

Traffic calming in Baydon

The chicanes installed on Ermin Street in 2014 near the playground, have proved to be successful, reducing what was the highest speeds in the village, from an 85th percentile* of 44.3mph at that end of the village, to the lower figure of 39.8mph. This is a positive first step, but in order to increase their effectiveness, plus reduce speeding throughout the village, more traffic calming measures are needed to work in conjunction.

Since 2013, Baydon Parish Council has been planning for the next phase of traffic calming and considering further obstacles for Ermin Street, with road safety outside the school being the highest priority. (A number of potential solutions, such as speed cameras, 40mph zones at village entrances, or a roundabout are simply not available. Other solutions, such as speed bumps, platforms and crossings are not allowed until we have first slowed the traffic with chicanes or buildouts. Therefore, our options are extremely limited.)

After consultation with Wiltshire Highways, a draft proposal was designed in 2015, to slow traffic approaching the primary school from both directions. A single buildout near the Ermin Close entrance was proposed, which means that westbound traffic would need to give way. Another single buildout, planned near the flashing 30mph sign at the western end of Ermin Street, would mean that eastbound cars must give way. These obstacles would be similar to those at Wanborough and Shrivenham.

Baydon Parish Council agreed to contribute £6,000 towards the £18,000 cost, having already secured £3,000 from CATG** and successfully applied for £9,000 central government funding.

Our existing chicanes near the playground cost £31,000, of which Baydon Parish Council contributed £3,000, with the remainder being paid for by a very generous donation of £3,000 from a local resident, £3,000 from CATG and £22,000 from central government funding.*** Therefore, of the £49,000 cost of the traffic calming for the whole of Ermin Street, Baydon Parish Council would have only had to contribute £9,000 from village funds.

The proposed buildouts were on the agenda again, at the Parish Council Meeting on Monday 4 July 2016. During this advertised meeting, all the traffic calming plans and information was presented and residents were given an opportunity to give their feedback. Concerns were again raised by immediate neighbours about the proposed western buildout. Cllrs therefore requested an independent safety inspection and the October install date was delayed.

Following the positive independent safety report and Engineers response, Cllrs agreed in their September meeting to go ahead with the eastern chicane near Ermin Close, but asked Highways for possible solutions to alleviate the concerns around the proposed western buildout.

In their October meeting, being unable to make any changes to the proposed plans for the western build out, Cllrs agreed with immediate neighbours that they would not

have sufficient sight lines for the eastbound traffic, which would be pushed over to their side of the road as it negotiated the buildout.

Therefore, Baydon Parish Council have agreed not to go ahead with the western buildout as proposed, but will continue with half the current project i.e. the eastern buildout near Ermin Close. We are hopeful that we will still be able to receive half of the funding previously secured.

There remains a need for a traffic calming obstacle at the western end of Ermin Street, plus there is a necessity to slow the eastbound traffic through the village. However, this will now be a separate project and new plans and funding applications will be required. Residents continue to request that the 30mph limit is pushed further out towards the cricket field and a buildout be installed there, but so far, Highways have repeatedly declined our requests.

Baydon Parish Council continue to work to reduce the speed of traffic through the village because this was highlighted as the number one priority for residents, during the creation of the Village Plan (a copy of which is available on the Baydon website). There are no quick fixes or easy wins - a variety of traffic calming measures are needed, introduced over a number of years which will require support and patience from everyone.

As always, further information can be found on www.baydon.org, on the Parish Council notice board outside the shop and of course, Parish Council meetings where residents are invited to speak during the Public Question Time section of the meeting.

Baydon Parish Council
November 2016

* A Metrocount measures the number of passing cars and the speed of the free flowing traffic. (The 85th percentile is the speed at which 85% of cars were travelling at, or under.)

**Marlborough Community Area Transport Group, which a Baydon Parish Cllr attends

***The cost of the chicanes near the playground were higher because there was no existing power supply for the lighting