

**CORRESPONDENCE WITH SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL RELATING TO TRAFFIC MATTERS
IN LAMYATT**

(Oct 2018-Jan 2019)

8th Jan 2019

Sent to the County Councillor & Highways Traffic Engineer

Dear Nigel & Rebecca,

I'm very disappointed in the delay in receiving this information since the original request back in October.

It appears that the amounts now being quoted are much higher than was stated then, £3 to £5k, and there is no reason given for the increase to £7.5k.

We are a small Parish with significant traffic issues and our ability to resolve issues without financial assistance is severely limited.

Is there any scope for financial assistance through the County Councillors Small Highway improvement Scheme funding?

We will discuss priorities with villagers at our annual precept meeting this evening.

Many thanks,

Paul Chadwick
Lamyat Parish Chairman
07761 967075

8th Jan 2019 from Somerset County Council
Dear Mr Chadwick,

Thank you for your email. Please see the attached email (below) which is a response sent to Councillor Nigel Hewitt-Cooper on 18th December 2018 regarding this matter. Unfortunately it is apparent that you have not received this information and it might have been beneficial to have copied you in on the email.

I trust this information is of assistance and I apologise for any inconvenience.

Kind regards,
Rebecca

Rebecca Davis
Traffic Engineer (Mendip)

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Dear Nigel,

Thank you for your email, and I am sorry that I have not had the opportunity to respond to Paul's emails sooner. With regard to the change in speed limit, whilst

Somerset County Council (SCC) have no objection in principal, we still would need to have support from the Police before we could agree to this being implemented as they would be responsible for its enforcement.

With regard to the queries raised by Lamyatt PC, I have added my comments next to the points below:-

- A. **More precise cost for the 30mph speed limit to be implemented.** A change in speed limit would need a traffic regulation order. Lamyatt is not street lit therefore the introduction of a new speed limit would require signage on all approaches to the limit and also there would be the need for repeater signage and/or road roundels. The cost would be dependent on where the parish would like for the speed limit to start and how many signs and repeaters would be required however this is likely to be in the region of £200 per sign and £80 per roundel. Therefore we would anticipate that costs would be in the region of £7500 however I am unfortunately unable to be more precise on this figure.
- B. **More precise cost for the discretionary No HGV signage.** The cost per sign and post would be in the region of £200 per sign (and post) however I am unfortunately unable to be more precise on this figure.
- C. **Any cost savings if both are implemented at the same time (in terms of labour there might be savings?)** We would always look to install schemes in the same geographical area on the same works order therefore there would be no additional saving.
- D. **& any costs/charges (if any) that the County will defray as part of their role in the process.** As you are aware, we are having to change the way we work due to the current financial climate. In line with the Council's Financial Imperative work the Traffic Management team is refocussing resources to evidence based safety and congestion issues. By doing so we will be able to carry on delivering our statutory duties and core responsibilities and continue to effectively manage our network in these challenging times. This means that unfortunately SCC are unable to justify any funding for these works in Lamyatt.

With regard to timescale I am unable to be any more specific other than it would be likely to be during the next financial year. Any requests for works which are not safety or congestion driven will be added to an ongoing programme of works for the Mendip area and prioritised accordingly.

I trust I have explained matters from a highways perspective and that this information is of assistance.

Kind regards,
Rebecca Davis
Traffic Engineer (Mendip)
Traffic Management and Road Safety

7th Jan 2019 sent to Nigel Hewett Cooper (County Councillor)

Hello Nigel,
Were you able to get any response on this issue from 13th December which you have also raised?

I sent the email below last week – still no response and I've just rung them up and had to go through that whole rigmarole of saying what it's all about etc etc before a message gets passed to the officer. I'm then advised that they will get back to me in 10 working days.....Surely this isn't correct procedure to keep us in the dark for well over 2 months?

Paul

From: Helen & Paul [<mailto:helenpaulsols@btinternet.com>]

Sent: 02 January 2019 16:09

To: 'Traffic Management'

Subject: RE: Reply 856235 RE: 8344463 & 836293; 850035, 850036 8344463 & 836293 reply: Speed & Weight restrictions through Lamyatt RE: 8344463 & 836293 reply: Speed & Weight restrictions through Lamyatt

Hello,

I've not heard back from you following either the 30th Oct or 23rd November e-mails (below) and I also understand our County Councillor has also been chasing this up for us with you in mid-December?

We have our Parish Meeting next Tuesday (8th) which is realistically the last opportunity for the Meeting to determine the level of precept for 2019/20.

You are more than welcome to attend and brief the parish residents on the issues which have been raised so that we can be better informed on the level of precept we need to set. The lack of further information to date from you means that it has been impossible to circulate residents with anything more detailed than what was stated back in October...

