

Notes for Parish Council Meeting, Tuesday, 18th Oct. 2016 at 7.00 p.m.

- **Thank you Chairman for calling me to speak on this issue. My name is Judith Payne and I live at Cross Tree, the house on the main road and the corner of Church Street. May I give you a copy of my notes this evening and I would ask for them to be formally minuted.**
- **On Saturday, 15th October 25 villagers, 23 of whom live on the main road through the village, met here in the Sunday Schoolroom and formed the Lopen Road Safety Action Group. We had apologies from several other residents who were unable to attend, but also expressed their concerns either in emails or verbally.**
- **I have been asked to speak on their behalf this evening, but I hope you will also allow other members of our Action Group the opportunity to speak if they wish to reinforce what I say, or indeed if I omit anything of importance.**
- **Everyone at the meeting on Saturday was individually asked about their concerns re: the road. Unanimously, people named the issues as being the speed and volume of traffic, but more importantly the impact those are having on our safety.**

- **Safety is the overriding concern for our Action Group. We consider the road to be dangerous particularly, but not exclusively, because of the number of children who live on the main road. There are 17, the oldest being 14, and there are 10 who catch the school bus each day many having to cross the road to do so.**
- **However it is not only the young who are in danger. Only a few weeks ago I was forced into the hedge by speeding traffic when walking up the road to visit a resident.**
- **The latest data from the SID shows that there are 2,500 vehicles per day coming through the village and 81% of them are travelling at over 30 mph. When does the speed data from the SID constitute a problem road? People living on the road have problems pulling out of, and entering into, their driveways. What does it take to make people realize, what we have been saying individually for some time, that this road is dangerous?**
- **We have a 30 mph speed limit and a 7½ ton weight restriction, through the village, both of which are unenforceable. Something must be done.**
- **Following on from our meeting on Saturday it was agreed that we are against any available monies for road**

improvement being spent on Snapant without consultation with the residents.

- **We believe there is no benefit to Lopen residents from the proposed scheme while the real issues of speed and volume of traffic, and safety, impact lower down the village and these MUST be addressed.**

- **Several suggestions came out of our meeting and I would like to outline them to you:**
 1. **We shall be reinstating the Speed Watch Group for the village because as residents we are prepared to spend our time to try to make a difference. However, it is important to emphasize that as a Group we do NOT see Speed Watch as the answer to the problem.**

 2. **Extend the 20 mph speed limit, already in existence through the S bend, throughout the whole village immediately, as a priority.**

 3. **Better road signs, both on the carriageway and attached to the telegraph poles. For example, signs indicating both the presence of children and road narrowing, larger speed limit signs, etc.**

- 4. White lines down BOTH sides of the road through the village.**
 - 5. Similarly, Soft kerbs.**
 - 6. Particular concern was expressed about the number of heavy vehicles passing through all day and during the night. Some will be going to the industrial estate, many are not. Enforce the weight restriction.**
 - 7. The Action Group will be writing to the industrial estate to ask that all vehicular traffic to, and from the estate, complies with weight and speed limits through the village. Also, we would like the Parish Council to write to them in similar vein.**
 - 8. Examine the original planning application for the industrial site. Were any restrictions placed on their operation? Are they being observed?**
 - 9. Is it possible to have limitations placed on when heavy lorries can travel through the village i.e. only at certain times?**
- Finally, ladies and gentlemen, our Action Group is not going away. If there is an element of anger in my voice it is because there was undoubtedly anger expressed at our meeting on Saturday and I would be failing in my duty to the Group, as its chosen spokesman, if I did not convey that anger to you this evening. There is a strong feeling that, as individuals, we**

have not been listened to and our growing concerns have been ignored.

- **We want you - all of our elected representatives at Parish, District, County, and indeed Parliamentary level to recognize our concerns and work with us to improve the current dangerous situation to ensure we make Lopen a better place for ALL its residents.**
- **Thank you.**