



Atworth Traffic Action Group (ATAG)

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ISSUES TO BE RAISED VIA THE COUNTY COUNCIL WEBSITE

The first two of these issues are those which, following the Public Meeting in May, ATAG have agreed to take to the County Council for consideration.

The third issue is based on the views expressed at the public meeting, that there were highly undesirable risks facing those mothers with children who walk the school travel route daily along the A365, and covers those elderly persons and youngsters who feel unsafe at the pedestrian crossing owing to driver behaviour.

SPEED LIMIT REDUCTION (submitted 3rd September 2012)

Issue: Atworth, western A365.

Excessive speed on approach and through our village especially at the western approach down the hill. This has been demonstrated during Community Speedwatch sessions, and one of the Metrocounts in our village showed that nearly 15% of traffic exceeded 38.5mph.

Department for Transport figures support residents' dissatisfaction with traffic through our community, showing daily average rates of 6,000-7,000 vehicles, with a very significant percentage of heavy goods vehicles in the mix.

How long? For several years.

Who is affected?

Residents and responsible drivers are put at risk by this behaviour. The issue was raised by residents at the first residents' meeting, and voted as a priority at subsequent meetings. 94% of respondents to the parish plan questionnaire indicated serious concern or concern about traffic through the village.

What have you done to try to solve the problem?

It has been raised at the NPTG and at the Melksham Community Area Transport Group.

There have been two residents' meetings and a public meeting with the MP, police, councillors and officials to highlight and seek action from representatives and public officials.

Residents voted almost unanimously at meetings to have action taken to resolve this issue.

What would you like to see done to resolve the problem?

Residents wish to have the existing 30mph limit extended to a point beyond the farm shop AND a new 40mph introduced from beyond Keeper's Cottage down to the new extent of the 30mph limit.

These measures would help reduce the number of incidents along the A365 and would dissuade all but the most recalcitrant drivers from overtaking, and help reduce the speed of vehicles approaching our village.

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Residents also believe that, whilst the proposed village gates (partially funded from the parish precept), and the new mobile speed indicator (SID) will help, but the cycle of 24 weeks for the SID is too infrequent, and we would wish to see a more effective permanent type of device used.

Which organisations do you believe need to come together to resolve this problem.

Residents have already sought and obtained the endorsement of Atworth Parish Council, and the Public Meeting held in May voted almost unanimously in favour of these measures.

Residents believe that council officials must be persuaded by councillors that residents wish to have the problem resolved, and that this is one of several traffic problems affecting our rural community in Atworth.

DANGEROUS OVERTAKING (submitted 3rd September 2012)

Issue: Dangerous overtaking between the Clock Tower Atworth to beyond the Farm Shop, along the western A365.

This occurs at the 'bus stop when 'busses are stopped, and when slower vehicles (HGVs) are travelling up the hill past the Farm Shop.

How long? For several years.

Who is Affected?

Residents and responsible drivers are put at risk by this behaviour. The issue was raised by residents at the first meeting, and voted as a priority at subsequent meetings.

What have you done to try to resolve the issue?

There have been two residents' meetings and a public meeting with the MP, police, parish & county councillors and officials to highlight and seek action from representatives and public officials.

It has been raised at the NPTG and at the Melksham Community Area Transport Group.

Residents are now at the stage where we need the proper support of the local authority to introduce proper measures to resolve the issue.

What would you like to have done to resolve the issue?

Residents wish to have double-white lines from the region of the Clock Tower up to the bend by the Keeper's Cottage.

This measure would dissuade all but the most recalcitrant drivers from dangerous and threatening overtaking on the hill as they enter and leave our village.

Which Organisations need to come together to resolve your issue?

Residents have already sought and obtained the endorsement of Atworth Parish Council, and the Public Meeting held in May voted unanimously in favour of these measures.

Residents believe that council officials must be persuaded by councillors that residents wish to have the problem resolved, and that this is one of several traffic problems affecting our rural community in Atworth.

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PEDESTRIANS AT RISK THROUGH THE VILLAGE (not yet submitted)

Issue: Atworth, A365, throughout our village.

Pedestrians are at risk along the A365 as a result of the traffic volume, mix, speed and driver behaviour.

The A365 through our village forms part of the School Travel Route to Churchfields, The Village School on Bradford Road, Atworth.

Residents consider that the congestion along Bradford Road reduces the speed of traffic, and hence the risk, but that the issue is much more significant along the A365.

Residents, particularly mothers with children feel particularly at risk owing to the narrowness of the pavements, the number of heavy goods vehicles, the speed and volume of the traffic, the presence of oxides of nitrogen and particulates from diesel engined road vehicles, the spraying of dirty standing water and rain during wet weather, and the failure of vehicles to stop for children and others at the pedestrian crossing.

How long? For several years.

Who is Affected?

All residents are affected as pedestrians, but the issue particularly affects mothers with young children at school travel times, slightly older children, and elderly residents attempting to use the pedestrian crossing, as there are too many incidents of drivers failing to stop even when residents are standing clearly visibly at the crossing.

What have you done to try to resolve the issue?

The matter has been reported to the parish council several times by various residents, and has been taken to the Neighbourhood Police Tasking Group, and to the Community Area Transport Group.

It has been raised by residents at the two residents' meetings held in the village and at the public meeting.

What would you like to have done to resolve the issue?

Residents would like to see consideration being given to the application of a 20mph limit on the school travel route along the A365 during school travel times. Residents would also wish to see a strengthening of the pedestrian influence on the pedestrian crossing, possibly by controlled lights, or by raising its surface.

Which Organisations need to come together to resolve your issue?

Residents believe that council officials must be persuaded by councillors that residents wish to have the problems resolved, as that this is one of several traffic problems affecting our rural community in Atworth.

This issue has not yet been submitted, as further discussion will take place first.

**ATAG Organising Committee
August 2012**