01/10/23	HMRC	PAYE-Tax-Jul-Aug-Sept	£180.00							£180.00
18 03/10/23	04/10/23	Focus Green	VH Energy audit					£1,495.00		£299.00	£1,794.00
19 08/10/23	14/10/23	Hugo Fox	Website hosting		£101.90					£20.38	£122.28
20 25/09/23	14/10/23	BDO-LLP	External audit		£210.00					£42.00	£252.00
21 16/10/23	16/10/23	Poppy appeal	Wreath			£25.00					£25.00
22 01/11/23	01/11/23	Larkstel	Empty bins x2 Oct				£30.00			£6.00	£36.00
23 08/11/23	08/11/23	HCC	Traffic survey			£245.00					£245.00
24 01/12/23	06/12/23	Larkstel	Bins x11 Nov-Mar				£165.00			£33.00	£198.00
25 Oct/Nov	06/12/23	Clerk	Salary-Oct/Nov2023	£600.00							£600.00
<b>Totals:</b>				<b>£2,400.00</b>	<b>£958.26</b>	<b>£320.00</b>	<b>£1,335.00</b>	<b>£1,495.00</b>	<b>£17,690.15</b>	<b>£1,512.89</b>	<b>£25,711.30</b>

£25,711.30

**APPENDIX II - BUDGET - LATEST ESTIMATE**

<b>HPC YEAR END, LATEST ESTIMATE &amp; BUDGET</b>			2023/24 LATEST ESTIMATE		2024/25 budget FIRST DRAFT
Item	22/23 Year End	2023/24 TO DATE 06 DEC			
<b>INCOME</b>					
Precept	£16,000.00	£16,000.00	£16,000.00		£16,000.00
Grant funding	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	£1,000.00		
Returned funds-VH	£9,850.00				
VillageHall-PTCI-grant		£1,495.00	£1,495.00		£25,000.00
Bank interest	£44.14	£53.72	£60.00		£100.00
VAT reclaim	£1,848.80	£2,031.74	£3,544.63		
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£28,742.94</b>	<b>£20,580.46</b>	<b>£22,099.63</b>		<b>£41,100.00</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
Salary	£2,700.00	£2,400.00	£3,600.00		£3,600.00
Finance/Governance	£600.97	£958.26	£958.26		£1,000.00
Community	£103.00	£320.00	£500.00		£500.00
Expenses			£500.00		£500.00
Training			£300.00		£300.00
Churchyard	£325.00				
Village-access/upkeep	£435.00	£1,335.00	£1,500.00		£2,000.00
Devil's Highway					
VH - maintenance	£114.42				
VH-Energy-efficiency		£1,495.00	£1,495.00		£25,000.00
VH - COTTAGE-1	£37,017.27	£17,690.15	£17,690.15		
VH - COTTAGE-2					£8,000.00
VAT	£2,031.74	£1,512.89	£1,512.89		
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£43,327.40</b>	<b>£25,711.30</b>	<b>£28,056.30</b>		<b>£40,900.00</b>
<b>SURPLUS/DEFECIT</b>	<b>£14,584.46</b>	<b>£5,130.84</b>	<b>£5,956.67</b>		<b>£200.00</b>
<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>£9,246.72</b>	<b>£4,115.88</b>	<b>£3,290.05</b>		<b>£3,490.05</b>

## APPENDIX III

## Provisional taxbase - 2024/2025

PARISH	Variance on Provisional 2024/25 against Provisional 2023/24	As %	Provisional (draft) Taxbase 2024/25 (+0.5% new build assumption & 1.3% BDP) (missing MOD factored in)	Provisional (draft) Taxbase 2023/24 (+0.5% new build assumption & 1.3% BDP)
Blackwater and Hawley	56.09	2.55%	2252.07	2195.98
Bramshill	-1.49	-1.30%	112.78	114.27
Church Crookham	-11.15	-0.27%	4088.19	4099.33
Crondall	4.07	0.46%	894.20	890.13
Crookham Village	61.80	3.37%	1895.92	1834.12
Dogmersfield	-1.09	-0.59%	184.10	185.19
Elvetham Heath	-3.97	-0.19%	2049.27	2053.23
Eversley	6.74	0.87%	782.11	775.37
Ewshot	33.03	6.86%	514.40	481.37
Fleet	80.94	0.75%	10836.21	10755.27
Greywell	3.67	2.84%	132.82	129.15
Hartley Wintney	-0.20	-0.01%	2753.02	2753.22
Heckfield	-3.17	-1.22%	256.31	259.48
Hook	114.66	2.80%	4205.66	4090.99
Long Sutton	1.98	0.82%	243.31	241.33
Mattingley	-3.97	-1.20%	327.62	331.59
Odiham	34.72	1.48%	2387.78	2353.06
Rotherwick	-2.68	-0.94%	281.01	283.68
South Warnborough	5.95	1.95%	311.65	305.70
Winchfield	-2.38	-0.69%	342.70	345.08
Yateley	4.12	0.05%	7839.84	7835.72
<b>Total</b>	<b>377.68</b>	<b>0.89%</b>	<b>42690.95</b>	<b>42313.27</b>

**APPENDIX IV PLANNING UPDATE – HECKFIELD – 10 DECEMBER 2023****APPLICATIONS, NEW SINCE LAST MEETING** 22 October

23/02635/HOU (Validated 07 Dec 2023) Highfield Lodge. Installation of PV panels on South face of 2011 extension and South face of 2001 existing Pool House/Pergola.

