

## Traffic Calming Measures

1. Over the past year, the Parish Council has considered a number of measures to address traffic calming needs within the village.
2. The Council considered means of reducing the speed of vehicles entering the village on the four approach roads. Costings were secured in summer 2014 for installation of road markings (including 30mph roundels) and of village “entry gates” (similar to those at Aynho). The Council submitted a request, in September 2014, for these measures to be undertaken at, or near to, the transition to 30mph limit on Banbury Lane, Mill Lane, and Upper Astrop Road. We have recently requested clarification of the intended date for this work to be carried out.
3. The Council was advised that the proposed traffic calming measures for the village entry roads were unsuitable for the Astrop Road approach, due to constraints of space. Alternative means of addressing the problem of speeding vehicles on Astrop Road are currently under consideration.
4. In June 2014, the Council submitted to NCC a request for a reduction of the speed limit, from 60mph to 40mph, on Mill Lane between the exit from the 30mph zone and the corner at the junction with the track to Walton Grounds. The case was considered, and rejected, by a panel chaired by the NCC Road Safety Manager in August 2014. The Parish Council submitted an appeal against the decision in October 2014. The appeal was considered and disallowed by a panel convened by NCC. The Parish Council has recently submitted a challenge to the appeal process on the grounds that the appeal panel was insufficiently independent of the panel which considered the original application. We await the outcome of that challenge.
5. The Council has submitted a bid to NCC, in a competitive process, for funding to support the costs of installing a footpath to serve the properties on the stretch of Upper Astrop Road which runs eastwards towards the village boundary. If successful, the secured funding would be supplemented by grants from the Councillors' Empowerment Fund allowance of Councillor Ron Sawbridge (NCC Councillor, Middleton Cheney ward), and from the Parish Council. We are grateful to Councillor Sawbridge for his support for this initiative.
6. In December 2014, the Parish Council submitted a request to the Safer Roads team of Northants Police for speed-checks to be carried out on Astrop Road. The request was declined. The Parish Council was provided by Northants Police with data gathered on speeds recorded during the week 31 July to 7 August 2014 by means of a temporary Vehicle Activated Sign device which was installed by Northants Police, without the Parish Council's knowledge, on the lamppost near to the junction of Astrop Road and Glebe Rise. The data recorded vehicle speeds which, we were advised, were consistent with speeds on comparable roads elsewhere in the County. As such there was judged not to be a case for carrying out speed-checks.
7. In December 2014, the Council submitted a request to Northants Police for parking enforcement action in the village, and particularly on Richmond Street and The Knob during the morning and afternoon “school run” periods. To date, we have not received a response to this request and, to the best of our knowledge, no such enforcement action has yet been carried out.
8. Grass verges at a number of places around the village continue to be damaged by vehicles parked on, or driven over, them. Occasional remedial work – clearing, adding top-soil, re-seeding – is all too quickly undone by such behaviour. The Parish Council can do very little to address this problem, except by continuing to appeal to village residents to act in ways which take due care of the appearance of our village.