



# Atworth Traffic Action Group (ATAG)

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## Notes of a discussion between three Atworth Residents on continuing traffic issues (Meeting reference 20200610)

A meeting of three interested residents was held at 16:30 on Wednesday 10th June 2020 in a residential garden, with the proper observation of social distancing obligations during the continuing CV-19 lockdown. The principal purposes of the meeting were to discuss the ever continuing effects of the mix, volume, and behaviour of traffic through the village.

### 1. Attendees

Sarah Horrell, Penny Telling (who prepared the notes) and Kenneth Spencer.

### 2. Introductory Discussion

It was agreed that the volume of traffic using the A365 through the village has increased significantly over the past several years. The recent Cleveland Bridge diversion in Bath has further increased HGV numbers and the situation has become intolerable. The increase in traffic and the disregarding of the 30mph limit by a very high proportion of all vehicle types has led to the point where the environmental impact is directly affecting the quality of life of those who live in Atworth. There are also serious concerns about the safety hazards associated with speeding vehicles so near the narrow pavements. This is particularly cogent now, given the likely long term need for social distancing, and the encouragement of cycling and walking as alternatives to motor vehicles.

It is several years since ATAG highlighted the issues with the authorities concerned and, although some improvements were made at that time, the situation has worsened to the point where more radical action is needed.

The attendees recognised that no significant progress could be made until the current lockdown restrictions are eased, enabling people to meet, exchange ideas, agree a strategy and communicate the message to residents.

### 3. Some Basic Principles

After some discussion, some basic principles were agreed:

A new and energetic campaign aimed at making some substantial improvements both in terms of environmental impact and safety should be launched.

A new Steering Group to revitalise ATAG will be set up, using the existing ATAG framework which conveniently already includes a website, an email address and Facebook page. Six or seven Atworth residents - including the three attendees of the current meeting - could manage the various aspects of the new campaign.

### 4. The Key Objective

It was agreed that previous attempts at enforcing the speed limit and increasing driver awareness have been largely unsuccessful and we feel this campaign should be focused on a single objective: to create physical barriers which would impede the straight run through the village, and thus reduce traffic speed – which would make the A365 a less attractive route for through traffic, particularly for heavy vehicles. We will therefore aim to persuade the authorities to install traffic calming measures in the form of chicanes at each end of the village. This is an ambitious objective and we will need to be persistent and very persuasive that Atworth is a truly worthy case for priority treatment.

### 5. Other Objectives

As well as the Key Objective, several other actions were discussed:

20mph: Consideration was given to seeking the creation of a 20mph speed limit through the village, which would be beneficial – however, this should not divert focus from the main objective.

Support: One absolute certainty is that the campaign will not succeed without a groundswell of continued support from residents. We should also recruit the support of local businesses, schools, and other organisations. We will contact and nurture the support of our local MP and our representative on the County Council. Parish Councils are less influential in these matters but, nevertheless, the active support of our Parish Council will be an important element in making our case.

### 6. Next Meeting

We will determine the date of the next meeting, which will almost certainly involve more people, as lockdown measures are eased.