

Have your say on speeding along the A358 at Henlade

In the twelve months to April 2012 over 5,336 drivers have been caught speeding on the dual carriageway outside the new Park and Ride. To date 2,542 have been successfully prosecuted raising over £152,250 for the treasury.

Speeding can never be acceptable but for those of us who drive this route regularly it is clear that since the Park and Ride was built something is very seriously wrong!

The problem is clearly not a lack of enforcement but apparent low awareness of the speed limit by drivers. The only 30 mph signs are on the motorway slip road and the start of the speed limit zone.

As a result drivers are not only speeding on this stretch of road but regularly racing the lights at the Ruishton Lane junction.

Rather bizarrely current legislation does not allow any more signage or road markings to be installed in a 30 mph zone. Thus if a driver misses these 30 signs they remain totally unaware of the speed limit.

One possible solution involves changing the speed limit for the dual carriageway from the motorway to the Henlade built up area to 40 mph; although this at first seems completely contrary it would then allow for the installation of considerably more signage and warning roundels on the road surface. At the same time it would be absolutely vital to ensure that the phasing of the lights provides safe crossing for pedestrians and vehicles at Ruishton Lane.

In two weeks time I will be attending an on-site meeting with the Police and Highways to discuss possible solutions....**so now is your opportunity to let me know what you think.**

Email me on DJAFothergill@somerset.gov.uk , text or call on 07765 256 256 or write to me at Lantern House, Stoke St Mary, Taunton TA3 5BX.

David Fothergill, County Councillor for Ruishton, Henlade & Thornfalton

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