

*Received
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Dorset County Council
Legal and Demographic Services
County Hall
Colliton Park
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Dorset DT1 1XJ

24th July 2018

Ref: Stapehill Road – Speed Reduction Petition

Dear Mr Gallagher

The enclosed petition contains 1130 signatures of residents, individuals and interest groups who have their safety put at risk and are adversely effected by the current speed limit of 40 mph on Stapehill Road. This is compounded by the lack of room required to safely accommodate non-motorised road users concurrently with two-way motorised traffic.

The petitioners request that the County Council take immediate action to remedy this issue before a serious fatality occurs by reducing and enforcing a 30 mph speed limit and providing better facilities to aid the safe transit of all non-motorised users; and for the benefit of the residents of Stapehill Road who need to exit their driveways safely.

In an attempt to redress this issue, we have been in dialogue and met with various members of the Police, the Highways Department and our Local County Councillor. At the same time, we have set up an official Community Speed Watch group who regularly monitor and report on drivers who exceed the stated speed limit, the number of which only reinforces the need for better control but it does not address the issue that the actual permissible speed limit is too high. This petition was felt necessary to show the extent and strength of opinion and support of the local road users and residents for a reduction in speed limit and improved safety.

We are now appealing to the County Council who have a 'duty of care' to hear and seriously consider the importance and merits of our case and to support this reduction in speed limit with the accompanying enforcement and complementary safety facilities for non-motorised road users.

We are available to provide further details and evidence supporting our case and would welcome the opportunity to discuss this further. We understand that we will be able to present this our case to the Petitions Committee and request that we are allowed 20 minutes to present our case due to its complexity and the supporting data we have gathered and need to explain. I feel assured once you have seen the contents of the petition you will understand why and grant us this additional time.

We look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely



David Frankl



Ian Baxter

Stapehill Road is a narrow lane with no pavements. The lane is a major traffic route between Ham Lane and Wimborne Road West used by an average of 5799 vehicles a day and as a direct result, is dangerously unsafe for pedestrians, cyclists, horse riders, mobility scooters and residents and their visitors entering and leaving their drives.

We the undersigned request that Dorset County Council take immediate action to exercise a duty of care and safety for all users of Stapehill Road by reducing the current speed limit along its whole length from 40 mph to 30 mph or less and to provide the necessary means to enforce the new speed limit.

Justification

- 1) Stapehill Road is narrow, averaging between 4.8 – 5.3 metres wide and has no pavement facility and a number of bends. Non-motorised users ie pedestrians, dog walkers, cyclists, horse riders, mobility scooters, etc are in great danger because there is little or no room to accommodate them when there are two opposing oncoming vehicles or when they are near a bend where the visibility is limited. This deters these groups of people from using the road to access and use local facilities such as the local Old Thatch pub, the bus stop, the church, Knoll Gardens and inhibits the development of a village 'community'.
- 2) Stapehill Road residents and their visitors face considerable danger and risk leaving and entering their driveways due to visibility constraints and the speed of oncoming vehicles which does not leave enough time to complete the manoeuvre safely. This danger is not limited to Stapehill Road residents and businesses, but also those who join Stapehill Road from Award Road, Keepers lane and Pompeys Lane.
- 3) Stapehill Road is crossed by footpaths and bridleways, but the speed of the traffic discourages and inhibits people from continuing to use these facilities to enjoy the local countryside.
- 4) Stapehill Road falls into the Department for Transport classification of a 'village' where there are more than 20 residences within a 600 metre length of road and where the speed limit is recommended to be 30 mph. Stapehill Road is 1709 metres in length with a total of 33 properties distributed over both sides of the road. There are over 20 residential dwellings, as well as additional businesses and a care home within 600 metres of its length thereby classifying it as a 'village'.

- 5) Stapehill Road is similar in character, composition and structure to other roads/lanes in the district ie Grange, Harts Lane, Lodge Road all of which have a 30 mph speed limit. 30 mph is the speed limit drivers expect on such a road and this is reinforced during Community Speed Watch sessions on Stapehill Road, where on seeing the CSW team, the majority of the drivers slow to 30 mph believing this to be the speed limit.
 - 6) Stapehill Road is increasingly used as a cut through by drivers looking to bypass the terrible congestion which occurs during rush hour and at other times at the Canford Bottom roundabout. The volume of traffic will only increase with the planned and scheduled development of the Uddens Industrial Estate and Stapehill Abbey, where there are 40 plus additional residences planned that will exit onto Stapehill Road. Congestion also occurs at junctions at either end of Stapehill Road with Wimborne Road West and Ham Lane.
 - 7) Stapehill Road's width and its limited visibility, prevents and discourages drivers from overtaking one another. If Stapehill Road were to be designed using today's Highways Design criteria it would need to be at least 7.3 metres wide to support a 40 mph speed limit.
 - 8) Analysis completed by the DCC Highways Department in September 2017 show that the daily average two-way motorised vehicle traffic volume of Stapehill Road is 5799 units during the weekday and 2018 units at the weekend. Of these users, 85% of the vehicles are travelling within the 40 mph speed limit which proves the majority of vehicles will travel at the stated speed limit when unenforced.
 - 9) Community Speed Watch sessions on Stapehill Road has shown that over the 32 sessions completed in 5 months from February to June 2018 where 10,186 vehicles were measured, 211 vehicles were travelling in excess of 47 mph ie exceeding the permissible speed limit of 40 mph plus 10% plus 2 mph.
 - 10) Stapehill Road's edges are deteriorating badly creating cracks and further reduction in the road's usable width. This damage is a direct consequence of the high volume of traffic using the road, the speed at which they travel and that they have to drive close to the verges to avoid hitting one another (which leaves no room for other non-motorised road users). This damage introduces further risk for non-motorised users of the road ie if as a direct consequence of the road's condition they stumble or fall over in the road or as a cyclist may need to suddenly swerve into the path of a car to avoid a pothole.
 - 11) Over the last 5 years there have been 7 recorded incidents on Stapehill Road of which three were serious, including one on 30th June 2018. It is the unanimous opinion of all the residents that it is only a matter of time before a serious accident or fatality occurs. This could be avoided or indeed greatly minimised by a reduction in speed limit to 30 mph.
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PETITION TO REDUCE THE SPEED LIMIT OF STAPEHILL ROAD TO 30 MPH – JUNE 2018

