



ICKLEFORD PARISH COUNCIL
www.icklefordpc.com



Proposed Traffic Calming and Safety Improvements for Ickleford

October 2008

Dear Residents,

We have been working over recent months to implement traffic calming measures which arose from the Ickleford Parish Plan. In December 2007, traffic and pedestrian surveys were carried out in the village which were followed earlier this year by a feasibility study to look at ways to calm traffic and improve road and pedestrian safety in the village. The survey data and recommendations from Hertfordshire Highways are listed below.

Bedford Road –

Vehicle Volumes: 87,000+ vehicles per week

24 hour vehicle average speed – 41.2 mph (north) & 37.5 mph (south)

07.00 – 1900 vehicle average speed – 41.9 mph (north) & 37.1 mph (south)

- A vehicle activated speed sign at the southbound entrance to the village
- A dropped kerb crossing point with tactile paving to the south of Ryder Avenue
- Footway improvements
- Additional bus stop on the east side of the road and to the north of Turnpike Lane

Arlesey Road –

Vehicle Volumes: 51,000+ vehicles per week

24 hour vehicle average speed – 32.8 mph (north) & 32.1 mph (south)

07.00 – 1900 vehicle average speed – 36.1 mph (north) & 34.2 mph (south)

- A humped zebra crossing near the school
- A series of 8 pairs of speed cushions to reduce speeding traffic, these are required to reduce traffic speed on the approach to the crossing; without these speed cushions the crossing cannot be installed. **Note: proposed cushions are like those in Bedford Road, Letchworth, NOT those in Highbury Road, Hitchin**
- A gateway feature near the bend at the Equestrian Centre, with appropriate signage and road markings
- Replace existing bollards with ones which are more energy efficient and easier to maintain
- Possible upgrade of street lighting
- Removal of vegetation that has encroached on existing pavements

Turnpike Lane –

Vehicle Volumes: 51,000+ vehicles per week

24 hour vehicle average speed – 32.2 mph (north east) & 33.6 mph (south west)

07.00 – 1900 vehicle average speed – 35.3 mph (north east) & 37.2 mph (south west)

- A series of 7 pairs of speed cushions to reduce speeding traffic. **Note: proposed cushions are like those in Bedford Road, Letchworth, NOT those in Highbury Road, Hitchin**
- Replace existing bollards with ones which are more energy efficient and easier to maintain
- Possible upgrade of street lighting

Chambers Lane

- A new gate from the Recreation Ground to the footpath behind Arnold's Farm, with improvements to this footpath
- Improvements to the footpath by Raymond Cottages. Unfortunately budgets can not include the provision of lighting the path.

Note: a footpath along Chambers Lane is not possible because of the cost of purchase of land that would be required, however the alternative will help the school to implement a walking bus and improve the safety for children travelling to school

Ickleford Parish Council accepts that traffic calming measures cause strong emotions on both sides of the argument, and have therefore decided to consult the whole village on these proposals.

Why should you support the recommendations?

- Excessive traffic speed through the village is a proven issue – as can be seen from the data collected. Speed cushions are a proven and effective way of reducing traffic speed
- 85% of respondents to the Parish Plan identified traffic speed as a concern.
- Speed cushions are likely to deter drivers from using Ickleford as a rat run, resulting in less through traffic
- The newer speed cushions are made of rubber which makes them less noisy
- Alternative traffic calming measures were considered, but ruled out by Highways: chicanes cannot be used due to the layout and width of the roads; we do not meet the criteria for speed cameras; flashing speed limit signs and speed cameras are only really effective in the immediate vicinity that they are located; police radar checks do not provide 24/7 coverage though regular checks will continue
- The proposals for Bedford Road and Chambers Lane, while not being perfect solutions, are a step in the right direction; the additional bus stop on Bedford Road will provide an alternative for children who currently need to cross at the top of Turnpike Lane
- Ickleford Primary School has had representation during the process, and is fully supportive of these recommendations which will help them implement their Walk-to-School initiatives.
- These proposals will provide £155,000 investment in the village and represent a real chance to eliminate the danger of speeding traffic in Ickleford
- We are one of only two Hertfordshire villages currently being considered for traffic and transport improvements from Parish Plans. If we reject the measures we need to accept that we will probably live with the speeding problem in Ickleford for many years to come

Some people have strong reservations about the recommendations.

- They don't like speed cushions.
- They find speed cushions too noisy.
- They feel that speed cushions may damage their car.
- These plans may spoil the aesthetics of the village.



An illustration of the type of cushion to be used in Ickleford; these are 65mm high. Exact locations and width of cushions will be confirmed during the design process. This example was installed in January 2008 in Knightsfield, Welwyn Garden City

Next steps.

The aim of this consultation is to ask your opinion on the recommended items. There is a reply slip enclosed which asks for your opinion on each proposed area of work. Please complete the slip, place it back in the plastic bag provided and leave it outside your front door for collection on the day as requested.

If there is sufficient support from the village then detailed planning will commence. Final budget will be sought, and if successful the implementation of the proposals will take place during 2009/2010, with some of the major works being carried out likely to be during the school summer holidays 2009.

Copies of the feasibility drawings are available at www.icklefordpc.com/html/traffic.html or can be viewed on the village notice boards.