

2026 Chapel Allerton Parish Council 30mph Village Consultation Survey

This survey has been carried out to better understand traffic speeds within the villages of Chapel Allerton and Stone Allerton.

The results will help us to assess if there is a need to apply for change our village speed limits since the new 30 mph limits implemented by Weare Parish Council. The new limits by Weare Parish Council have meant Chapel and Stone Allerton roads now have National Speed Limit signs leading into both villages. (It has always been 60mph but the road signs advertising this fact have proved concerning)

Concerns have been raised by residents previously about road safety, particularly for pedestrians, horse riders, cyclists, animals and children.

By collecting opinion data on vehicle speeds, the survey aims to identify any issues, support evidence-based decisions, and help determine whether further measures are needed, to improve safety for our community.

The survey was anonymous. We had 33 responses from Stone Allerton and 11 from Chapel Allerton.

The results showed:

Experience of Driving through the villages

Very unsafe = 2 Slightly unsafe = 8 Neither safe nor unsafe = 17 Quite Safe = 13 Very Safe = 4

Experience of riding a horse or bicycle through the villages

Very unsafe = 12 Slightly unsafe = 12 Neither safe nor unsafe = 13 Quite Safe = 6 Very Safe = 2

Experience of walking though the villages

Very unsafe = 10 Slightly unsafe = 11 Neither safe nor unsafe = 15 Quite Safe = 7 Very Safe = 2

Opinion about vehicles driving with excessive speed through the villages.

Rarely = 2 Occasionally = 6 Not sure = 9 Regularly = 9 Daily = 19

Speed Reduction

41 survey takers supported a reduction to 30mph or below

4 survey takers did not support a reduction in speed limit

40 survey takers thought 30 mph was the best option for the village roads

4 survey takers did not think 30mph was the best option for village roads

1 survey taker said maybe.

Use of SIDS or other traffic calming measures

Yes = 28 No = 10 Maybe = 7

Has the recent Weare speed reduction made a difference to our village roads?

Yes = 19 No = 17 Maybe = 9

Would community members volunteer for a 'Speed Watch' or similar type of traffic monitoring.

Yes = 20 No = 25

Estimated costs for a full 30 mph traffic survey and speed reduction sent up from Somerset Council is £6000.00 with some ongoing monitoring costs.

How should this money be raised? (multiple answers allowed)

Fundraising = 17 Donation = 11 Parish Council Funds = 19 Grant Funding = 25 No to 30mph = 6

Comments

"Would like to see the speed limit at 20 driving through Front Street, Chapel Allerton particularly during work/school times"

"Exiting my property is hazardous. The exit is at right angles to the road, and I have no visibility of oncoming traffic. I must listen and then pull out cautiously. The other day a car passing at speed zipped into my entrance in order to avoid a passing car in the opposite direction. If I had been slightly further forward the car pulling in would have collided with me on my own property. Walking through the village with a dog is also not safe. Cars and vans speed past with no regard to safety or giving pedestrians space. I hate to say the offenders are often young people."

"A lot of drivers go too fast through the village."

"Driving, walking my dog and cycling are fraught with danger because people drive as though it is Brands Hatch. Our residential roads have no pavements and no streetlights. However we do have single width/narrow roads with intermittent passing places, blind bends, crunching pot holes, horse riders, cyclists, people of all ages, pets, wildlife and sometimes, farmed animals on the roads with nowhere to go in order to get out of the way of speeding vehicles (despite the 30mph limit from the start of Notting Hill Way to the Wheatsheaf Smoke House.) I have had to push myself and my dog into the nearest hedge on more occasions than I should because of the racetrack mentality of some drivers. My road has driveway entrances/exits as passing places on a single width road. Here, 20 is plenty. If wanting to drive, we have to exit from our driveway/passing place onto a road with an unrestricted speed limit. Bonkers! I feel the climb up Notting Hill Way, just after the school should have signs on the hill advising drivers to be in 3rd gear to climb/descend the hill without exceeding the speed limit. At school arrival/home time, Notting Hill Way is gridlocked and yet some people are still trying to race along. How there hasn't been a fatality is a wonder. A well-placed speed camera would be beneficial, rather like the excellent speed sign that flashes up to show drivers how fast they are travelling. I love that this flashing sign is moveable and can be positioned in either direction. I also feel that a mobile police speed camera presence now and then will be a great reminder to all drivers of the 30mph limit. Please consider reducing the speed limit on our residential roads. It will save lives and precious fuel, helping meet climate targets.

