



Atworth Traffic Action Group (ATAG)

Email: atag@email.com

Website: <http://atag.99k.org>

Mobile: 07815 167095

ATAG Report to Atworth Parish Council - 17th July 2013

This report is in response to the Atworth Parish Council request for the same, as received from the Parish Clerk on the 1st July 2013.

1. Village Gates and Road Markings

The installation of the village gates and of the improved road markings on the western A365 out of and into Atworth have no doubt improved the behaviour of drivers who take note of these features of the road.

However, ATAG have received many reports from the more careful and law-abiding drivers who pass through, and live in, the village, complaining of incidents of serious risk-taking in overtaking along this stretch of road. And regrettable though it may be, it is plain that the new road markings have not resolved the problems which they were intended to address. In fact one can watch that part of the road for only a short time before one of these examples dangerous of driving will be seen.

However well-intentioned, road hatching as an indicator to encourage driver safety, does not have the force of the law which applies to double-white lines (DWLs) - far more drivers will respect DWLs than the hatchings. Therefore ATAG will persist in its campaign for DWLs along that stretch. We know that this stretch, and the stretch by the two bends near the keeper's cottage, meet the DfT indicators for double-white lines, and that now, the highways department acknowledge this fact. ATAG reminds the council that in July 2012 it voted unanimously to support the provision of DWLs at these points.

2. Pavement Widths

ATAG has seen the comments raised by parents of children who walk along the A365 to and from school, pursuant to the review of the School Travel Plan. On the 19th June 2013, four members of ATAG's Organising Committee measured the pavement widths and found 7 points where the width was significantly less than one metre. It is very unpleasant and unsafe for mothers with young children walking to school. ATAG wishes the parish council to lend its support to correcting this deficiency.

3. Pedestrian Crossing

ATAG has read the report by Gary Ashton, in which the crossing is declared as "... *currently operating satisfactorily.*" ATAG utterly and absolutely rejects this conclusion and will campaign for proper pedestrian operated lighting to control the crossing. ATAG wishes the parish council to support this view.

4. The County Substantive Highway Scheme Budget

Following the county's traffic grant increase to £m4.3, it has boosted the Area Board's Substantive Highway Schemes Budget this year from £100,000 to £250,000. Bids are currently invited. ATAG wishes that the parish council should instruct its traffic issues representatives to pursue the following in the CATG on behalf of Atworth residents:

- widening of Atworth's pavements, whilst protecting resident's boundaries, at the points noted by ATAG ;
- provision of pedestrian controlled lights at the crossing;
- installation of double-white lines on the western approach of the A365, after the required study;
- provision of chicanes as traffic calming measures at the eastern and the western ends of the A365.

On Behalf of the ATAG Organising Committee, July 2013

*The Atworth Traffic Action Group is a community association formed by residents of Atworth.
Its aim is to protect Atworth from the effects of traffic through the village.*