

## ROAD SAFETY ON THE A4361: NEXT STEPS

Wiltshire Highways has commissioned work by its consultants Atkins on ways to reduce average speeds the A4361 from Beckhampton to Wroughton. Following CATG protocols, the three parish councils concerned, including APC, contributed 25% of the price charged by Atkins for this work. Atkins made a number of recommendations including additional double white lines and speed limit reductions. CATG on 10 December will review the status of this project.

Our interest in this work was in adjusting the speed limit from 60mph to 40mph on the section from Beckhampton roundabout to the 30mph limit at the entrance to Avebury. It is a regular request from residents in Trusloe and nearby properties. Reducing the speed limit to 40mph would implement one of two options for this section recommended by the Avebury WHS Transport Strategy (2015).<sup>1</sup> The other option was to extend the 30mph limit to include Avebury Trusloe. The recent study by Atkins made no reference to its earlier work.

Wiltshire Highways is required to put the latest recommendations made by Atkins to formal public consultation. This would be the first step towards implementation. The cost of the consultation process is estimated at £3,000. APC's contribution would be £250 assuming that all three parish councils are willing to contribute 25%.

Does APC want to do this? Bear in mind:

- Wiltshire Highways has not committed to implement
- Work will only be started if it is approved by CATG (the project is one of its top five priorities), if the cost is within CATG's budget, and if the three parishes contribute 25%
- CATG's budget for FY2020 is exhausted and so the earliest implementation can be considered will be after the start of FY2021
- Implementation of this scheme is likely to cost in the region of £13,000 (about 50% of CATG's annual budget)

---

<sup>1</sup> Atkins 'Avebury World Heritage Site Transport Study,' 2015, p.30.

- APC be asked to contribute £1,083
- Cllr Jane Davies suggests that the Marlborough Area Board might be able to help finance the scheme, which would ease (or allow us to avoid altogether, perhaps) the constrained CATG budget
- Wiltshire Highways now says that the recommendation for 40mph made by Atkins in 2015 was merely an “aspirational request” and it would have to have been supported by further assessment were it to have been implemented (Atkins in 2015 made no reference to a need for more work)
- Atkins has now completed that assessment and decided that 50mph should be the new speed limit.

We could argue the point but frankly there is small chance of securing the lower limit at this time. Accordingly it seems that the best way forward is to accept a 50mph limit whilst not losing sight of our “aspirational request” by asking for it to be recorded in CATG’s minutes.

#### **Recommendation**

- To accept the proposal for a reduction to 50mph from the national limit on this stretch of road
- To make a strong request, likely to be supported by the other two parishes, for prompt implementation (noting the likely cost implications for APC, yet unquantified)
- To keep actual speeds under review and be ready to campaign for a further reduction if it is needed.

*25 November 2020*