

1 Introduction

A traffic count at Sandy Lane on the A342 was requested by the Parish Council following concerns from residents not just about the speed of traffic but the number and size of the HGV's using the road through the village.

2 The Traffic Count Results

2.1 Summary

The summary of the traffic count survey found that vehicle speeds were as follows:

The results of the survey for the 7-day period from 11/12/2019 to 17/12/2019 are as follows:

- Speeds for a total of 34,706 vehicles in free-flowing traffic in both directions were recorded.
- Total traffic volume during this period was 61,837 vehicles. (This figure may be higher than above due to congestion when 'free-flowing' speeds cannot be recorded.)
- The 85th percentile speed was 34.7mph. This is the speed at or below which 85% of the traffic is travelling and is used nationally as a criterion for Community Speed Watch interventions.
- The mean speed was 30.4mph.
- 52.8% of recorded vehicles were exceeding the posted speed limit. The mean speed of these vehicles was 33.5mph

The 85th percentile at 34.7mph puts it below the speed for Police or Community Speed Watch intervention.

2.2 Detailed data

The detailed data revealed the picture regarding HGV use of the road.

The Sandy Lane survey in mid-December 2019 shows the average weekday traffic flow to be just short of 10,000 vehicles per day (9874) of which 935 (9.5%) were classified as Lorries, the rest being mainly cars and small/medium vans. The automatic traffic counter can discriminate between various types of vehicle by their axle configuration, the bulk of the 935 lorries were classified as 2 axle vehicles, many of these will be large lorries but large vans are also included in this classification.

In the busiest hour for lorries there are around 40 to 50 in each direction, through what is a narrow road in both Sandy Lane and Old Derry Hill.

The detailed data also revealed that although the mean speed of vehicles exceeding the speed limit was 33.5mph, there were excessive speeds recorded. The maximum speeds recorded - 67.5mph for a vehicle travelling South and an excessively high speed of 81.2 mph for a vehicle travelling north towards Derry Hill. The latter occurred in the daytime where there was likely to be other traffic and pedestrians present.

3 Conclusion

The reported traffic speeds do not qualify for Police or Community Speed Watch intervention, therefore there is nothing to be gained from the Parish Council supporting this aspect of the request through to the Calne Community Area Transport Group.

The level of HGV traffic is high, and the increasing large vehicles are finding it difficult to pass through the village with reports of vehicles mounting the pavements. The Council may wish to support this aspect of the Request and ask Wiltshire Council Highways through the Calne Community Transport Group to consider the problem and suggest possible solutions.

Recommendation: That the Parish Council decide to support and submit a request or refuse the request and state the reasons.