

S11 Roads

Overview

This summary covers the key elements in the feedback namely, **Speeding, Heavy Goods Vehicles, Parking, Road Conditions, Noise and Pollution.**

Strong concerns regarding roads were raised in other sections such as Public Services, Walking/Cycling and Sense of Community.



Background

Since the original survey in 2008, there is a general consensus from the feedback that the volume and types of vehicle traffic in the parish has significantly increased. This is also supported by traffic data reports collected over the last 10 years. Landford Parish is the primary north eastern route into the New Forest from the A36 trunk road (Pound Hill, Glebe Lane, New Road).

Although many vehicles now use the M27, M3, A34 and M4 to Bristol and Wales, the A36 is still the main arterial route between Southampton, Salisbury, Bath and Bristol.

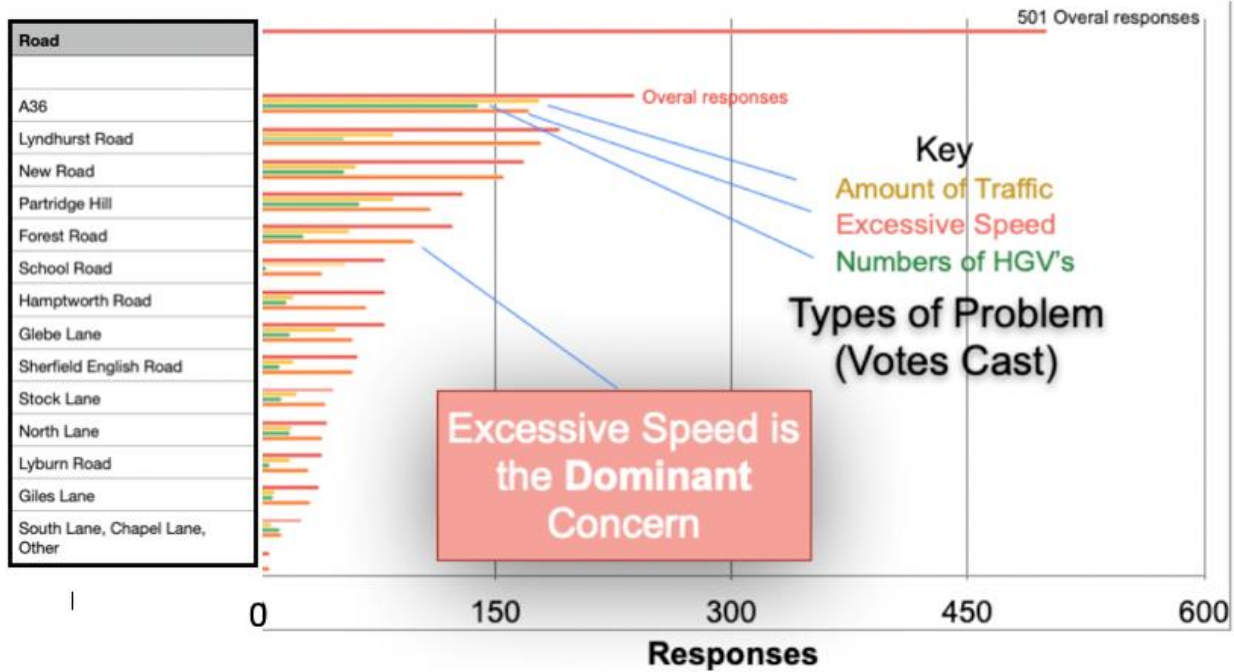
Our parish is primarily a farming community, so what may have changed? In 2008 satellite navigation systems were being used by road users not familiar with our parish including HGV drivers. Today that has changed significantly, with many motorists and commercial drivers using residential roads as a shortcut, often called rat-running, making journeys through the area and not visiting local addresses at all. Part of this has been caused by the popularity of GPS navigation apps that use real-time routing to avoid traffic bottlenecks. This is of particular significance with the increase in number of home deliveries within the parish and to surrounding villages where drivers are under timed delivery pressures.

Farm vehicles are now bigger and can carry larger trailers. (Tractors with ABS are now permitted to a maximum speed of 25mph). Also, traffic to and from local businesses has either grown or changed to a different usage profile. More recently, a haulage company has moved into Landford Wood and they are using pantechnicons.

The primary schools split means additional journeys for families with children in both schools. Particular roads-related concerns have been raised on North Lane and School Road and the Lyndhurst Road/Hampton Road junctions.