We the undersigned request that Dorset County Council take immediate action to exercise a duty of care and safety for all users of Stapehill Road by reducing the current speed limit along its whole length from 40 mph to 30 mph or less supported by the necessary means to enforce the new speed limit and to provide safe passage for pedestrians.

Comments

Name	Location	Date	Comment
	Bournemouth, England, UK	2018-06-09	I believe the safety of all is essential .
	Wimborne, England, UK	2018-06-09	The speed on this busy stretch of narrow lane needs to be reduced for the safety of the residents and all other users
	Ferndown, England, UK	2018-06-10	Speed kills. Ferndown is treated like a racetrack. People come off the busy dual carriageway and forget they are now in a town due to the open feel of the tree lined roads. If people won't act responsibly their speed has to be reduced by other methods.
	Wimborne, England, UK	2018-06-10	Driver's need to slow down as so dangerous
	bournemouth, England, UK	2018-06-10	To save lives
	Broadstone, Poole, England, UK	2018-06-11	This is a dangerous section of road, please help to make it safer.
	Wimborne, England, UK	2018-06-11	This is critical for the safety and well being of all road users. It just makes sense, so surely the District Council will approve and implement straight away. Surely.
	Wimborne, England, UK	2018-06-12	Horrible road. Have nearly had my dog hit when walking down that way many times, having to literally jump in the bushes in order to avoid the passing cars, many of which don't even slow down while attempting to squeeze by! Mr. Beans' Roundabout has only made the volume of traffic much, much worse. If merely reducing the speed limit to 30 or 20mph is the minimum request here then surely that takes almost no time or money for the council to carry out?!... So council - get it done
	Bedford, England, UK	2018-06-13	Bad bad drivers race this road. Sightlines very poor at the speed they go. Not only white van man but as much private cars. Have had very close miss myself. There's nowhere to hide when you hear a car speeding. Am sure it's used as a rat run. I don't want to be a fatality but one day someone will be.
	Verwood, England, UK	2018-06-13	It's too fast for this area
	Lymington, England, UK	2018-06-19	Slow down traffic on this road !!
	Poole, England, UK	2018-06-20	We care about safety

Name	Location	Date	Comment
	Ballintoy Harbour, Northern Ireland, UK	2018-06-20	Because I ride a lot on this road and nearly every time we encounter dangerous drivers showing no consideration to horses and riders
	Oxford, England, UK	2018-06-20	I've seen cars go too fast and hate that as a cyclist and equestrian
	Wimborne, England, UK	2018-06-20	O
	Bournemouth, England, UK	2018-06-21	It his is a dangerous stretch of road and Dorset highways should assess the speed limit for the protection of all who use it.
	Bournemouth, England, UK	2018-07-01	30mph does less damage in an accident ... and if so many accidents are happening then something needs to b changed
	christchurch, England, UK	2018-07-01	This road is too fast and too dangerous. We must reduce the speed limit
	London, England, UK	2018-07-02	This can only do good, if it happens
	Stanmore, Australia	2018-07-02	10miles per hour will make all the difference.
	Ferndown, England, UK	2018-07-02	I am a health walk leader & we sometimes walk a short way along this road.
	Sydney, Australia	2018-07-02	people matter more than speed.
	Bournemouth, UK	2018-07-03	Absolutely agree!It is ridiculous and dangerous to drive at 40mph down Stapehill Road. There is no pavement & very sharp bends and ive never felt safe to drive at 40. For the sake of walkers, drivers & residents safety it should be a 30mph road maximum
	Ferndown, England, UK	2018-07-16	Driving on stapehill at night, dark narrow road
	Arneysford, England, UK	2018-07-16	People drive too fast down this road and as there are no pavements it is extremely dangerous for cyclists, horse riders and pedestrians. People using mobility scooters are also very vulnerable. The speed limit should be cut to 30mph giving all road users a better chance of avoiding vehicles on the narrow road.
	Wimborne, England, UK	2018-07-16	Good idea to save lives before the count goes up. Dangerous road currently. Does not have to be.
	Wimborne, England, UK	2018-07-16	It needs to be safer!

Name	Location	Date	Comment
	Clough, Ireland	2018-07-16	it is crazy to have a road with traffic such as this with speeds greater than 30mph!!!!
	Holt, England, UK	2018-07-16	I think that it is likely that an accident will happen unless the speed limit is reduced.
	Wimborne, England, UK	2018-07-16	As a cyclist (and motorist) I fully appreciate the dangers of speeding vehicles along this stretch of road, made busier by motorists avoiding the Canford Bottom roundabout.
	Bournemouth, England, UK	2018-07-17	Pedestrians need to be considered as important as cars, especially in this area where there is a high population of elderly people who may no longer drive and rely on safe pavement access as their only means of access