Highways Updates, September 2025

1. 20mph speed limit request

A resident has requested that the Parish Council asks Wiltshire Council to reduce the speed limit on Bradford Road from 30mph to 20mph.

The resident has also asked that the Parish Council adopts the resolution proposed by the '20's Plenty For Us' campaign group:

[Parish council name]:

- *Supports the 20's Plenty for [Highway Authority] campaign;*
- *Calls on [your Highway Authority] to implement 20mph in [your place]; and*
- *Will write to [your Highway Authority] to request 20mph speed limits on streets throughout the authority where people live, work, shop, play or learn, with 30mph as the exception on those roads, where full consideration of the needs of vulnerable road users allows a higher limit.*

Full details about the campaign and resolution are available at:
https://www.20splenty.org/parish_council_motion

The resident included details of an incident on Bradford Road:

"I had a near miss on Monday at the Turleigh/Dane Rise crossing when a lorry was travelling down the blind hill from the war memorial on the Bradford Rd before the junction. It was probably doing about 30mph (so not exceeding the speed limit) and I had just pulled out of the Turleigh side when it emerged around the blind bend with a fully laden cargo bike so wasn't going very quickly to clear the junction and the lorry had to brake hard to stop in time, nearly skidding.
This just illustrates how inappropriate it is to have a 30mph speed limit on this stretch of road.
I'd be grateful if you can make a request for reduced speed limits along the whole stretch of Bradford Rd to Wiltshire Highways and our new councillor."

The Parish Council considered a similar request to reduce the speed limit on the Bradford Road in 2018, and has considered previous requests for 20mph outside the School. In all cases the Parish Council decided not to pursue a 20mph limit because of the criteria for a 20mph speed limit. Wiltshire Council's policy on 20mph speed limits is included as an additional document.

To note: Winsley Primary School has requested that the speed limit outside the School is reduced from 30mph to 20mph. They've been told by Wiltshire Council that a traffic speed survey will be undertaken in the Autumn.

2. Pedestrian crossing and speed limit on the B3108, Winsley bypass

Following agreement at the July Parish Council meeting the following comments were submitted from the Parish Council to Wiltshire Council about the proposed pedestrian crossing on the B3108:

"Councillors support Option 2, pedestrian crossing only, with a reduction in the speed limit.
Option 2 was considered the best option given the potential problems with the time and expense of creating a right hand lane and additional crossing point. Nearly all residents who responded to the Parish Council's consultation supported Option 2.
The Parish Council feels that this scheme must be accompanied by a reduction in the speed limit. A signalised crossing in a 50mph speed limit does not seem appropriate, and councillors could not think of any such examples. In relation to this crossing, there is a

slight downhill towards the crossing point that reduces visibility and a lower speed limit would ensure that drivers can slow down with enough time.
The Parish Council and Unitary Councillor has long campaigned for a reduction in the speed limit along the B3108 and it is felt that this should be an integral part of this scheme."

Wiltshire Council responded as follows:

"Rest assured that Option 2 will be progressed, however the existing speed is deemed suitable for the route and will not be lowered as part of this project.

When traffic lights are installed on roads where cars are moving faster than 35mph, extra safety measures are provided. This helps prevent accidents that can happen when drivers face a tricky decision—whether to stop or keep going when the light turns amber.

This situation is called the "dilemma zone." It happens when a driver sees the green light change to amber and isn't sure if they have enough time to stop safely or if they should drive through. The faster a car is going, the earlier this decision must be made.

To help with this, special sensors are placed in the road to detect when a vehicle is approaching. These sensors are usually built into the surface and are positioned based on how fast cars are expected to travel. If a car is detected, the green light may stay on a little longer to give the driver more time to pass safely. This is especially important on faster roads, where cars need more time and space to stop. Early detection helps traffic flow more smoothly and reduces the chances of sudden braking or accidents involving pedestrians. Looking at the traffic data from June 2024, the 85th percentile in this 50mph limit, was about 46mph in both directions."

Unitary Cllr Nigel White is continuing to press Wiltshire Highways for a reduction in the speed limit on the B3108. In response to a request from Unitary Cllr White, Wiltshire Council Highways Engineer Kirsty Rose is going to look at traffic data from the period when the speed limit was reduced to 40mph during the A36 road closure:

"I have data from surveys we undertook to look at volume and speed over 1 week of the closure compared to a previous week long survey in 2022. My colleague is going to undertake some analysis of the journey time data for this when she returns from leave next week. I've had a high-level review of the raw data and from that it would appear that vehicle speeds were broadly similar in both instances, however the further analysis will give more robust information than that. It will also give more information around the vehicle volumes. "

3. Bus services to Winsley

Some residents have asked if the 98 bus that serves Sainsburys to Downs View can be extended to Winsley and Unitary Cllr White has liaised with the *Head of Bus Services at Wiltshire Council about this. The possibility of extending the route of the 98 service to Winsley was considered, but the only option was for a service 2 or 3 days a week that gave people only an hour to shop in Sainsburys. This was therefore not considered viable.*

Unitary Councillor White is now investigating whether the D1X line could be extended to include a loop round to Winsley and will pursue this once the Head of Bus Services is back from annual leave.

4. White line on the Active Travel Scheme

Since the completion of the Active Travel Scheme, the Parish Council has made several requests to Wiltshire Council to consider measures to make the road edge clearer along the Scheme, following residents' concerns that the white line on the path can be confused for the road edge when visibility is poorer.

Unitary Cllr Nigel White has taken this up with Wiltshire Council's Highways Engineer and it appears action will now be taken:

> *"I will take forward putting in the carriageway edge line along here, which will serve to better highlight where the road ends and path begins. I'm aware of some planned surfacing works nearby later in the Autumn so ideally will co-ordinate these works as it will help with reduced traffic management etc. I am going to discuss this with my colleagues and will come back to you with further update once I've done so."*

5. Limpley Stoke Railway bridge repairs

Network Rail has confirmed to Unitary Cllr White that works are on schedule to be completed and the road re-opened by 6pm on 31st August, in line with the legal order.

Unitary Cllr White is talking to Wilts Council/Network rail staff about ways of preventing bridge bashes in the future.

Wiltshire Highways was asked if improvements to the road surface at the bottom of Winsley Hill could be undertaken whilst the road was shut at the railway bridge, particularly where previous underground works have left a 'trench' of infilled tarmac. The following response was received:

> *"We are aware of this trench on the lower half of Winsley Hill, this section of road is routinely inspected in accordance with our safety inspection manual, this trench doesn't currently meet any intervention level, we will continue to monitor it, I believe there should be a surfacing scheme on that section in the near future."*