With the New Forest National Park a designated tourist area, visitor numbers are increasing. How long this will continue is unknown. However, short term initiatives will need to be considered. This potential surge in traffic will impact the busiest roads in the parish substantially. Under our "Aims and Actions" the subject of Traffic will need to be addressed from a wider context, including by Wiltshire Highways, Highways England, Hampshire Council and Landford Parish Council.

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Because of the anonymity of the questionnaire, it is not possible to distinguish between issues relating to a road where a respondent lives versus the roads they use regularly. However, the valuable feedback covers issues on all but a limited few roads in the Parish.

Speeding

Notwithstanding increased traffic flow, many respondents raised concerns pertaining to excessive speeding. This was by far the most tabled issue under the Roads Section. From local records reported to Wiltshire Police since 2011, more than 20% of motorists/commercial drivers have been reported as driving in excess of the posted limits. Whilst many respondents cited the benefits of using Speed Indicator Devices (SID), there are still major problems. Many people want the speed limits on key roads to be reviewed and to be more appropriate for local conditions.

Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs)

The volume of HGVs on local roads throughout each day was raised a number of times with specific references to unsuitability, road condition, overtaking (A36) or poor access (Glebe Lane). Based on this feedback, in the summer of 2021, the **Lorry Watch Scheme** has been formally reinstated. It is now possible to report HGV drivers entering into the weight restricted New Forest area. Drivers going through without loading/unloading is the major cause for concern. The M27/A31, A36, A338 forms a triangle and HGV drivers have been reported using our parish as an illegal detour.

Note: reports go to the Wiltshire Police and if seen to be non-conforming, reports are directed to Trading Standards. Trading Standards have access to a country wide database, which allows them to contact haulage/logistics companies directly. If action is not taken by these companies, they can issue significant penalty notices.

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Parking

Parking is of major concern throughout the parish, with specific references to North Lane, School Road, Forest Road and Lyndhurst Road. Parking on pavements was cited numerous times, a point that was also raised in the walking/cycling and emergency services section. Although some measures have been taken, there remains an impact to pedestrians especially wheelchair users, parents with pushchairs and visually impaired residents.



Road condition

Pot holes were highlighted numerous times on many of our roads and lanes. The resultant dangers were highlighted. These locations included New Road, Sherfield English Road, Beech Grange, Glebe Lane, Stock Lane and Forest Road. Residents expressed clear concerns regarding the dangers relating to road users, pedestrians and animals.

As identified earlier, verge and hedge management is a concern. The use of *dragon's teeth* was highlighted, however, there was a mixed view on the benefits versus disadvantages.

Speed limit
changed from
**50mph to
40mph on
Partridge Hill**



Noise/pollution

The A36 was referenced as being particularly problematic with respect to air pollution and noise, especially Partridge Hill, Pound Hill and the Forest Road cattle grid areas. Throughout the parish, the increase of through traffic has clearly impacted concerns in this respect.

Summary

Resulting from the issues raised in the questionnaire, it is important that we communicate the key concerns and direct corrective actions to the appropriate bodies as quickly as possible. This could be our Parish Council, Wiltshire Council, The New Forest National Park Authority or Highways England. The "voice of our community" is a key aspect to getting things addressed in a timely and satisfactory manner. The aim is to take immediate action by forming a **Parish Roads Focus Group**.

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Our Aims

Review the priorities with respect to Roads in the Parish with a clear and concise plan to address the appropriate actions.

These priorities to include:

- 1. A structured Parish Community Roads Focus Group**
- 2. Speed awareness initiatives**
- 3. Parking issues**
- 4. Road condition including verges, hedges and sight lines**

AIM	ACTION	BY WHOM?	TARGET TIMESCALE
What we can do as individuals			
2	Be aware of how we drive in the Parish. Report driving offences	Individuals	Ongoing
3	Park vehicles with due consideration	Individuals	Ongoing
2	Help our Community Speed Watch Team. Assist in the Speed Indicator Device (SID) program/ Lorry Watch program, Speed Awareness Programs	Individuals/ Landford Community Speed Watch Team	Ongoing
4	Report road condition problems formally www.wiltshire.gov.uk › mywilts-online-reporting	Individuals	Ongoing
What we plan to do as a parish			
1	Based on the issues raised in the survey prioritise the key actions and direct corrective action to the appropriate bodies	Community Roads Focus Group	Next 6 months
What we are asking others to do			
4	Maintain road condition and speed roundels to the highest level. Ensure verges, hedges, signage, sight-lines and are maintained at the recommended time of year	Parish and Wiltshire Councils	Ongoing

We would welcome anyone that has an interest or ideas to join the Parish Community Roads Focus Group

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