

Analysis of the 6 Councillor responses to speeding questions

- I think speed enforcement needs to change. We have one fixed camera in Evesham on the Cheltenham Road, but nothing elsewhere and we rarely see any mobile enforcement. School areas should have 20mph.
- Is speed enforcement working or does it need to change? More or less enforcement? The biggest problem in Evesham is that the traffic generally does not move fast enough!
- Traffic calming / yes it works in residential areas.
- How do we educate motorists? Via their wallet
- I have only had one complaint about speeding, but I am in a town Division
- No Current 20mph areas but I would like to see them particularly in the School zones, and the high street
- Enforcement is not the job of the community; it is a legal matter.

An overview of residents' responses to a Councillors Facebook post

How the County Council can support its communities to manage speeding?

This has generally been met with disappointment at 'passing the buck' with many people pointing out that the community has little power to manage the speeds so how can they manage the speeding? They do not have enforcement rights, or the ability to change the planning rules on roads and the use of traffic calming. This is centrally managed so if the powers to slow down speeding are held elsewhere, how can the community manage the speeding?

There are also a series of questions around safety. How can communities safely manage the speeding? There have been numerous suggestions of community speed watches but many are refused. Example: one was refused in my division because the speed registered were too high!

General complaint: the VAS signs are not always effective and Pershore Town Council has been advised not to put them where the speed van is located. Is it not better to have two deterrents than one? Which deterrent is most effective?

How do we stop people speeding at night? I have hundreds of reports of people speeding through Pinvin, Pershore (particularly Abbey Estate and down Station Road) and down the A44 in the early hours of the morning. This is waking people up and is causing frustration. As the nights get longer the speed van cannot be used for as long. How will this be overcome? People do not stop speeding because it is dark, in fact they seem to speed more. How can communities manage this behaviour?

General suggestions on how to improve speeding issues have included using an array of better planning and utilisation of road layout / traffic calming / prohibitions of larger vehicles / engagement with local businesses / and enforcement is the only solution.

Many responses from one village pointed out that on the whole motorists do seem to respect the 30mph limits but larger goods vehicles, tractors and the school coaches tend to exceed the speed limit but are aware of enforcement boundaries and are

close to these. People know where the enforcement locations are so slow down then speed up after them.

There have been a lot of witnessing of overtaking at high speeds through villages, in order to continue at excessive speed. Comments were also made about parking on junctions and entrances, reducing visibility out of these. There is also a lot of disappointment in the councils of the area with complaints often poorly responded. An issue with parking in Pinvin was met with, "Any parking restrictions would move the parking problem elsewhere", and this left the resident frustrated as there was an admission that there is a problem, but no attempt to fix it.

Is speed enforcement working or does it need to change?

Consensus here is that it is not working. People know where the vans are placed, slow down and then speed back up. They point to the fact that there are not many occasions when the van is there. There is no attempt to stop speeding at night when it causes a noise complaint. Several roads (including small, residential ones) were described as race-tracks. It is clear that it does need to change. People pointed to the need for more cameras, static ones and average speed cameras through villages and Pershore itself. There was also a recognition that average speed checks were better than on the spot ones.

Should we have more or less enforcement?

The obvious answer here was more enforcement. Some people recognised that there needs to be more times of day as well- with evenings and overnight highlighted. What is the purpose of enforcement? Is it to make the roads safer or stop disruption? Or both? People noted they were woken up a lot by speeding vehicles. They want more done about this. People who lived in 40mph zones were worried that little was done where they live and often people would not slow down outside their houses. They were concerned as their pavements were often lacking and they were forced onto the road.

Does traffic calming work?

One resident stated, how would we know, there isn't any! Another said they would be willing to see sleeping policemen, lane narrowing, but they are conspicuous by their absence. There was some resistance to traffic calming, recognising it can cause congestion and lead to more pollution but the general view is they wanted to see more traffic management in the form of calming. All forms were mentioned, and there were a variety of preferences. Sleeping policemen were the most well-known but people did think that road narrowing was likely the best solution (with some recognising it could lead to more aggressive driving).

How do we educate the motorist?

This was a very interesting area as several people asked, 'what is the point?' It clearly isn't working! But areas where people pointed to included Access Only roads (and trying to make those clearer to the public as people were not following the rules), ensuring penalties actually fit the crime (why are people being sent on speed awareness course- are they actually reducing reoffending? People also pointed to those driving large vehicles and not providing suitable space for cyclists and pedestrians. Are there enough public advertising campaigns? Is there too much reliance on initial driving tests and then everyone forgets?

There was a consensus that the only way anything would change on any road is if there was a fatality. This was a big fear of residents across the area.

Do you receive complaints from residents about speeding vehicles?

All the time. On Main Street and Upton Snodsbury Road, Pinvin, Station Road, Wyre Road, the Abbey Estate, Defford Road, Three Springs Road, all roads that lead off Station Road (Cherry Orchard, Apple Tree Road, Mill Lane and Avon Road), Worcester Road, Bridge Street and Holloway in Pershore, Main Road, Wyre Piddle, the A44 and B4084, as well as junctions around Wick. I also receive complaints about speeding outside of my division in Drakes Broughton, on the B4084 on the way to Evesham and in Peopleton and Stoulton.