An acknowledgement, at least, of this e-mail would be useful.

Many thanks,

Paul Chadwick
Lamyat Parish Chairman
01749 812420
07761 967075

From: Helen & Paul [<mailto:helenpaulsols@btinternet.com>]

Sent: 23 November 2018 13:45

To: 'Traffic Management'

Hello Rebecca,

Have you now had chance to clarify the costings since my last e-mail of 29th October?

At the Parish meeting of 31st we had to defer setting the precept until we had the detail from you, so when I have it I will convene another Parish Meeting for decision on the precept. We don't normally set a precept so we don't have funds just sloshing around waiting for a suitable project and will set the precept based on what we actually need.

If you can set out:

- A. More precise cost for the 30mph speed limit to be implemented

- B. More precise cost for the discretionary No HGV signage
- C. Any cost savings if both are implemented at the same time (in terms of labour there might be savings?)
- D. & any costs/charges (if any) that the County will defray as part of their role in the process

Any likely timetable would also help us but perhaps you can just confirm that such works can take place in the 2019/20 financial year?

The earlier you can do this the better for us please.

Many thanks,

Paul Chadwick
Lamyat Parish Chairman
01749 812420
07761 967075

From: Helen & Paul [<mailto:helenpaulsols@btinternet.com>]

Sent: 29 October 2018 11:47

To: 'Traffic Management'

Subject: RE: Reply 856235 RE: 8344463 & 836293; 850035, 850036 8344463 & 836293 reply: Speed & Weight restrictions through Lamyatt RE: 8344463 & 836293 reply: Speed & Weight restrictions through Lamyatt

Dear Rebecca,

Many thanks for your response to the Parish's request for these two Highway improvements to be implemented.

As you will know from previous correspondence to Highways, the speed issue has come up over a long period of time – over 25 years from my own memory (!) so it will be good to get this resolved.

We have a Parish meeting on Wednesday evening to discuss this, but it would help if we could have a little more detail on costings if at all possible. Given that we think the village road is clearly covered under Section 73 para 131 Department for Transport (DfT) guidance on the Setting of Local Speed Limits (Circular Roads 01/2006 updated 2013) "It is therefore government policy that a 30 mph speed limit should be the norm through villages" we think there is still a requirement for the speed issue to be dealt with. I'm also conscious that the County Council is facing severe budget cuts and cannot do everything but it seems that to leave the Parish to fund 100% of the costs is somewhat at odds with Govt policy. Perhaps the County Council would like to reconsider taking action on the basis of a 50% contribution from the Parish, to help demonstrate a partnership approach?

Anyway, if you can provide me with a slightly more detailed costing of the speed limit implementation then the meeting can be better informed. Likewise the costing of the Blue HGV signage so that we can set our precept accordingly. We will of course help advise on the positioning of the signs as required. I assume that either, or both, sets of works couldn't proceed until the 2019/20 budget year.

Many thanks for helping take this matter forward,

Paul Chadwick
Lamyat Parish Chairman
01749 812420

07761 967075

From: Traffic Management [<mailto:TrafficManagement@somerset.gov.uk>]

Sent: 24 October 2018 13:08

To: Helen & Paul

Subject: RE: Reply 856235 RE: 8344463 & 836293; 850035, 850036 8344463 & 836293 reply: Speed & Weight restrictions through Lamyatt RE: 8344463 & 836293 reply: Speed & Weight restrictions through Lamyatt

Dear Paul,

Thank you for your email which has been passed to me as Mendip area Traffic Engineer to respond. Having looked through the file I see that speed reading data was collected back in March (as per the attached email) which indicated that there does not appear to be a speed or vehicle volume issue in Lamyatt, therefore Somerset County Council (SCC) would not be in a position to pay for a reduction in the speed limit and would look to the Parish to fund it on a rechargeable basis, and implementation costs would be in the region of £3k-5k.

With regard to the discretionary blue 'No HGV' signs, we have no objection in principal to these signs however they would not apply to local farms or businesses. It should also be noted that SCC would not be a position to fund them and would look to order the signage on a rechargeable basis back to the Parish. Please could you advise where you consider these would be required and we can look to agree the positions? I would like to advise however that although the Parish will need to fund the signage, it not likely to be ordered until next year due to resourcing.

As you will be aware, councils have had their budgets significantly reduced and this trend is set to continue. Somerset Highways looks after some 6,600 km of roads in the County and therefore has to very carefully prioritise works in line with the available budgets. This involves making some very difficult decisions to ensure that our resources are directed where there is clear evidence of significant problems or incidents.

I trust that this is of assistance, and will wait to hear back from you with regard the positioning of the HGV signage, and whether you would still like to consider progressing a reduction in the speed limit.

Regards,

Rebecca Davis