

CHIDEOCK PARISH COUNCIL

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Chair: Cllr Vanessa Glenn, 6 Winniford Close, Chideock, DT6 6SA 01 297 480810

Clerk: Miss Sal Robinson, 60 North Allington, Bridport, DT6 5DY 01 308 426327

30 June 2020

Re: General dissatisfaction with HE's performance on the A35 through Chideock

Dear Sir / Madam

Chideock Parish Council does not for one moment believe that operating the Strategic Road Network in England is an easy task and believes that, overall, Highways England (HE) does a good job in difficult circumstances. However, the Parish Council has had frequent cause to raise complaints to HE about the operating of the A35 through the village of Chideock and, frankly, has often been less than satisfied with the responses to some of these complaints.

On this basis, and in an attempt to give you some constructive feedback, the Parish Council wishes to make a formal complaint regarding the following issues hoping that this may be seen as a means of helping you to attain a better level of service.

Village Flooding - The village Flood Warden has been attempting to get HE to clean out specific drain gullies which are known to be blocked with silt and which have a significant impact on relieving flooding to some properties in the village. The Warden has been told that "**once or twice a year is the norm**" for drain clearing - This is simply NOT good enough when this village has drain gullies that are completely blocked and incapable of normal operation.

Utility Covers - Frequent need to replace these covers located within the A35 which, when damaged, cause excessive noise and vibration to adjoining property. It is understood that utility providers may be using an inadequate standard of cover which deteriorates more quickly than otherwise would be the case. The Parish Council understands that the responsibility for the covers lies with the utility companies rather than with HE - BUT since the overall responsibility for the road lies with HE surely they should insist that (although more expensive) "heavy duty" covers should be installed ("**buy cheap; buy twice**" comes to mind). The Parish Council feels that HE should be more pro-active in this issue.

Current 30 mph Speed Trial - the Parish Council has long argued with HE that this speed trial is of little value without speed enforcement, exacerbated by the fact that the Vehicle Activated Warning Sign (VAS) installed has not been working for months. The Police will not become involved stating that:

"the change in the speed limit is not for a road safety issue, and HE do NOT want Dorset Police to enforce with speeding tickets during the trial"

Therefore, once again HE refuses to consider the Parish Council's concerns without any explanation of how this speed trial can provide meaningful results without speed enforcement.

Outcomes of WSP Safety and Severance Report - HE commissioned this study and the report was published in January 2019. It identified a total of 16 items with potential safety concerns and yet the report only recommended further action on 4 of these. The Parish Council has continually asked HE to review the discounted recommendations (which included one to remove adverse pavement cambers which the Parish Council believes to contravene the Equalities Acts for wheelchair users) and to urgently implement the remaining 4 recommendations. These attempts have met with little response from you.

Average Speed Cameras (ASCs) - Also identified within the WSP report. The Parish Council has been attempting to get ASCs installed as a means of reducing some of the problems associated with the Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) flow of 20,000+ vehicles through this small village. Despite ASCs being identified in the WSP report as a "Potential Option for Remedial Measures", HE continues to show little interest in pursuing this valuable option.

Illegal levels of pollution - Chideock has the highest level of traffic related Nitrogen Dioxide pollution in the country and yet NO ONE will do anything about solving this illegal situation.

Withdrawal from quarterly Chideock liaison meetings - HE has withdrawn from the established quarterly meetings which have been held between HE and Chideock Parish Council since 2016. These meetings provided a valuable opportunity for the Parish Council to meet with HE representatives and discuss matters of village concern and yet HE has now unilaterally withdrawn from this meeting, saying that HE personnel do not have enough time to deal with our concerns as Chideock is not the only village on this route.

The Parish Council considers that the reason Chideock has so many problems is that the village has a very specific topography and a lot of houses fronting the A35 (some with no pavement and therefore residents have to exit from their front doors directly onto the A35 carriageway). Remember that the A35 originates from a time when there were far less vehicles on the road. Since the A35 became part of England's "Strategic Road Network" the AADT has nearly doubled from 11,000 to 20,000+ vehicles and yet nothing has been done to improve this section of the road.

In conclusion, Chideock Parish Council would remind you that Chideock Village is a Stakeholder on this section of the A35 Strategic Road Network and considers that HE is failing to deliver for our Community. Will you, therefore, please seriously address the issues we have highlighted above?

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sal Robinson', written over a horizontal line.

Sal Robinson (Miss), Chideock Parish Clerk