23/02378/HOU (Validated 13 Nov 2023) Mill Lane Cottage, Mill Road, Riseley. Demolition of single storey side extension and erection of a two storey side extension, open front porch, installation of solar panels to rear and side roof slope and alterations to windows and doors to the front and rear elevation.

**APPLICATIONS PENDING, RECENTLY DECIDED**

23/02184/HOU (**Grant** 28 Nov, Validated 09 Oct) 1 St Legers Way. A single storey side extension and conversion of garage into habitable accommodation to include the replacement of the garage door with a window.

23/01913/LDC (**Grant** 08 Nov, Validated 25 Aug) Burlington, Bramshill Road. Certificate of Lawful Development for the existing use of the land as equestrian.

23/01908/LBC (Validated 24 Aug 2023) Ivy Cottage Hound Green. Repairs to west gable frame and wall)

23/01070/FUL (Validated 14 Jun 2023) Land To The East Of Dukes Field Cottage, Norton Road, Riseley. Erection of one 3 bedroom and one 4 bedroom dwelling with associated access, parking and landscaping. Response submitted 06 July. Revised Ecological Impact assessment and 'biodiversity compensation proposals'.

23/01069/FUL (Validated 14 Jun 2023) Land To The West Of Dukes Field Cottage, Norton Road, Riseley. Erection of one 4 bedroom dwelling with associated access, parking and landscaping. Response submitted 06 July. Revised Ecological Impact assessment and 'biodiversity compensation proposals'

23/01008/LBC (**Grant** 14 Nov, Validated 02 May) The School House, Odiham Road. Reinstate the integrity of the roof by replacing frost damaged, failed and end-of-life historic clay peg tiles with matching reclaimed tiles.

23/00109/FUL (**Grant** 10 Nov 23, 29 Mar) Cherry Tree Farm, Chandlers Green. Change of use of a portion of the land and buildings at Cherry Tree Farm from agricultural to equestrian use, together with construction of tack room, covered horse walker, manege, soil and grass bund and fencing around manege, open/machinery barn and car parking.

23/00073/FUL and 23/00074/LBC (**Pending** 16 Mar 2023) Coldpiece Farm. Change of use of agricultural barn to residential use ancillary to Coldpiece Farm dwelling with associated internal & external alterations

**APPEALS**

**APPEAL DISMISSED (07 Nov)** APP/N1730/Y/23/3316559 23/00015/REF (22/02506/LBC) Highfield Lodge, Church Lane. Insertion of photo-voltaic panels following the demolition of six buildings, including the existing dwelling, two barns and three stables.

**APPEAL IN PROGRESS** APP/N1730/W/23/3321999 Hart 23/00037/VARCON Heckfield Barn Basingstoke Road. Variation of Condition 2 (Materials), Condition 4 (Hard and Soft Landscaping), Condition 8 (Vehicle Parking), Condition 11 (Energy Performance) and Condition 13 (List of Approved Drawings) attached to planning permission 08/00084/FUL (appeal reference APP/N1730/A/08/2076453) dated 02/12/2008, as amended by non-material minor amendment (ref: 22/02406/NMMA). The amendments proposed are: - Increase to height of the building by 1.5m - Two storey side addition to the rear projection of the building - Introduction of front roof extension and two dormers to rear projection - Alterations to openings to front elevation of building, rear elevation of rear projection and introduction of 4 windows and two doorways (fire exits) - Installation of three roof lights - 332 sqm of floorspace at 1st floor for ancillary spaces to car showroom

**MATTINGLEY - THE MUTTON**

23/01021/PREAPP (**Pending**, Validated 11 May 2023) The Mutton at Hazeley Heath. Erection of new building to provide eight units of guest accommodation.

**BRAMSHILL HOUSE**

23/01905/FUL (**Pending**, Validated 06 Sep 2023) Bramshill House, the Stable Block, Hazeley Lodges and surrounding land to use as a single dwelling (Use Class C3).

