

Ellastone Parish Council - Traffic Issues in Ellastone

1) The major concern that residents have about traffic in the village is the speed of traffic. Over many years the Parish Council has tried very hard to get the County Council to address this, with little success.

These efforts include organising a petition in September 2014 asking for a 30 mph speed limit in the village. This had overwhelming support from the residents as well as some people from outside the village.

We have had a number of meetings with County Council officials and our County Councillor about this and while it is generally accepted that Ellastone should have a 30 mph speed limit (rather than 40), nothing has happened. The County Council have suggested that residents might want to set up a Community Speedwatch scheme to educate regular local drivers.

2) The dangerous junction of Wootton Road and Main Road, where high traffic speeds and a junction on a sharp bend with poor visibility make a dangerous crossing place for pedestrians. This is now more of an issue since the re opening of the Duncombe Arms leading to increased vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

On Monday 18 June 2018 the Parish Council held another meeting with Richard Rayson, Community Infrastructure Manager at Staffordshire County Council, when we had a discussion and a walk around the village to look at the issues. Mr Rayson was in agreement with us about the problem of traffic speed and the danger of crossing the road at the junction of Main road and Wootton Road. He re confirmed that there should be a 30 mph limit in the village and also that a pavement be installed at the junction around Corner Cottage, and that the junction should be made into a mini roundabout to slow the traffic there. He suggested that we ask for a feasibility study. However it has been made clear to us that we as a Parish Council will have to pay for this study as the County Council are unwilling to do so.

3) The knotty problem of Alton Towers traffic following their SatNavs up Marlpit Lane and Back Lane, narrow lanes that are unsuitable for this purpose. The Parish Council has asked for suitable signage to be installed to warn drivers that these routes are single track roads, unsuitable as a route to Alton Towers, whatever their SatNav says.

4) Tit Bridge, which was built in the eighteenth century for horse-drawn traffic is wholly unsuitable for today's type and volume of traffic and has been the scene of many accidents as visibility and width are restricted. The new signage installed a couple of years back has certainly improved the situation but we have proposed that the 40mph limit should be extended northwards the other side of Tit Bridge so that the legal approach speed is lower than 60mph. (Remove de-restricted sign on the approach to the bridge)

5) The successful re opening of the Duncombe Arms has led to issues of more traffic in the village and parking on the pavement and road. This exacerbates the problem of excess speed and the dangerous junction very close by.

6) We would like to have "Village Gateways" on the entrances to the village to slow traffic down and convey to drivers a sense of being in a village. The County Council do not object to this idea, but, The community will have to pay – the County Council has no funding.

7) The speed limit between Ellastone and Mayfield should be 50 mph not 60 mph. (Like the A 515 in Derbyshire) The County Council wishes to leave it at 60mph (without studying it or providing any evidence that 60 mph is suitable) in order not to be held accountable for a judgement that it is safe at 50.