Comments from residents about traffic speed on Ashley Lane

I am writing to raise serious safety concerns regarding Ashley Lane and to formally request that it be designated as an access-only road.

Ashley Lane is increasingly being used as a rat run by drivers attempting to access the A363. Vehicles are travelling at excessive speeds along what is clearly a narrow rural lane not designed for through traffic. This presents a significant and growing danger to residents and other legitimate road users.

Recently, while exiting my driveway, a vehicle passed at considerable speed. Given the road conditions — currently wet, muddy, and affected by numerous potholes — this behaviour is extremely hazardous. The lane also contains blind corners and limited visibility in places, making high-speed driving particularly dangerous.

In addition, Ashley Lane is regularly used by tractors, horses, pedestrians, and other livestock movements. It is entirely inappropriate for vehicles to be using this route as a high-speed shortcut under such conditions. It feels only a matter of time before someone is seriously injured.

I respectfully request that the council urgently review the situation and consider implementing measures such as:

- Designating the road as access-only
- Installing appropriate signage
- Introducing traffic calming measures
- Monitoring vehicle speeds

The current situation is unsafe and unsustainable for residents and legitimate rural users of the lane.

I would appreciate confirmation that this matter will be investigated and information on any proposed next steps.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent safety concern.

Resident of Ashley

… is it possible to look at the limits in the lanes - they're all designated national speed limit currently, and whilst 60mph isn't realistic it does perhaps raise the wrong message about what's achievable in them.
Resident of Great Ashley, BA15 2PP

I have sent an email supporting the 40mph and 30mph on the Winsley Bypass and Winsley Hill respectively. I also would support a speed limit around the lanes of Winsley.
Resident of Haugh

…it seems crazy that a road like this *[B3108]* - with all its enviable advantages - is likely to see a speed reduction while the limits on our narrow, dangerous lanes in Little/Great Ashley with blind corners and just two passing points, which flood regularly each year and are riddled with potholes, have limits of 60 mph. At the Dog & Fox end of the lane the speed limit is 20mph. If plans to reduce the bypass speed go ahead, it will be 40mph. Yet when you enter the lanes at BoA rugby club or from the Cumberwell entrance or even drive up from the Dog & Fox - suddenly it's the national speed limit on satnavs. And it's a place where people really like to use their speed. The logic of

safeguarding estates and leaving the more rural of us at the mercy of reckless drivers is baffling. We too have young families, old people using disability buggies, and try to walk our dogs on the lanes. Our community's safety is just as important as those living elsewhere in the parish.

Compared to the accident rate with the bypass - we have multiple crashes and lane closures every single year we have lived here. Only last week, there were two serious smashes which shut our lane on consecutive days. Because of the national speed limit people drive with abandon, regardless of weather conditions and it is hugely dangerous. I think I've mentioned to you before, that I was happier with my children cycling on the Upper Richmond Road in London (with speed limits of 20mph) than here. It is only a matter of time before a pedestrian is seriously injured and I really hope something can be done before it gets to that. It would be great if you let us know what we need to do to start a campaign for the lanes.
Resident of Ashley

I really believe that there should be a major change to speed limits in the lanes which generally are currently 60mph which is ludicrous with walkers, riders, cyclists etc at risk. Please do something about it?

I would like to request a reduction in the speed limit through Ashley Lane.
I welcome any advice on how this could be pursued.
Although the current speed limit allows for rule 146 “drivers to adjust their speed to the conditions ” users don’t always apply this attitude, many are using the road as an unsuitable cut through and don’t necessarily see the difference in the conditions once off the main road, a reduction in the speed limit would enable users to realise the limited visibility and space through Ashley Lane.
Although speed limits aren’t always adhered to and are difficult to enforce, A reduction in the speed limit will help protect other road users, pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders that enjoy the lanes.
There have been many accidents and near misses that go unreported and I feel its only a matter of time before one of these could be fatal to a vulnerable road user.
This proposal is widely supported throughout the residents of Ashley Lane.
Resident of Great Ashley