

## History of Speeding in Sydenham

- A speed survey was undertaken in January 2005 near to Slade Farm. An average speed of 45.8mph was recorded which is deemed unacceptable in a 30mph zone.
- On the basis of this data the County Council's Safer Roads Partnership paid for the two VAS signs to be installed on along Park View, they had budget back in 2005.
- The speeding issue on the B4445 was recognised at this time and the two VAS signs installed.
- A similar survey was carried out by the Green in the centre of the village in November 2005 and an average speed of 28mph was recorded, below the limit.
- This survey was repeated in May this year with an average speed of 25.8mph recorded.
- The effectiveness of the VAS signs has lessened with time and familiarity. The Parish Council are very aware of the concerns regarding speeding in the village and on the B4445. To this end we have regularly borrowed the portable Speed Indication Device from the local Police and have deployed it in the village recording details of speeding cars and passing the information to the Police for action.
- With increased traffic on the roads and the expansion of both Thame and Chinnor the problem of speeding traffic through the village just gets worse.
- The Parish Council met with a County Council Highways Officer in December 2014 to look at the possibility of installing a pinch point on the B4445 to slow down traffic from Chinnor approaching the junction.
- The costs for the County Council to implement the scheme were prohibitive; they had no budget available so the local Councils would have to pay.
- Chinnor were keen to have a pinch point on the same road on the approach to the Garden Centre site and hoped to have this as part of the developer funding from the site so we hoped to contribute to an overall scheme on the B4445. The funding went directly to the County Council who proposed some road markings instead.
- The Parish Council met with a County Council Highways Officer in April 2016 to look at traffic calming measures in the village from the Inn at Emmington to Box Cottages. Physical traffic calming, ie. Pinch points or tables, were discussed as the only effective methods on this straight stretch of road.
- The Highways Officer attended a village meeting in October 2016 and four options were considered viable:
  1. **Tables:** These would lie across the road and would be white in colour. They are considered more effective than cushions but do create more noise and are also more expensive. 2 of these would be needed over a distance of approx. 100m. This is considered to be the most effective method however street lighting would be required which was deemed not to be acceptable in a rural area and the noise would be similarly unacceptable in a populated area.
  2. **Extend the verges to make the road narrower and create passing spaces:** The cost of this is unknown but can be investigated. It was also suggested that a pavement could be created but this would be very expensive. This would be in keeping with the rural environment and was considered to be somewhat effective.
  3. **Fake speed camera:** This would need to be installed on private land and could be moved about to give the impression that it is genuine. This was considered to be somewhat effective.
  4. **SID (Speed indicator Device):** An LED sign showing the mileage people are driving. Again, this was considered to be somewhat effective.
- Speed survey equipment was installed at various locations in the village, from Box Cottages to Holliers Close, where speeding was perceived to be a problem. The survey data indicated that the only location where speeding was a problem was by Box Cottages.
- A temporary pinch point was installed in spring 2017 on the approach to Box Cottages from the Emmington end of the village. After a few weeks another speed survey was undertaken to assess the effectiveness of the pinch point; speeds were reduced by a level deemed by the Highways Officer to be significant enough to warrant a permanent feature.
- OCC do not have a process for Parish Councils to follow where they undertake the works and the PC pay. From July 2017 to March 2018 the PC were chasing OCC Highways for a quote which when received was near to £25000, £5000 had previously been verbally quoted. We then asked our County Councillor to try and sort this for us.

- In the meantime the Parish Council looked at speed reduction methods that we could fund and implement ourselves. We purchased a small van in July 2018 which can be used by the PC and parked in various locations on the village road to help reduce speed, as with a pinch point.
- Oxford Direct Services contacted the PC about the pinch point installation and provided a quote which is nearer the original verbal estimate of £5000. Our County Councillor has access to grant funding of up to £3500 that we can apply for reducing the cost to the Parish. The PC is now working to get a permanent pinch point installed.