



Council Office Pearson Road Sonning RG4 6UL

2021 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HIGHWAYS REPORT

The speed and volume of traffic through Sonning continues to be a source of complaints from our residents. The Sonning Parish Council constantly monitors vehicles with the use of its Speed Indicating Devices (SIDs). One, the Smiley/Grumpy face machine, is permanently located in Pound Lane, close to Sonning Primary school. The aim is to encourage drivers to reduce their speed approaching the zebra crossing. The second, a mobile SID is moved to differing locations in the parish on a regular basis.

The reduced traffic volumes during the Coronavirus pandemic led to higher average speeds. Volumes are now back to about 85% of pre-pandemic levels and speeds are reducing once more. However, we have recorded one vehicle at 80mph in the 20mph zone recently.

Parking continues to be a real problem especially outside of the schools at arrival and departure time. The SPC liaises with both schools in Sonning to alleviate this as much as possible. We have objected to the proposed increase in pupil numbers at the Reading Blue Coat School. If granted, this would only exacerbate what is already a chaotic situation at these times.

HGV traffic still occasionally crosses Sonning bridge and we have had great support from West Berks Trading Standards to help combat this. Anyone with evidence of a HGV crossing the bridge should contact the SPC.

Members of the Sonning & Sonning Eye Society continue to work with the parish council to constantly lobby Wokingham BC to improve road safety in Sonning. The downloaded data from the SIDs is shared with the Traffic Management department at Wokingham BC to highlight where safety measures are required in the parish. However, it remains a very slow process. An extension of the 20mph zone in Pound Lane has been promised by WBC and hopefully this will be implemented in the not too distant future.