

## **Meeting to discuss traffic issues on Skipton Road, Barnoldswick near junction of Coates Lane, held on Teams 7<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

Present: Barnoldswick Town Cllr Mike Whittingham, Pendle Cllrs R Carroll, J Purcell, D Whipp and T Whipp and Matt Hargreaves LCC traffic.

DW presented pictures of Skipton Road and the junction of Coates Lane, reported on road safety incidents and highlighted concerns and outlined some suggested options to improve the situation. These included:

- Speeding traffic along Skipton Road, both in and out of Barnoldswick;
- Danger to pedestrians along the length of Skipton Road, including on the zebra crossing;
- Overtaking in the vicinity of the crossing;
- Risks to people emerging from Coates Lane onto Skipton Road due to inadequate sight lines;
- Conifers partly obstructing view from junction to right;
- Interactive signs not working on both approaches to zebra.

DW & TW outlined some suggested options to improve the situation:

- Installing fixed speed cameras;
- Installing average speed cameras along the route;
- Converting zebra to toucan (signal controlled) crossing;
- Installing a raised platform for the zebra crossing;
- Installing new pedestrian crossing between Coates Lane and Coates Avenue;
- Re-lining Skipton Road carriageway to move traffic leaving Barnoldswick towards the crown of the road on the bad bend;
- Moving the centre-line on Coates Lane at the junction to move emerging vehicles further away from the blind bend;
- Erecting a mirror opposite the Coates Lane junction;
- Providing central refuges to aid pedestrians and narrow carriageways.
- Providing a cycleway along the route.

MW referred to the pedestrian fatality at the location, when he had rendered first-aid to the casualty. He called for the interactive signs to be replaced with fixed speed cameras and for road humps on Skipton Road to slow traffic. JP agreed with the suggestions being made and called for LCC to sort this out, together with renewing white lining.

Matt Hargreaves responded to suggestions.

- LCC works with Road Safety Partnership on safety cameras. Policy not to install fixed cameras, but deploy mobile units. No funding available for cameras and LCC won't install them.
- Responding to DW on average speed cameras, MH said there was a phased approach to installing this technology. Quite a few had been installed in the west of the county, in Fylde and Wyre as well as A682 Gisburn Road. Awaiting analysis of data to gauge success. Funding prioritised according to casualty data.
- Skipton Road had been assessed in 2019 and more recently in June 2021, with a comment of "more information required". MH to clarify
- The police's road policing unit had been decimated due to cuts and there were fewer officers on patrol to carry out enforcement.
- He'd look into having hatched markings at the centre line of Coates Lane, but didn't support moving the centre line over, as this could encourage vehicles coming off the main road to do so faster.

- The broken 'wig wag' warning signs were due to funding. Due to age, probably require replacing at a cost of £3k to £4k each.
- Collision history on that stretch of road is not bad enough for it to be included as part of the county's road safety scheme programme, so any funding would need to be sourced elsewhere. (JP said she would ask for funding next Thursday, LCC group meeting?)
- MH would raise request for Toucan with road safety team. He pointed out that current costs for such a project were c£70k.
- He wasn't sure about segregated cycle lane. LCC didn't install short stretches, but could be considered as part of a longer route. TW said he would welcome such a wider scheme.
- MH would see if a project could be included in Lancs 'LCWIPS' (Lancashire Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan).
- Would look at refuges to deter overtaking.
- Hump at zebra not allowed by regs. When asked how Gargrave Road at Skipton had one, MH commented that there was one on Revidge Road, Blackburn and he'd been told that that one was a 'trial'.
- Agreed that hatchings around the bend could possibly be amended to be on the kerbside, rather than middle of road, but vehicles may over run when vehicles turn into Ben Lane.
- LCC don't support mirrors in 30mph zones. (Problems with fogging, algae and visibility of cyclists, motorcycles.)
- He would get quotes for repair/replacement of interactive signs.

TW asked if planting trees by the roadside would help lower vehicle speeds due to driver's being more aware of how fast they were going (a technique used in Holland). MH responded that the highway authority were reluctant to have highway trees. He also queried if they would achieve the desired effect, as a straight line of trees could contribute to an increase in vehicle speeds. JP reiterated that she would raise the question of getting funding for work at LCC. DW pointed out that if any relining work was to be carried out, there first needed to be proper planing out and resurfacing, or lining would just be put down on rotten bitmac on Coates Lane. He thanked MH for taking the time to discuss the problems with councillors and hoped that action could be taken to address the concerns.