

## A378 Speed Consultation – next steps – note from PC Chair – 28 April 2018

Good afternoon everyone

Thank you to those of you who have already provided comments on this subject either to the PC or to SCC. There is obviously a range of views and we are aware that the issue is controversial and emotive.

As has been explained by Jill Wardle, our Clerk, the PC considered this matter on 16 April and agreed a line that the Clerk was asked to send to SCC. The PC had, at that time, received no public input to the discussion despite advertising the consultation in the agenda and on the website and noticeboard. At the meeting, Councillor Pip Brett raised the question of alternatives to the existing 30mph zone as she was concerned that there should be consideration of the evidence showing frequent ignoring of the 30mph speed limit and anecdotal evidence of poor driving of frustrated drivers. There was a lengthy debate followed by unanimous agreement of the reply to SCC which we have already circulated to you and is available in the PC Minutes.

Given the strength of feeling on the subject that the PC is now being made aware of, I believe that a **separate public meeting** should be held when we know the full range of views and facts to allow adequate time for discussion. It would also be a shame if the Annual Parish Meeting (APM) on 1 May was dominated by this issue, as it's meant to be an opportunity for the community to find out what has happened with our groups throughout the year. Also, no decisions can be taken then anyway as it is not a formal PC meeting.

To summarise the next steps:

1. Everyone has the right to reply to this consultation by writing to SCC direct - the PC would encourage you to do so before the deadline of 3 May 2018. This is the link to the TRO web page: <http://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-transport/road-works/tro/>. The Fivehead TRO is on the second page of the list of current TROs and by clicking on the 'Feedback on a proposed order' box a self-explanatory form is presented for the public to leave their comments. If you would like to also copy your comments to the PC at [fiveheadpc@gmail.com](mailto:fiveheadpc@gmail.com) that would be appreciated.
2. The **APM will not include a discussion** on this subject for the reasons given above.
3. The Clerk will arrange a meeting for a couple of PC Members with SCC after the 3 May deadline to get feedback on the range of comments and the options available.
4. A **separate public meeting** will then be arranged in Fivehead. I think it will be unhelpful to hold a public meeting before then without knowing all the facts. There are quite clearly some strong opposing views and it is only right that people are given the opportunity to air those views. Equally, any evidential analysis should be made available, so we can all have an understanding of the options available, and hopefully come to the best decision in the interests of safety. The meeting will be arranged during evening hours so that as many people as possible can attend. Unfortunately SCC cannot attend meetings outside the weekday hours 0900-1600 so it is impossible to get a representative at the meeting.
5. After the public meeting, a formal PC meeting will consider a formal decision on how best to represent the views.

Regards  
Kate Beacham  
Chair of the Parish Council