**Temple Guiting Parish Council - possible measures to reduce speeding**

At our May meeting Councillors briefly discussed measures that might be taken to reduce speeding in the three 30mph areas in the Parish, including the possible purchase of a speed detection device, which Councillor Moor agreed to part fund. This paper has been written to help Councillors progress this matter further.

There are no implied recommendations though It is suggested that **it would be helpful if councillors considered the following questions:**

1. Where is speeding in 30 mph areas in the Parish a serious concern?

2. What immediate strategies might be employed to address the problem?

3. Is there a case for TGPC investing (with Cllr Moor's support) in a device?

4. If so, VAS or SID (see below)?

5. If so, where might posts be best installed (in collaboration with Gloucestershire Highways)?

6. Who will be responsible for rotating, the sign, charging the batteries and uploading data?

7. In order to underpin negotiations with Gloucestershire Highways, with whom speed reduction measures are implemented, should we consider borrowing or hiring a device to evaluate the operation and value of a device?

8. Are there any locations in the Parish which would benefit from the installation of 'gates'?

**Background**

Since the introduction of 30 mph speed limits in Ford, Kineton and Temple Guiting, there has been a reduction in the speed of most vehicles travelling through these parts of the Parish.

However, the local perception is that not all drivers adhere to the speed limit (particularly on the B4077 entering Ford from the Stow direction). These concerns have given rise to occasional and now rare Police speed checks and speed monitoring by the local Speedwatch group near The Plough (also in Temple Guiting, especially at the beginning and end of the school day, and in Kineton).

Routine police checks, the most obvious and possibly most effective means of speed reduction in that they may lead to prosecutions, are not feasible due to insufficiency of police manpower.

A simple local action would be to revitalize the local Speedwatch group, but this is dependent on the availability and commitment of volunteers. Persistent speeding recorded in Ford by Speedwatch could prompt police action and support proposals by TGPC to Gloucestershire Highways.

Two further measure have been mooted by Gloucestershire Highways and these gave rise to our brief discussion in May:

**the purchase and maintenance of speed detection device by the Parish Council** (with part funding by Cllr Nigel Moor)

and **the possible installation of white 'gates'** by Gloucestershire Highways to indicate to drivers that they are entering residential areas.

**Electronic speed detection**

There are several types of **electronic speed detection equipment:**

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- **VAS Warning Sign** (Vehicle Activated Sign) which flashes the speed limit "30mph" or another message such as "Bend ahead". This is activated by an approaching vehicle, not by it’s speed.

- **VAS** **SID** (Speed Indication Sign) which shows the driver of an approaching vehicle his/her speed, whether above or below the limit, and often includes a ‘smiley’/ ‘thank you’ or a ‘frown’/’slow down’ as appropriate. It collects the speeds and volume of vehicles passing the sign. In general prices are in the region of £2,000 - £3000 +VAT for both types of VAS. A small extra charge is made for installing brackets in more than one place and for multiple solar panels.

TGPC has also been offered a ‘Smiley SID’ sign on loan from Andoversford PC after the school holidays. There would be no charge for this.

- **ANPR camera** (Automated Number Plate Recognition)which records the number plate of an 'offending' vehicle as well as its speed. This information can be passed to the police, who may follow up with visits and/or letters to persistent offenders, but it cannot be used for a prosecution. Prices are around £6 – 8,000 for a static model which includes ANPR and SID. Some are much more expensive at £30,000+ (including trailer). However, there is a new device called ‘Autospeedwatch’ ANPR priced at £295 + VAT which just records speeds and numberplates, but does not have any signage or driver alerts.

Most parishioners will have encountered some of these signs, for example in Winchcombe, Toddington and Andoversford. It is generally recognised that these signs do have an impact on excessive speed for all but the most irresponsible drivers.

Most of these signs are mounted on fixed posts, several of which are erected by Highways at appropriate locations or existing posts can be used. They can be mains, battery or solar powered. It is up to the Parish Council to move the sign from post to post, charge the battery (2 supplied) if battery-powered nd manage the data, possibly through the Speedwatch Team.

When this matter was briefly discussed at our May meeting, Nigel Moor indicated that he would part fund the cost of a device, somewhere in the region of £2,500 + VAT.

There are several possible locations within the parish which may be acceptable to Highways. These include:

1. B4077 Ford before entrance to Plough rear car park (facing Stow)

2. B4077 Ford opposite phone box (option of facing both ways)

3. Temple Guiting on bend after the Templars (facing Fiddler's Green)

4. Temple Guiting between Colmans and the Village Hall (option of facing both ways)

5. Kineton between (opposite Jasons (option of facing both ways).

There may be other suitable locations, which must be agreed by Gloucestershire Highways.

Although the main focus of our discussion following our May meeting will be speed detection devices, we may also consider other traffic calming/speed reduction measures, although several e.g. red roundels at 30 mph signs and 'SLOW' warnings on the road surface already exist, Highways may be able to offer other solutions once they have more information about the problem.

**Village ‘gates’**

Parishioners will have encountered **White Gates** at many locations on the B4077 including Upper Swell, Stow and Dumbleton. It has been suggested that these gates, in conjunction with a 30 mph speed restriction sign give drivers an additional awareness and/or warning of entering a residential area with a lower speed restriction. Department of Transport research indicates that these are not effective in reducing speed and some ocuncilshave a policy of not installing gates duew to ilack of evidence to support their effectiveness. Their main value would appear to be in re-assuring residents that their village and its speed restriction are clearly defined.

It needs to be confirmed but it would appear that TGPC has to pay for the gates (£400 - £600, for a simple gate (depending on width and height). Around £1400 if a large sign with the village name on it is included. The price reflects the fact that each sign is bespoke, ) though Highways will erect the gates at what they deem to be appropriate locations. Some experts also recommend that residents include plantings as a further reminder that dreiers are entering a residential area. The maintenance of the locations and the structures would be the responsibility of the Parish Council. Possible locations for such gates include:

1. on the B4077 approaching Ford from Stow - either at the 30 mph signs or earlier before the bend (incorporating a 'Ford' sign)

2. on the B4077 approaching Ford from the west: either in conjunction with the 30 mph signs above Ford Pitch or possibly to the west of Three Gates crossroads (where there is an existing sign: *FORD please drive carefully through our village. 30mph limit ahead*)

3. in Kineton in conjunction with the 30 mph signs or incorporating the existing 'Kineton' sign approaching from Barton

4. approaching from the north, incorporating the 'Kineton' sign (approximately 100 metres before the 30mph sign)

5. in Temple Guiting: by the 30 mph sign on the road from Fiddler's Green

6. approaching from Kineton: incorporating the 'Temple Guiting' sign or 30 mph sign (but note school sign close by)

7. at Colmans - though placement here would be physically difficult by the 30mph signs, unless placed to the north of Hyde Cottage where there is a Temple Guiting village sign.

It goes without saying that any increase in signage is not universally welcome in the AONB and it is difficult to gauge the effectiveness of these measures. With support from Cllr Moor, TGPC should have sufficient funds (from reserves) to purchase a SID or VAS. There will be maintenance and insurance costs.

In any future negotiation with Gloucestershire Highways, there should also be a review of traffic calming at Three Gates and Trafalgar crossroads (two of the accident black spots in the Parish).MK August 2019