

Avebury Parish Council

Application for extension of 30mph limit on A4361 north of Avebury Henge

Proposal

The Parish Council requests an extension of the 30mph limit on the A4361 to a point north of Melbourne House on the Swindon Road.

Background

CATG considered this issue when it was raised by a local resident in February 2011 (Area Board Issue 1479). The stretch of road was subsequently included in the Speed Indicator Device programme and the Parish Council then requested a speed review to justify an extension of the 30mph limit northwards.

A Briefing Note was prepared by Wiltshire Council's Traffic Engineering Team in February 2014. The Parish Council requested it be amended, and also requested that the application to CATG be deferred until the Avebury World Heritage Site Transport Strategy had been completed. The Strategy was adopted by Wiltshire Highways in March 2015 and a second Briefing Note was prepared in September 2015. A meeting was held in January 2016 with Cllr Philip Whitehead and Dave Thomas at which it was agreed that an extension of the limit to the north of Melbourne House should be implemented.

Reasons for extending the 30mph limit

The following points affect local households and road users on the A4361:

- a. people have to cross the A4361 in a 60mph zone to walk to the village centre or to catch buses. This is particularly difficult in the darkness of winter months, and especially affects school children, the elderly and those with physical disabilities
- b. there is no footpath for pedestrians walking northwards from 1 Harrington Court
- c. there are many near misses that drivers experience when pulling out into, and out of, fast moving and/or overtaking traffic on the A4361
- d. the Avebury WHS Transport Strategy recommends that the 30mph limit be extended to Rutlands Farm.
- e. the WHS Transport Strategy states that there is a need to preserve the Outstanding Universal Value of the WHS by reducing the impact of signage and traffic management features on monuments. The current 30mph signs are only about 80 metres from the Henge at Avebury. They detract from its setting and should be sited further from it. An existing warning 'Bend' sign would also become unnecessary in a 30mph area and could be removed, and the Avebury village sign could be moved northwards.

The following points are material changes in circumstances:

1. CATG has previously accepted the need to take action on this stretch of road by including it in the Speed Indicator Device programme.
2. New houses have been constructed at Harrington Court on the site of Bond's Garage and the number of residents has increased. The density of housing between Melbourne House and 4 Harrington Court is more than double the DfT standard of 3 houses per 100 metres. Another DfT guideline is fully met, that such densities should particularly apply at entrances to a 30mph limit.

3. The long avenue of Chestnut trees to the west of the A4361 has been felled. Drivers now have much greater sightlines in both directions and can drive faster and overtake more easily.
4. The existing 30mph signs are becoming increasingly dilapidated and it will shortly be necessary to replace them.

Partnership funding

The Parish Council will be pleased to enter into a partnership funding arrangement with CATG and any other individuals and organisations that could help finance this initiative.

26 February 2016