**APPENDIX V** From: Nick Adams-King

Date: 20 November 2023 at 15:49:03 GMT

Subject: RE: 7131851 RE: Speed Limits in Hampshire - B3349 Heckfield

Speed is usually perceived by the public to be the main cause of accidents, but this is not the case and other driver error factors are more commonly recorded by the Police. Reduced speed limits may be considered where there are recurring collisions with excess or inappropriate speed factors recorded by the Police, but this is quite rare and often requires further engineering measures to ensure driver compliance with the lowered speed limit.

The Safer Roads team have checked the injury accident database for B3349 between the Causeway roundabout South to Hound Green and found that, during the past five years for which data is available (up to 19 October 2023), there have been 5 injury accidents. Only one of these accidents has speed listed as a likely contributory factor, and this occurred within existing 50mph speed limit.

As already mentioned, a 40 mph speed limit is unlikely to be considered and, whilst a 50 mph limit could be considered, it would not be a priority for Hampshire County Council at present due to there being no recurring history of speed related casualty incidents at this location.

There are no current plans to change our policy, which can be viewed via the following link, along with further information on associated policy and criteria for specific traffic management measures.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadsafety/makingroadssafer>

I hope this information helps to clarify the situation.

...

We have access to the Police database of all injury-accidents reported in Hampshire and we use this to formulate our traffic and safety programmes. This database comprises of details of reported accidents with injury severities noted in three categories of slight, serious and fatal. The Safety Engineering Team regularly monitors this database and review all locations Countywide with emerging patterns, trends or clusters of all injury-accidents. The Police reports contain details of contributory factors for each incident, which are also used to evaluate whether engineering measures are appropriate and also the most appropriate types of measures. Approximately 100 safety led schemes are implemented each year targeted at casualty reduction ranging from something as simple as signing improvements to complete resurfacing of the road.

A principle aim of setting speed limits is to achieve a safe distribution of speeds consistent with the speed limit that reflects the function of the road and the road environment. This should imply a mean speed appropriate to the prevailing road environment, and all vehicles moving at speeds below or at the posted speed limit, while having regard to the traffic conditions. This is reflected in the traffic survey results for the B3349 which has a 85 percentile of traffic of 54.8mph and a mean speed of 48.1mph. The 85th percentile speed of traffic represents the speed at or below which 85% of drivers do not exceed.

A range of factors are considered when reviewing speed limits, including road character and function, density and level of fronting development, accident history and road safety issues, current traffic speeds, the frequency of junctions and private entrances, and amenities that attract motorised and non-motorised road users. To be effective speed limits are reliant on drivers reacting to a range of those factors, particularly those with a visual impact to encourage appropriate speed choices and better awareness of the surrounding environment. There are expectations that speed limits should reflect and build upon the natural reactions of drivers to the visual cues that surround them, as this will present an enforceable regime that the majority of drivers will respect and appreciate. For a lower speed limit to be viable there is an expectation that there will be a higher density of directly fronting accesses, a more developed road environment, with road geometry and alignment, local features and amenities, and traffic composition all supporting a lower level speed limit. Poor compliance from road users who do not appreciate the need for a lower speed limit could cause road safety problems with the potential for misjudgement, tailgating and inappropriate overtaking.

The data from the single speed check shows that most drivers are not exceeding the current National speed limit of 60 mph on the B3349. From an initial point of view the data indicates that a 50mph could be considered along this stretch of the B3349. Both the 85 percentile speed and mean speed of traffic is too high for a 40 mph limit to be considered without the introduction of traffic management measures to lower traffic speeds to a level more aligned to 40 mph limit. Experience has shown that when considering the function of the road there is limited scope for other forms of traffic management measures when taking into account traffic composition and layout of the highway that would make a real impact on traffic speeds and bring about the level of low traffic speeds (i.e. means speeds to be reduced an additional 8 mph reduction) for a 40 mph to be effective. Vertical traffic calming measures such as road humps are deemed unacceptable, particularly when considering that such measures can only be implemented where street lighting is in place. Lateral narrowing, both physical and visual, would also be inappropriate due to restrictions in carriageway width as these could lead to safety/maintenance issues.

A 40 mph speed limit is unlikely to be considered and whilst a 50 mph limit could be considered, it would not be a priority for Hampshire County Council at present. I understand my response may be received with disappointment but I hope the above information is helpful to you and the Parish Council in explaining the reasons behind our current position. As with the whole of the highway network in Hampshire, officers will continue to monitor the situation on the B3349 and should circumstances change significantly, the position will be reviewed.

I hope this information is useful.

...

The introduction of a new or revised speed limit requires implementation of a legally enforceable Traffic Regulation Order (TRO), which is a resource intensive process. The TRO will also be subject to any comments or objections arising from the statutory consultations and advertising – this is national legislation, not just HCC policy. It cannot be assumed that a proposal to introduce a reduced speed limit will be universally popular, and indeed some road users do object to such proposals. The Police are a statutory consultee and they will not support unrealistic speed limits that they feel will merely create an ongoing enforcement issue.