

Windsor Town Forum – Monday 15th Feb 2016

Briefing Note – Traffic Speeds in Windsor

Mr T Robinson has raised concerns about speeding traffic in Windsor, citing a number of specific locations including A308 Goslar Way/Osborne Road, Sheet Street/Kings Road, A332 Kings Road, Clarence Road, B3022 St Leonards Road/Winkfield Road along with B470 High Street/Thames Street.

In particular, the concern is that these speeds make the town less pedestrian friendly.

In order to address these concerns, Mr Robinson suggests a greater number of speed warning and speed limit signs, along with additional speed cameras and Police prosecution of drivers for excessive speeds. He also suggests that RBWM warn taxis about speeding.

In response to this, although RBWM have traffic speed surveys on a number of roads around Windsor, this data does not indicate that there is a trend towards increased traffic speeds. In terms of overall traffic levels, our data would indicate that overall traffic levels have remained steady over the past five years, which represents a 15 to 20% reduction since the mid 2000's.

RBWM have achieved significant reductions in the numbers of injuries from road crashes across the Borough as a whole over the past 15 years. However, whilst the number of casualties is at historically low levels, Mr Robinson is referring to perceptions of road safety, rather than actual casualty numbers. This is an area that is difficult to quantify or effectively evaluate.

In terms of his suggestions, whilst there is the possibility for improvements to speed limit signing and reminder signs, the extent of any improvements are limited by legal constraints on the number, size and positioning of signing. Additional enforcement of speed limits would be reliant upon the Police. Traffic enforcement has though been subject to significant cuts in available resources and there are limitations as to the locations where enforcement can take place. Speed cameras have been introduced at sites with a poor road safety record where speeds were considered to be a contributory factor, rather than simply as a means of speed enforcement. The situation has not changed, although speed cameras are now wholly managed by the Police. Finally, taxi drivers represent a relatively small proportion of overall traffic levels, and any speeding tends to occur outside of main travel times. However, we will contact all RBWM licenced taxis and reinforce the need drive safely and considerately. Enforcement of any speeding would be dependent upon Police or RBWM resources.

In order to address these concerns about speeding, a more radical review of speed limits across Windsor as a whole is suggested. Whilst RBWM have mainly taken the approach of introducing 20mph speed limits outside schools, more widespread introduction of 20mph speed limits on town centre residential roads and shopping streets could be considered. This would meet the objectives outlined by Mr Robinson, and would be similar to the approach adopted in places such as Oxford. The adoption of such a policy would though need wider Member and public acceptance, but would present a longer-term framework to address the concerns that have been raised. RBWM aims to minimise street clutter and this will need to be considered as part of any proposals.

Other supporting measures which could be considered include:

- Community Speedwatch
- SIDs (Speed Indication Devices)