

Bashurst Hill - consultation prior to submitting a proposal under the Community Highways Scheme for reduction of speed limit from 60 mph to 40 mph

The length of Bashurst Hill is currently governed by the National Speed Limit. This means that, subject to prevailing conditions, driving at up to 60 mph is legal.

However, Bashurst Hill is a rural road. It is used by a mix of residential and business traffic, as well as leisure users such as horse-riders, cyclists and walkers, with hidden entrances to properties, bridleways and footpaths the length of the road. With the winding nature and varying width of the road, and the seasonal surge in roadside vegetation growth, a speed limit of 60 mph is at best, questionable, and with modern and projected future traffic loads, certainly not a safe limit to apply over the full extent of the road. A review is appropriate.

Road users on Bashurst Hill agree, as is evident from their behaviour. A week long traffic survey along Bashurst Hill in December 2020 sampled traffic at 6 locations along the road, making speed measurements, varying between 33.15 & 42.66 mph according to location. The overall average speeds of 7 days traffic varied by location from 30.9 to 36.3 mph. Looking deeper into the recorded data, the 85th percentile - the speed at or below which 85% of the observed traffic was travelling, was between 36.8 & 44 mph depending on location.

The 85% percentile is used by authorities as the speed at which the majority of users judge it to be safe to drive in typical conditions. On this measure, the majority of users feel safe to be driving on Bashurst Hill at around 40 mph.

Itchingfield Parish Council has also been contacted by individuals from around the Parish who have expressed concern about the current speed limit. There are several places along Bashurst Hill at which vans and other, larger business vehicles are frequent (multiple times daily) users, and the use of the road to transport wide loads, which obstruct passage for the (extensive) duration of manoeuvring off the road, far from a rare occurrence, is another hazard to consider.

In view of the above, Itchingfield Parish Council are considering applying for a reduction in the speed limit overall on Bashurst Hill from the current 60 mph to a new limit of 40mph. The Council considers that such a reduction in speed limit is a proportionate response to current and projected traffic volume using this road, to substantially improve safety while maintaining traffic flow at an efficient speed.

For such a proposal to go ahead, it must, as one requirement, show evidence of support from the community, so Itchingfield Parish Council would like to hear from residents of the Parish.

You can give your feedback in the following ways:

- Facebook *Itchingfield Parish Council - @itchingfieldPC or comment after the post linking this file*
- Twitter *Itchingfield Traffic & Road use - @itchroads or comment after the post linking this file*
- Email *IPC Clerk – clerk@itchingfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk*
- Website *itchingfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk – select ‘Contact us’ from dropdown menu*

This consultation will close on **30 June**, after which, the Council will review the responses and decide whether to go ahead with applying to WSCC requesting to have the speed limit along Bashurst Hill changed from 60 mph to 40 mph.

Please provide your feedback about the proposal to **change the speed limit** along Bashurst Hill **to 40 mph**.

Itchingfield Parish Council

07 June 2022