

BEAUDESERT & HENLEY IN ARDEN JOINT PARISH COUNCIL



150 HIGH STREET, HENLEY IN ARDEN, WARWICKSHIRE, B95 5BS

clerk@henley-in-arden-pc.gov.uk

9th May 2023

Warwickshire County Council
County Highways Minor Works
Shire Hall
Market Place
Warwick
CV34 4RL
Emailed for expediency to: pmc@warwickshire.gov.uk

Dear Sirs,
Warwickshire Highways Authority
Proposed 20 mph Limit in Henley High Street

Beaudesert & Henley in Arden JPC Response to the Consultation April/May 2023

Our members are in receipt of the raft of documents relating to this project and as requested, herein respond to the proposals. This has been considered carefully as it is a rather controversial subject in Henley where life on a major trunk road can be very challenging.

We strongly support the introduction of the 20 mile an hour limit within the whole of Henley. There is significant concern about speeding on the High Street, Birmingham Road and Henley generally. An effective reduction in the speed of traffic is therefore very welcome.

Though all plans to calm traffic are duly noted, the JPC would stress that they fear such restrictions will suffer from lack of enforcement, and we will be approaching Warwickshire Police with our concerns.

The JPC responds as follows:

1. We strongly support the introduction of the 20 mile an hour limit within the whole of Henley. There is significant concern about speeding on the High Street, Birmingham Road and Henley & Beaudesert generally. An affective reduction in the speed of traffic is therefore very welcome.
2. It is disappointing that the 20 mile an hour proposal does not cover all of the properties within Henley and Beaudesert. We recommend the 20mph signs are situated where the current 30mph signs exist. There is a possibility that the properties falling outside the proposed limit will experience increased speeds as traffic leaves the 20 mile an hour area. Cars motor cycles and commercial vehicles leaving the town currently accelerate significantly from all the major traffic restriction points. The Highways Authority should therefore consider seriously extending the limit to cover all households within the Parish boundary and indeed beyond into the surrounding parishes of Claverdon, Wootton Wawen and Ullenhall.

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3. There is clear evidence that speeding traffic in Henley High Street and Birmingham Road is not being monitored or penalised within the town at present. There is a general, and damaging lack of enforcement, of traffic and parking offences on the roads in the town. The introduction of the 20 mile an hour limit must therefore be accompanied by significant additional steps to monitor traffic speeds and ensure proper enforcement of breaches. This demands a significant change of attitude by both the Highways Authority and Warwickshire Police. The JPC request that in their response to this representation the Highways Authority and Warwickshire Police set out their proposals as to how the 20 mile an hour restriction is to be enforced. If this does not happen it seems certain that the roads which are vulnerable to accelerating traffic or "rat runs" such as Station Road and Brook End Drive will be very badly affected by the proposals.
4. The next stage of consultation will be on the introduction of traffic calming "gateways". The consultation on the location of the gateways needs to be more targeted . There is a chance that households on Henley High Street will not be aware when there are to be gateways constructed alongside their dwelling or business. A general consultation placed on lamp posts at infrequent gaps is not sufficient for the households who are directly affected by this. The "gateway" consultation should include direct contact with any household or business adjacent, or close to, the gateways both as a principle but also to guarantee maximum support for the proposals.

The JPC has supported the proposal and the efforts of the residents who have worked so hard to make this a reality in recent months. There have been several occasions when the Parish Council has promoted and publicised the introduction. It is important that we now give the proposals strong backing as a major step in the right direction for the town.

We thank you for this opportunity to place our comments before you and look forward to the project being completed this year.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Wendy Andrews
Chair

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Wendy Andrews'.

Ray Evans
Parish Clerk & RFO

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ray Evans'.

For and on behalf of the full Council Membership
Beautesert & Henley in Arden Joint Parish Council