"The road from Chapel Allerton to Mark is collapsing and is becoming both dangerous and damaging to cars. The road verges are so sunken in places that it damages the wheel of the car if moving over to allow other traffic to pass."

"Cars seem to think because it's a 60-speed limit they can drive up to that speed, even though it's vastly inappropriate for the roads through our villages!"

"There are a few tight bends with poor visibility making it feel unsafe to walk."

"Regular dog walker across both Allertons. Stating the obvious, there are no pavements and vehicles come round blind bends far too fast. I am genuinely amazed that there have not been more accidents. Whilst we fling ourselves up verges and into hedges to get out of the way, particularly on windy days it is

not always possible to hear cars and delivery vans coming. With a 30mph limit, at least they would not be approaching so quickly."

"We walk our dog twice a day using all the roads in the Allertons. We regularly signal to drivers to slow down. If its windy and difficult to hear traffic, then we avoid walking on the roads. Drivers frequently come around bends too fast and slow down smartly when they see us jammed into the side of the road."

"The size and speed of tractors and trailers can be excessive but doubt that new 30mph signage would make any difference."

"Some drivers do not slow down sufficiently for horses or pedestrians. Cyclists do not always warn horse riders when they come zooming up behind."

"I think 30 or 20 mph would be ideal. I do not feel safe letting my children walk to their friends as houses in the village due to the speed of some drivers "

"My dog is very scared of vehicles, every time a fast vehicle speeds by him he attempts to flee and get away from his harness - this is a very scary experience for myself and my senior dog who responds to his panic. Cars push past each other and when i am driving i feel that some cars take advantage of my smaller car and i feel threatened. Some cars force me to emergency stop in dangerous potholes which is negative for my car. They do not slow down. I have had to change my cat's routine to become an indoor cat at night due fear of him being hit by dangerous cars speeding throughout the night. Previously i had to take my cat to the vets for an emergency jaw surgery - when asked how this may have occurred the Vet told me it was likely that my cats had been frightened by a speeding car. Walking down roads with little to no walking space is especially scary as some cars do not give space or go too fast. This is especially scary for me as an adult so i cannot fathom how younger people may feel. I have personally seen people speeding past horses and have seen them panic which must be horrifying for the rider especially as there are some younger riders around. "

"When walking my dogs I often see cars/vans speeding past that it scares them. I am also worried that my cats are not safe nor wildlife. Also, the amount of corners/ road that are not wide enough for 2 cars to pass when they are speeding it causes chaos. "

"Commuter times are terrible "

"I've had many near misses where cars use the lanes as cut throughs and speed without a care for people walking, cycling etc. "

"Vehicle Speed When Walking - cars and other vehicles can go much too fast which is dangerous for everyone especially children, let and domestic pets. Awareness Some Cyclists appear from nowhere at speed with generally no warning - some cyclists should be more aware of this risk when approaching from behind, especially when approaching people with dogs...a bell would help."

"The majority of time through Chapel Allerton the driving is as respectful, just occasionally you get drivers who don't seem to have any respect for those walking or on horses."

"Thank you for your efforts in organising this survey. However, we do feel very frustrated that common sense does not prevail. The recent erection of the large new 60 mph signs at the end of Wheatsheaf Lane and Dunkery Road is madness. You can argue that the speed limit has always been 60 mph but anyone who is unfamiliar with this area (particularly driving at night) will now be given the false impression that 60 mph is acceptable and possible. Good luck with that! All that the signs have done is considerably increased the likelihood of a accident and potentially a very serious one. Just look at the National statistics. Rural roads are statistically more dangerous than urban roads, accounting for over 50-60% of all fatal traffic crashes, despite lower traffic volume. These fatalities are often due to high speeds, single-

vehicle collisions, and hazards like sharp bends. Unexpected wildlife, farm vehicles, horses and pedestrians are also hazards which are identified in the accident statistics. Also, a collision on a rural road is 3-4 times more likely to be fatal than an urban one. Please protect life by getting the speed limit in Stone Allerton and Chapel Allerton changed. Please don't delay until there is an accident."

"I believe that coming off top road from a 30mph region into a national speed limit through the village, no pavements, lots of pedestrians, horse riders, children, driveway openings, potholes which some drivers swerve to avoid, is a crazy situation and should never have been implemented in the first place."

