

## Meeting to discuss the A388 speeding issue

At Frithelstock Village Hall                      4<sup>th</sup> June 2010

Present

M. Newcombe (MN)                      M Poole (MP)                      M Baker (MB) - head table

H Pettifer (HP) - notes

Parishioners of Frithelstock, Langtree, Saltrens, Monkleigh

Apologies: Cllr S Robinson, Cllr P Pennington, Mr A Heard, Mr C Ward

The meeting was opened by MP who acted as the Chair.

MN expressed concern that the meeting was not as he was led to expect, and was aggrieved. HP sought to reassure MN that in an e-mail sent to him, it was accepted that the meeting would be open to “stakeholders”, and that representatives from the above 4 villages would be in attendance, in line with MN’s recommendations. HP set a loose agenda for the meeting, which included a joined up approach of service providers and parish councils, including a strategy based on advice from MN &MB.

MB addressed the meeting giving details of general road safety issues a round North Devon and examples of other villages who share similar concerns. Whilst it was generally agreed that there could be no one remedy, MN spoke of the “3 E’s” being – **Enforcement, Education, Engineering**. An approach to the problem of speeding should encompass the above villages and be considered an A388 issue, rather than individual villages taking separate action.

This kind of campaign should use the local media (radio, press etc), to raise the profile of the issue, and raise awareness among the North Devon communities that the above villages were now organised in their approach to stop speeding traffic, with the full support of the local authority and police.

Details of the “**Community Speed Watch**”, based on information given by PC Dick Rowlands at the annual parish meeting was again discussed as part of an overall solution. MB spoke of how the Police will support a number of parishioners, who volunteer their services to monitor the speed of traffic through designated areas of villages.

Full training and equipment, including speed guns, will be given. A minimum number of 6 volunteers per village would be required, including one person prepared to act as a co-ordinator to liaise with the Police, and other villages. Volunteers would need to be CRB checked.

The registration numbers of speeding traffic would be recorded and shared with the authorities, and fed into a national database. Signage for specific use whilst speed guns were being deployed, would also be required and can be supplied by the police.

**Portable Flashing Sign.** A sign could be shared between villages. A suitable area would need to be found. These signs were very much favoured by the parishioners of Frithelstock. Mr Newcombe stated that Frithelstock could

expect the signs within 6 weeks. However concerns were raised as to the exact location, in order for these signs to be effective, based on the location of the recent equipment used to monitor traffic flow, which was considered to be falsely recording, due to its location with current signage.

The following issues were also discussed with the representatives

- Current signage around the village. Parishioners considered these of little use – i.e. skidding signs, of which motorists take no notice.  
*There is a legal obligation for the local authority to supply such signs.*
  - Landcross 30mph signs?  
*Landcross is considered an accident hotspot*
  - Road usage and infrastructure – lorries using inappropriate roads
  - Racing/Speeding through Langtree
  - Monkleigh – the work David Sloman has achieved in an effort to make the roads safer.
  - No prosecutions will follow from “community Speed Watch” campaigns
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After much debate, the issues were summarised, and a draft strategy suggested as follows:

- Speeding traffic is considered as a **route problem**, along the A388 concerning all the villages represented at the meeting.
- ALL villages should work in a joined up approach, and raise the profile of the issues and the action we will take, using media (local press, radio)
- Portable mobile flashing signs to be supplied – Action MB
- Community Speed Watch will be adopted by the villages. – Action ALL  
Each village will appoint a co-ordinator and find volunteers for speed gun training.
- Villages should map the areas of concern, and risk assess with the police as possible areas for monitoring
- Project should be monitored and evaluated and initially run over a specific time, with end date where a meeting can be convened to discuss results.

Frithelstock co-ordinators: Maureen Pool & Richard Joseph