

Highway Improvement Request Form Blackland

1. Background

Residents in Sunny Terrace, Blackland are concerned about the speed of traffic passing their properties and the dangers that come from this. They have raised a Highways Improvement Form requesting that a 30mph speed limit is introduced in the area. The Highway Improvement Request Form (with personal information redacted) is included as Appendix A.

In November 2023 a traffic survey was conducted by Wiltshire Council at this location, at the request of Calne Without Parish Council. It determined that the average speed was 32 mph with the 85th percentile at 38.5 mph.

2. Discussion

Four parish councillors walked along the route from Blackland Crossroads to Stockley Lane in April to see if we could think of any improvement options to put to Wiltshire Council.

Based on the traffic analysis report, attached, and the observations on the ground the following recommendations are made:

1. It is highly unlikely that Wiltshire Council will approve a speed reduction to 30mph in this area. The rationale for thinking this is that whilst the dangers are clear, the route is quite typical for a rural lane in Wiltshire. Historically they have approved reductions in villages or larger clusters of houses. The road through Compton Bassett is a good recent example where the centre of the village is 30mph and Wiltshire Council approved a 40mph extension to the northern boundary of the village.
2. During the recent traffic survey the average speed of the traffic along your road (as measured at Sunny Terrace) was 32mph, with 85% of the traffic travelling less than 38.5 mph. As nearly all the traffic is travelling at less than 40 mph, with an average of 32 mph, a 30 or 40mph limit would probably have no effect. It could make matters worse as drivers may think that they can drive up to that limit when in places it would not be safe to do so.
3. An alternative approach would be to put up additional warning signs / road markings such as "slow" painted on the road Sunny Terrace, and horse warning signs near Blackland Farm.
4. The village indicator signs could be moved nearer to Sunny Terrace, from the Stockley direction, and be updated to say "BLACKLAND – please drive carefully" with an image of a tractor, horse and pedestrian on them. These could replace the existing village signs. See example to the right.
5. Improved signage may be better than a reduced speed limit as it would focus the attention of drivers at the most dangerous places.



3. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Council endorse the Highways Improvement Request Form and submit it to the Calne Area LHFIFG (Local Highways and Footpaths Improvement Group) with the suggestions above recommended for consideration.

Cllr Doug Price
Highways, Transport & Road Safety Working Group

Highways Improvement Request Form

Contact Details

Name:	redacted	Date:	20/03/2023
Address:	redacted		
Telephone No:	redacted		
Email Address:	redacted		

Issue Details

Location of Issue:	Blackland (Blackland Crossroads to Stockley Lane)		
Community Area:	Calne		
Parish or Town Council:	Middle Ward		
Nature of Issue: Dangerous speeding traffic			
<p>This stretch of country lane, barely wide enough for two cars, has a default speed limit of 60 mph. It is common for vehicles, including delivery trucks and lorries, to pass through at over 50 mph, at any time of day and particularly at rush hour when the road serves as a "rat run" to/from Stockley and Heddington. There is no separate pedestrian pavement, and this raises specific health and safety issues, as the road is also used by residents, walkers, runners, cyclists, horse riders, and occupants of the nearby caravan park out for a stroll. School buses also collect or deposit students along this road. There have been near misses, and at least one recorded injury accident (in 2006). Since the development of nearby Marden Farm for housing, the volume of traffic has increased significantly.</p>			
How long has it been an issue?	since at least 2010		
What would you like done to resolve this issue? Effective traffic-calming measures			
<p>Current "Blackland please drive carefully" signage (installed 2007?) has had little obvious effect on traffic speed, and white "gates" would probably be no more effective. A far more persuasive measure would be speed-limit signs at both ends of this stretch. (Other options include road narrowing, chicanes, or speed bumps.) Residents failed (in 2011?) to persuade Calne town council to establish a 30 mph speed limit, apparently because of low housing density here, and yet this is a neighbourhood in the traditional sense, and not just a thoroughfare with houses on it. The volume and speed of traffic here are now surely far more relevant considerations than the number of houses.</p>			
Have you been in touch with your local Wiltshire Councillor? (Yes/No)			Yes

This form needs to be completed and e-mailed or sent to your local Town or Parish Council.

Town and Parish contact details are available via the link below:

<https://cms.wiltshire.gov.uk/mgParishCouncilDetails.aspx>

Town or Parish Council Comments: (To be completed by Town or Parish Council only)

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