



January 2018

## Traffic Management - Part One

Since its creation in September, the traffic management working party has been busy looking at ways to better manage the impact that traffic has on our community. We have developed a plan to cover all aspects of traffic management and ways to build a compelling case for highway improvements that will make Otford a more enjoyable place to be as well as safer, cleaner and greener.

**What we have done so far.....** Our first task has been to identify the areas of most concern and put together a set of proposals that meet our objectives. Measures to ease congestion, control speed of traffic and improve pedestrian safety have been drawn up to cover all the main access roads and Pilgrims Way East. Speed and safety plans include a 20mph speed limit on all access roads from the Gateways, and possibly, Pilgrims Way East. In order to have a 20mph speed limit we may be required to introduce some traffic calming measures. We have looked at all the options and believe that speed tables would be the most suitable measure. Speed tables are large kerb to kerb, flat-topped versions of a speed hump which can be used as a pedestrian crossing. Speed tables would not only serve to slow traffic down, but provide a safe pedestrian crossing point. We would keep these to a minimum with potentially one or two in the main roads at the centre of the 20mph zone and possibly upgrade the existing crossing in the High Street with a speed table. Other ideas being considered are a refuge island with pedestrian crossing at the Telston Lane/Pilgrims Way West junction, widening the pavement in the High Street to incorporate the Pickmoss Step and road narrowing techniques. Traffic calming measures and street signage will be kept to a minimum and methods more appropriate to a conservation area used where possible to preserve the unique character of Otford village.

Solutions to help alleviate congestion include a new roundabout at the Pilgrims Way East/Shoreham Road junction and improving the road layout and to help the flow of traffic at the pond we are looking into altering the priority at the exit with Station Road and increasing the width of the junction. In addition to finding solutions to traffic concerns, we have carried out research into traffic calming measures in neighbouring villages, examined past attempts at highway improvements and will be looking at health and environmental benefits. Other non highway traffic issues such as parking (priority Station Road) misuse of roads by HGVs and highway signage will all be covered.

**Active travel.....** Reducing traffic is also an important part of the study, and whilst we hope some of our traffic calming measures will deter through traffic, we will also be looking at ways of reducing local traffic. One such initiative is to cut the number of short car journeys through active travel, in other words by physically active means such as cycling or walking. Introducing a 20mph speed limit and improving pedestrian safety is part of this goal, but without good pedestrian access into the heart of the village we will not be able to effectively reduce unnecessary car journeys. Upgrading our footpaths and expanding and improving our pavements are therefore an important part of the study.

**20's plenty for Otford.....** In Britain more than half of road deaths and serious injuries occur on roads with 30mph limits. Britain also has the highest percentage (22.5%) of pedestrian road fatalities in Europe. By lowering urban and residential speed limits to 20mph it has been found to decrease child pedestrian accidents by up to 70%. These are just a sample of the many statistics available showing the safety benefits of a 20mph limit. A 20mph speed limit would bring other benefits too such as a reduction in pollution, quieter streets and promote greater social cohesion. A recent report from the Audit Commission showed that 75% of drivers support 20mph limits in residential areas. If you would like to show your support for a 20mph limit in Otford please register your vote at: [www.20splentyforotford.moonfruit.com](http://www.20splentyforotford.moonfruit.com) and click on 'Sign our Petition'.

**Listening to public opinion.....** We have taken on board public opinion from previous schemes and we are listening to all your comments and suggestions in the many emails and letters we receive on this issue. Our plans are ambitious and far reaching, but we believe that they will address the concerns raised by you and will benefit the whole community. We are currently working with Kent Highways and when we have a clearer picture of what is possible a draft proposal will be available for public comment.

**And finally.....** It would be extremely helpful if you could forward details to the Parish Clerk at [clerk@otfordpc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@otfordpc.co.uk) if you have been involved in any road or pedestrian traffic incidents, both past and present. This information will be used by the Council to monitor traffic accidents and to help build our case for lower speeds and improved pedestrian safety.

Cllr Irene Roy  
Chairman, Traffic Management Working Party