

Holbrook Parish Council through the Traffic Action Group are currently looking at ways to improve road safety throughout the village. In the first instance the Traffic Action Group has concentrated on the two main routes on the south side of the village – Portway and Makeney Road, together with the roads linking them, Town Street and Church Street – for the reasons given below.

On PORTWAY our aim is to:

- Reduce the speed of traffic
- Improve pedestrian safety
- Reduce the danger to children attending school at peak traffic times
- Reduce the risk to residents exiting their properties near the top of Portway

Portway is part of the route through the village of Holbrook and is used as a link between the Duffield, Milford and Belper areas to the A38 and beyond. The volume of traffic has visibly increased in recent years. Particularly during morning and afternoon commuter periods.

Portway which is the main southern exit route out of the village, has a narrow downhill section with a blind bend and a 30mph speed limit. There are no pavements on this section and no road markings warning of the narrow road or the necessity for caution at this point.

We are aware that the road does not fall within current guidelines for improvement but we request that this area is given consideration by Derbyshire County Council for traffic calming measures as a matter of priority for the following reasons:

Pedestrians

The top (north end) of Portway has no footpath for 50/60 metres, this includes an area with a blind bend. The only warning to motorists is a poorly positioned sign (positioned opposite the junction with Town Street and not in the direct vision of motorists leaving that junction.) This part of the road is used daily by children and parents going to the village school. Portway is also a main route for walkers entering the village and this section of the road is particularly dangerous. Poor street lighting in this area adds to the danger at night.

We request that the Council takes action to make the use of this section of the road safer for pedestrians with the installation of improved signage, road markings and vehicle activated signs requesting speed reduction.

Continued ..

Mr Ashley Knott, Head of Traffic Management at Derbyshire Constabulary, stated in an undated letter to the Parish Council that the majority of traffic (in a speed survey in April 2010) was not exceeding 37.9mph, surely the majority of traffic should not be exceeding 30mph in a 30mph zone.

Motorists

The blind bend is approximately 12 metres from the top of the hill, the road varies in width from 4.5 to 6 metres. After the blind bend there are five driveways with access/egress for 8 vehicles, the first of these driveways is within 13 metres of the bend (the braking distance under ideal conditions at 30mph is 23 metres) three more driveways are within a further 15 metres.

Residents using these accesses are confronted on a daily basis by speeding vehicles, but of particular concern is the increasing number of cyclists travelling at speed downhill which have the added hazard of not being heard. Residents in these properties are experiencing all too frequent near miss situations . Recently a motor cyclist actually fell off his machine attempting to stop when confronted by a vehicle exiting one of the drives. This is not the only such incident but an illustration that accidents like this are not recorded.

Cars parked along Town Street also create a safety issue for pedestrians because buses and large vehicles have to mount the pavement to pass and motorists are unable to see oncoming traffic at the junction with Church Street

Motorists and Pedestrians are also put at risk in the area outside the Autistic Centre which is on a bend lower down Portway. During the main drop off and pick up periods vehicles are unable to enter the driveway and are forced to queue on the road. This results in vehicles being forced to brake to avoid oncoming traffic and on occasion mounting the pavement endangering pedestrians. Does the Centre not fall within the 20mph criteria for schools ?

On MAKENEY ROAD/MELLORS LANE our aim is to:

- Reduce the speed of traffic
- Improve pedestrian safety
- Reduce the danger to visitors using amenities in the area

Continued . .

Makeney Road/Mellors Lane is also part of the route used as a link between the Duffield, Milford areas on to the A38 at Coxbench.

The area along Makeney Road of particular concern is from the junction with Pond Road to the entrance to Holbrook Hall Residential Home which encompasses the Mellors Lane junction. Holbrook Hall Residential Home has recently expanded its capacity, the football club, which shares the same access, has recently increased the number of teams playing on their ground, and the significant improvements made to the Mellors Lane Recreation Park have all increased vehicular and pedestrian use in this area. A reduction in the speed limit in this area including the whole of Mellors Lane would improve safety for pedestrians who are obliged to cross the road to the pavement which is on the opposite side of the road.

This includes pedestrians and wheelchair users from the residential home as well as children from the recreation ground. Nearer to the Pond Road junction the pavement changes from one side to the other and all pedestrians have to cross the road. All of these crossing points are unmarked, unlit and have no signage, added to which all three are in the derestricted zone. Also within this area there is a new farm entrance from which large slow-moving machinery emerges as well as several accesses onto agricultural land. There is also a large residential dwelling. The recent installation of the pavement along part of Mellors Lane has opened up the road lifting the natural restrictions caused by lack of visibility. Including the whole of Mellors Lane in a restricted speed area with Makeney Road would achieve a more even flow of traffic and improve safety.

Whilst individually the above points may not be significant reason for a reduction in the speed limit, we feel that collectively they should be given serious consideration.

The Parish Council would welcome an on-site meeting with appropriate officers from The County Council so that we may explain our concerns more fully.