Do you have 20mph limits in your Division, do they work and are they enforced?

Pershore Town Council would like to turn the town into a 20mph zone and I am not against this. There are also calls to turn the villages into 20mph areas. (especially outside schools such as in Pinvin). Most people do not think people will slow down but others argue they will get stuck behind others doing the limit. It is clear that enforcement needs to be ramped up and there needs to be a better attempt to get speeds down. 20mph limits on Bridge Street, Pershore for instance have been a particular problem and are not properly enforced.

Would you be willing to organise, support or undertake community speed enforcement?

This has been met with a real mixture of responses. Some people are keen to be involved whereas others are concerned about the risks. As a councillor I am happy to support and undertake community speed enforcement but organise? What would the organisation involve? How many hours of time would we be looking to provide to this service? What are the penalties for the speeders? Will there be full enforcement of the speeds we collect? I agree with many residents that this is passing the buck. I also recognise the potential risks. People are rightly concerned about their safety given the chances of experiencing road rage. While I may be OK handling that, I am not sure I would feel comfortable with others dealing the potential threat here.

One resident stated: "This should not be an option as this potentially puts members in the community into confrontational and potentially dangerous situations. In the past I have seen this as a suggestion from councillors, in response to residents' concerns over speeding. This is disappointing from a public body and passing the buck on an issue that requires a multiagency problem solving response."

Another "I did reply to a request in the Village magazine to say I would be prepared to assist. However on reflection as a Retired guy in my late 70's I am not sure about Safety. There are some dodgy types about. So, perhaps Law enforcement should left to the Police. I suppose if a Police presence were in evidence, I would be prepared to help, perhaps in an administration role."

Is speed enforcement working or does it need to change?

- Speed enforcement works; however it is rarely seen in my division. I have accompanied officers on speed checks, which are really useful.
- Should we have more or less enforcement?
I think having vans rotate around the division would be a helpful deterrent. Recently I have noticed that the permanent cameras get turned around or vandalised (not in my division as we don't have any)
- Does traffic calming work?
It does however I am always cautious around installing traffic calming measures due to the fact they also slow down emergency vehicles.
- How do we educate the motorist?

The Fire Authority do a fantastic Dying to Drive session with year 10 students. It would be good to see these valuable sessions utilised by all schools.

- Do you receive complaints from residents about speeding vehicles?
Email, phone, street meetings and social media
- Do you have 20mph limits in your Division, do they work and are they enforced?
No, but I would like them outside of schools.
- Would you be willing to organise, support or undertake community speed enforcement?

I am already booked on to have training soon. Redditch already has a fantastic community group which I will be a part of

Speed Enforcement. Is it working?

It depends on what type of enforcement is being discussed. If the 'enforcement' is by safety cameras which are working and evidence collected on a regular basis, then yes, it is. If on the other hand you mean a police presence, then there are greater difficulties. You will I am sure have seen some headlines in the Worcester News this week asking which streets are subject to excessive speeds by drivers. The response was considerable, in that residents believe that many roads are used to speed. While the police could look at individual streets over a period of time, I do not believe residents in those locations would consider that to be enough. So, the **perception** would be that the enforcement is insufficient. However, being realistic, I don't believe the police would ever be able to satisfy all those who complain of speeding. That said it may well be that a discussion requesting more enforcement could take place. On roads that are suitable for it, that are particularly susceptible to speed; in residential areas it may well be helpful.

On roads that I have seen with traffic calming it does appear to work. However, I have recently tried to implement a 20mph restriction on a main road in my ward but was met with considerable opposition to the calming measures that would have to be introduced. The problems referred to were noise, uncomfortable driving and the likelihood of greater pollution with cars slowing and then speeding away. Education of motorists takes on a whole new meaning when it comes to speeding. It must be a cultural change. It must involve society from manufacturers to everyone who uses the roads. That said technology is there for vehicles to be limited to the limits imposed on the roads. Start getting that in to place and you might stand a chance.

Yes, I receive complaints about speeding vehicles.

I have a 20-mph speed zone in my division. I am just spending a considerable amount of my funding on greater signage having already purchased two VAS. Community Speed 'enforcement' already takes place in the division.

Is speed enforcement working or does it need to change? Perception is that speeding is a significant problem which is insufficiently enforced. More publicity about numbers of speeding tickets might be helpful, unless it is a very small number!

Should we have more or less enforcement? More

Does traffic calming work? yes

How do we educate the motorist? Local videos on social media of inappropriate driving i.e. filmed on local streets which are familiar territory. Also greater risk of being caught for speeding may have an effect

Do you receive complaints from residents about speeding vehicles? Yes

Do you have 20mph limits in your Division, do they work and are they enforced?

They work to a limited extent but I am not sure they are enforced. I get quite a lot of requests from residents who would like 20mph zones for their street/school. Good highway design can reduce the ability of motorists to speed & give a higher priority to pedestrians and cyclists. I would like to see more of these measures implemented.

Would you be willing to organise, support or undertake community speed enforcement? Potentially yes

It is worth noting that residents may perceive traffic on their road as speeding but this is not backed up by objective measurement. Also due to geography etc there are streets where it is not possible to use speed guns or other ways of recording speed accurately.