



Mr. I. Cumberworth
Parish Clerk
Parish Centre,
Hassocks
BN6 8QH

05/06/23

Dear Ian

Request for Speed Limit Reduction in Hassocks

We are writing to you to request and propose a reduction in the speed limit to 20 mph in Hassocks and Keymer.

Many residents are concerned about the increasing pace and volume of traffic within the village. There is also concern that as new developments around the village become occupied, the traffic situation is likely to deteriorate.

The Parish Council recognised the need for traffic calming in their 2018-2023 Parish Business Plan. We noted that the Council's '*Traffic Calming Project*' included a reduction to 20mph. We do not know what progress has been made with this project to date and would be grateful to receive an update in this regard.

Safety

Our view is that it is highly desirable to slow traffic on the B2116 from the approach to the mini roundabout at Woodland Road and Keymer Road junction through to the county boundary in Keymer, where vehicles tend to accelerate as they leave the Keymer bend by Silverdale and speed onwards to Ditchling.

We would also support the inclusion of the main shopping area within the centre of Hassocks and feeder roads, such as Grand Avenue, Dale Avenue, Ockley Lane and Lodge Lane. This would make it far safer for pedestrians, and especially school children walking and cycling to/from the village centre.

The area of road between Keymer and Ditchling, which is currently a 60mph area (known locally as 'the Keymer Strait') would, we believe, need to have a reduced speed limit of 40mph if the main thoroughfares in Hassocks were to be reduced to 20mph zones, to enable a safe transition.

Flooding

Thinking about flooding in the village, which occurs quite frequently, and the challenges it poses to pedestrians, adjacent shops and houses, we believe this lower limit would also help to reduce those impacts. Inconsiderate drivers are regularly seen to *accelerate* when they approach flooded sections of road, presumably on the assumption that it will avoid them becoming 'marooned' should the water be deeper than they expect. This causes bow waves that displace the water across the adjacent pavements and verges, soaking pedestrians, and on into the shops or private properties. Reducing the approach speed may not stop this practice entirely, but it will reduce the damage caused.

Pollution

Traffic at peak times, including the school drop off and pick up times, not only clogs the B2116 but raises the level of airborne pollution. A reduction in speed limit would reduce the level of pollution and make it far safer for those travelling through or living in the local area from a health perspective as well as having obvious advantages for local wildlife, flora and fauna.

We feel that the introduction of a village wide 20mph limit would be both widely supported, affordable and in-line with many busy towns and villages in both East and West Sussex. We would propose the reduction be supported by vehicle activated speed signs (VAS) such as smiley activated message signs (SAM), and Speed Indicator Device signs (SID) or Speed Limit Reminder signs (SLR). The council may also wish to consider 'Welcome to Hassocks & Keymer - please drive carefully' boundary signs.

In summary, HCO is asking the council to consider the introduction of a village-wide 20mph scheme that meets the points above. HCO would be happy to participate in, as well as to encourage, any consultations, and to facilitate any communications required.

Further evidence can be provided if required.

Sincerely,



Erika Woodhurst-Trueman on behalf of the HCO Board of Trustees:

Jeremy Wakeham, Erika Woodhurst-Trueman, Robert Kenhard, Frederick Maillardet, Catherine Cassidy, Colin Wilsdon, Jonathan Soper, Shaun Lee, Alison Cumberland.

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