"The sooner the better."

"It is a pointless waste of money since it would never be enforced and only a few drivers exceed the speed because the roads are not capable of more anyway. If there are any funds available, PLEASE repair the roads and make them safe. "

"Sedgemoor council should be paying for this, we pay a huge council tax to live in our lovely village, and the roads are driven far too fast and full of potholes, it's about time Sedgemoor did something about this. We see very little for the amount we pay! "

"30 mph is too fast around parts of the village".

"I believe the new speed signs have made an already bad situation worse as they, in effect, invite vehicles to speed up as they enter the villages from all access points. As this is a highways safety issue, I do not believe fundraising should be required and it seems an ideal usage of Parish funds."

"I believe the risk to our villages from speeding vehicles has been greatly exacerbated by the new Nat Speed Limit signs entering our village. This risks giving drivers permission to travel up to 60 mph. Yes, the Highway Code is clear that people must drive to the conditions, but in the real world it is extremely naive to expect everyone to adhere to this nuance. This is NOT simply a village requesting a new (entirely appropriate) speed limit. This is a village that has been put at increased risk as a consequence of the new 30 limit on Notting Hill Way. I have not seen any other villages locally, or indeed anywhere, that are not 30 (or 20). Aside from Badgworth which is part of the same issue. I have written to Tessa Munt MP who described a NSL in our village as "bonkers" and has offered her support. She requested additional information. I have supplied to her what is in the public domain and requested the PC provide her with additional information she requested, if they have it. (See emails copied into Clerk for the PC). Very many thanks to the PC for pursuing this."

"We live in adjoining hamlets with narrow lanes and crossroads so caution is required. Most villagers drive at less than 30mph. 30 mph signs will not stop those who intend to drive fast, and the signage will look awful, especially in the conservation area."

"The road is a single-lane country lane with no separation between pedestrians, cyclists, horse riders and motor vehicles, making a 60mph limit entirely inappropriate and dangerous. Horses in particular are unpredictable when startled by fast-moving vehicles; Many of the horse riders are children. A 30mph limit would align the road with roads of similar character across the country and is consistent with guidance from the Department for Transport on rural single-track roads used by vulnerable road users."

"How will it be policed"

"30 is too fast through the village; most drivers already go less than that and those who exceed 30 would not be deterred by a 30 zone. I would support a 20mph limit as this is more appropriate for the village and is more likely to be effective. A 30mph limit would be pointless, or even counterproductive as it would lead people to think that 30 is a safe speed. 20 still signifies an area where special care is needed while 30 just

indicates a built-up area. The limit on Top Road has been somewhat effective possibly because people might previously think 40-50 was a sensible speed along an apparently open road."

"Personally think 20mph is plenty"

"I would fully support a 30-mph speed limit around us and surrounding villages I also think there should be a change in road traffic management laws that indicate all villages/hamlet have a 30mph speed limit when roads are narrow to protect wildlife/homeowners and their pets. Thank you"

"If we manage to get it passed and can raise the money to pay for it, we expect it to be completed correctly not left half done like the new section on top road "

"It's hard to understand why they would be anything other than 30 except perhaps 20. "

"Just having the speed limits painted on the road is beneficial. "

"Altering the speed limit will not stop drivers who are going to drive unsafely; they will do so regardless of the speed limit. Effective policing would be much more helpful."

Survey Conclusion:

- There is a majority support for requesting a 30mph speed limit through Chapel and Stone Allerton
- Most residents taking the survey are concerned about the speed of the traffic through the villages
- Residents would expect any changes to be policed correctly
- Just under ½ of the survey takers would be prepared to volunteer with 30 mph initiatives
- Residents are concerned about having too many signs in a conservation area
- There is a lot of concern for horse riders, cyclists, walkers and children on our village roads
- A few residents do not feel there is a need for a 30mph limit on our roads
- Some residents would rather have improved roads with no potholes than a reduction in road speed
- Some residents are not aware Somerset County Council is responsible for highways including pothole repair.

Thank you for your time

Chapel Allerton Parish Council will now further consult on the results

We will keep you updated via our social media pages and future Allerton News editions.

**If you would like to discuss this further, please email our Parish Clerk
clerk@chapelallertonparishcouncil.or.uk or come along to our next meeting.**