

Supporting information for Small Improvement Scheme application- Frome North Division

Reason for application

There are well known issues with speeding through Oldford and traffic along Oldford Hill and the Bath Road on the route from Oldford to Frome. Much work has already been carried out in an effort to improve the situation through Oldford, but there continues to be a problem, which is recognised by the regular presence of a Police speed enforcement unit (SEU) or speed indicator device (SID) along the route, which takes a high volume of traffic.

Additional road marking works have also been carried out in an attempt to reduce the speed coming from Frome off Bath Road down through the start of Oldford Hill. There is a regular (SEU-bike) in this area too.

There is another issue with this route however that I would like to draw your attention with the view to support an application for a SIS. This issue relates to the speed of traffic emerging from the top of Oldford Hill as it merges into Bath Road, and past the junction with Cuckoo Lane/Gypsy Lane and beyond, past Frome College. The last part of Oldford Hill is a derestricted area, but a 30 mph restriction is re-imposed just before the junction of Cuckoo Lane/Gypsy Lane.

Traffic exiting the Cuckoo Lane/Gypsy Lane junction have two significant problems to deal with: -

1. The close proximity of the 30 mph sign does not give enough notice for oncoming traffic to slow down.
2. The surrounding trees and shrubs obscure this traffic.

Exiting this junction is therefore extremely hazardous.

Shortly after passing the Cuckoo Lane and Gypsy Lane junction is Frome College main entrance and related bus stops. Students regularly use these and there is cause for concern for the pedestrian safety because traffic is still speeding.

Support for the SIS

- Bath Road in general suffers from vehicles regularly infringing the speed limit and this can be supported from the data collected by the Mendip Community Speed Watch lead Ashley Reay and the police SEU routine monitoring.
- Mendip Community Speed Watch (CSW) & Chief Inspector Mark Nicholson supports any measures that will support improvements for road safety in the area. SCC Highways officers Jeff Bunting and Chris Betty have verbally endorsed this application to address the issues I have previously discussed with them.

- Frome Town Council have verbally supported the application and this will be considered for formal support at the next planning advisory meeting on the 16th November 2017. The local councillors also have campaigned to try and find measures to reduce speeding and improve road safety.
- A developer-funded scheme, intended to improve pedestrian access and safety that could possibly complement a successful SIS application.

A recent planning application approved with conditions includes a developer support scheme to provide a footpath and crossing. The application is for approval of details reserved by Conditions 8 (Carriageways, Parking, Street Furniture etc.); and 9 (Footpath and Crossing) attached to planning permission 2016/1593/FUL for the erection of seven dwellings.] Land North East of The Old Mendip Lodge Hotel Bath Road Frome Somerset.

This application has not yet been finalised but the latest plans (attached to this submission) will provide some access improvements around Frome College area. These improvements could complement any solutions that a successful SIS application could bring forward and be considered as a funding contribution to the overall scheme.

Summary

A SIS scheme to address the issues outlined in this submission will: -

1. Support the proactive work of the CSW and SEU teams.
2. Complement a developer funded pedestrian access improvement scheme.
3. Provide a continuation of highways support and investment in this area to reduce traffic speeds for one of the largest towns in Somerset.
4. Show recognition of the on-going commitment and partnership working by numerous agencies and stakeholders committed to improving highway safety in this high speed and high traffic volume area.

I have attached screen shots showing the areas that I refer to in this application. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Cllr. Linda Oliver

10th November 2017

Oldford Hill, Frome, BA11 2NP





Cuckoo Lane/Gypsy Lane Junction





Bath Road/Frome College/Development Site



Bath Road from opposite Frome College Main entrance



Bath road heading from Frome towards Gypsy Lane/Cuckoo Lane Junction



Mendip District Planning Application 2017/0992/APP-Development at former Mendip Lodge Hotel

