

## Meeting re A44 in Monkland and Eardisland parishes

Tuesday 6 September 2016

### Present:

Monkland PC – Malcolm Weatherhead (Vice Chair), Lesley Hay (Clerk), Chris Blaydon (PFO)

Monkland Ward Councillor – Peter McCaull

Eardisland PC – Maryan Hanson (Chairman), Alison Sutton (Clerk)

Eardisland Ward Councillor – Roger Phillips

Herefordshire Council Cabinet Member for Transport and Roads – Paul Rone

Balfour Beatty (BB) – Rachel Rice (Knowledge Centre Manager), Ray Wallace (Senior Engineer), James Howell (Monkland Locality Steward)

### Issues discussed:

- Significant number of accidents over number of years noted along length of A44 within the parishes, including fatalities
- Issue must be addressed
- Request for a reduction in the speed limit to 40mph through Monkland now 5<sup>th</sup> on list and should be looked at next financial year
- Speed monitoring will be done and assessment made of possible actions; however last review said keep the limit at 50 mph
- To reduce a speed limit a Traffic Regulation order (TRO) is needed – legal process that takes significant time and change can be enforced by police
- Any new request for major traffic management change – initial assessment by BB, request ranked on TRO list for subsequent year
- Once TRO process instigated, parish council part of consultation process with ward councillor, police, road hauliers etc
  
- Fatal accident on 26.6.16 still under investigation
- If police are concerned following an accident, they can advise work is needed urgently (eg. signage, lining etc) – nothing has been raised in Monkland following accident on 26.6.16
- Accident cluster site investigations trigger quick response while funds last – but Monkland not in this category
  
- Issue of bend on the bridge at Monkland – 50mph starts too close to bridge/bend
- Can look at changing signage – put chevron and 50 sign on yellow back so stand out
- Could look at anti-skid surface on bridge but expensive to put down and maintain
  
- Enforcement by Safer Roads Partnership – can contact and request but limited resources
- Speed Indicator devices (SIDs) – parish councils need to fund, BB just getting new stock arranged
- Psychological issue of visual reminders important – enhanced signs, flashing signs eg. SIDs, markers to make road seem narrower
- Informative signs cannot be enforced but do not need TRO
  
- Length of A44 dangerous from Barons Cross to Pembridge – wide verges, open road – encourages speed
- Tarmac schemes at Golden Cross and other junctions need maintaining

- Visibility issues at junctions and clearance of signs to keep visibility
- Reduction of limit to 50mph from Monkland to Pembridge – will not stop accidents, research shows if 50mph for long length danger of people driving at that speed
- Perfect world – reduction to 40mph through Monkland, limit sign moved towards Leominster not on bridge, flashing signs, 50mph from Monkland to Pembridge

Actions agreed:

- Clerks will maintain database of non-injury accidents on A44 in their parishes
- TRO request for reduction to 40mph on list for action in 2017-18 – extended to cover the bridge area
- Reporting of visibility problems at junctions or signage – Clerks report to Locality Stewards for urgent action, extra visibility splay verge cutting
- Reporting to BB of maintenance required of white lining, red tarmac etc and BB to action
- Parishes will do plans of what signs wish to have to enhance visual awareness of drivers – eg. yellow background to signs, extra signs, road edge markers etc
- Clerks will send to Ray Wallace for costings and parishes consider funding
- Go to developers to get funding – ward councillors and cabinet member work with Herefordshire Council planning and highways officers to get change in attitude and positive support to parishes to approach developers for funding
- Herefordshire Councillors to lobby Police and Crime Commissioner when he attends Council on 30 September for more Safer Roads Partnership input to enforce speed limits and support parishes