

Speed awareness signs in Holbeton Parish – briefing paper for 17th October

At its meeting on the 19th September Holbeton Parish Council resolved to install additional non statutory road signs to emphasise the need for vehicles to slow down in Holbeton Village, Ford and Luson.

Current speed signs

There is currently a 30 mph speed limit in Holbeton Village. Signs are located as shown:



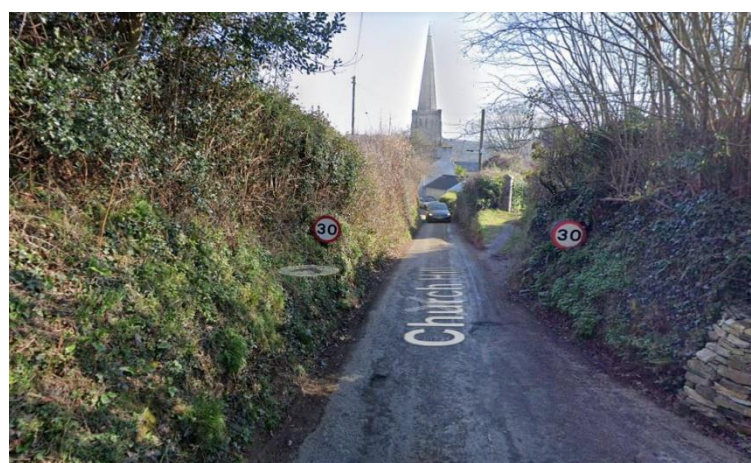
Vicarage Hill



Brownswell



Fore Street



Church Hill – NB 2 properties are outside the speed limit, also the entrance to the new houses on Church Hill.



Gibb – NB Gibb Cottages are outside the speed limit

There is no speed limit sign coming down Brent Hill. In Ford and Luson the speed limit is the national 60 mph.

Non Statutory ‘traffic calming’ signs. There are already signs in Battsborough Cross. There are no signs in Holbeton and Ford. In Luson there are 2 signs relating to one property that have been in place for around 25 years.

Background

Holbeton Parish Council supports the national “20’s Plenty” campaign, but it is not expecting to be able to lower the speed limit in the near future.

Other measures to reduce traffic speed include non statutory signs; ‘sleeping policemen’ traffic humps (considered but rejected at the last parish council meeting); ‘SLOW’ written on the road surface; gateways at the side of the road next to the speed limit (the roads are too narrow in most cases); vehicle activated signs.

Whilst there is no firm evidence of the effectiveness of non statutory SLOW DOWN signs, it is suggested that they should provide some evidence of the reason, ie a hazard ahead.

It has been suggested that “signs would do well to mimic the vernacular of official street signage... Graphic language should be formal, clear, and follow rules for accessibility, including contrast, size, placement, and number of words.”

More recently introduced vehicle activated signs showing vehicle speed were shown in one study to be more effective than speed limit signs in slowing driving speeds. Unless set below the 30 mph limit these would only function in Holbeton Village for drivers entering at more than 30 mph, far too fast for the village.

Proposals

The choice of signs should mimic the vernacular and size of UK Highway Code signs and give a reason for the sign.

For Holbeton Village the main concern has been the vulnerability of children playing in the street. The proposed sign is therefore as below:



Their location needs to be considered. The priorities would be Church Hill and Fore Street, but the others should be considered.

For Ford and Lusson, there are potentially 3 locations in each hamlet. There are multiple users including walkers, children, horse riders and dogs. It is difficult to squeeze all these into a notice. The following is suggested:



The parish council is asked to consider the above signs. When the signs to be used are agreed by the parish council it is suggested that a short inclusion in Holbeton News encouraging parishioners living in or frequently driving in Holbeton Village and Ford and Lusson hamlets to submit their opinions in advance of the next month’s meeting.

It is proposed that once the non statutory signs to be used are agreed following consultations, costings for these signs are sought from FutureClient in Kingsbridge, previously used at Battisborough Cross, before a final decision is made.

Cllr Harry Baumer, October 2023