

A REPORT ON AN EXERCISE TO ESTABLISH THE EXTENT OF VEHICLE SPEEDING ON TRENDLEWOOD WAY NAILSEA – Autumn 2022

Origination

A number of residents living on and off Trendlewood have complained about speeding to the town council. I was asked by councillor Rod Lees to investigate the extent over periods when the residents deemed speeding to be prevalent.

Trendlewood Way is a popular, reasonably straightforward route about a mile long into and out of Nailsea. It extends from the roundabout at Lodge Lane to the junction with Station Road. It doesn't involve traffic lights and is a route towards Backwell and two Nailsea schools from the Lodge Lane end. It has short, straight sections, some bends and some crossings leading to footpaths. Birchdene, a close at the eastern end is on a bend which requires drivers to make a very sharp exit due to limited vision of on-coming traffic from the right.

The Exercise

The three prevalent times were mornings, afternoon school run time and evenings. The exercise comprised 3 durations split over 5 sessions:
7.00 to 8.00 am, 8.00 to 9.00am, 2.25 to 3.25pm and 4.25 to 5.25 and 5.30 to 6.30pm.

Hand held speed gun and recording devices were used to collect data. No personal data or data outside the GDPR regulations was collected. All data collected on the recorder has been deleted. Each hour was broken into 5 -minute recording chunks. Trendlewood has a 30-mph speed limit. Speeding is deemed to be above 35mph.

Summary of Findings

The morning sessions which included the early school run –

Wednesday 28 September – 7am to 8am

191 drivers conformed with the limit, **13 were speeding**. 2 drivers were observed at 45mph, the other 11 speeders at 36 to 40mph.

The ratio of speeders to passing vehicles was 6.37% or 1 in 16.

12 cyclists were seen in this session. In only 4 of the 12, 5-minute chunks were speeding not observed.

Monday 3 October – 8am to 9am

293 drivers conformed with the limit, **23 were speeding**. 1 driver was observed at 48mph, 4 at above 40mph and the remainder in high 30s.

The ratio of speeders to passing vehicles was 7.3% or 1 in 14

12 cyclists were observed in this session. In only 2 of the 12, 5-minute chunks were speeding not seen. Speeding was consistent right through the session.

The afternoon session which included the School Run

Tuesday 6 September – 2.25 to 3.25pm

239 drivers conformed with the limit, **8 were recorded speeding** with 3 above 40mph. The ratio of speeders to passing vehicles was 3.2% or 1 in 31.

6 out of 8 speeders were recorded between 2.40 and 2.55pm. There was just one cyclist.

The Evening sessions –

Tuesday 31 August – 4.25 – 5.25pm

329 drivers conformed with the limit, **7 drivers were speeding** with 3 above 40mph and one at 44mph. The ratio of speeders to passing vehicles was 2.1% or 1 in 48.

Most speeding was at the beginning and at the end of this session. There were just 3 cyclists.

Tuesday 4 October – 5.30-6.30pm

312 drivers conformed with the limit, **15 were speeding**. The maximum recorded was 3 drivers at 39mph. The ratio of speeders to passing vehicles was 4.6% or 1 in 22. 7 cyclists were seen.

Summary of Speeding

Morning 2 hours – 36 speeders

Afternoon one hour – 8 speeders

Evening 2 hours – 22 speeders

With a total of 66 speeders and 1330 vehicles passing, the average speeding was 4.96% or 1 in 20 vehicles.

Highest Average 5-minute period speeds within each recorded hour

7 -8.00am	8 -9.00am	2.25 – 3.25pm	4.25 – 5.25pm	5.30 – 6.30pm
32 mph	31 mph	30 mph	27.5 mph	29.5 mph

Comments and Conclusions

It is clear that the morning produces the highest rate of speeding as the pressure is on to get to work on time without delay. Also, it is likely the school run contributes to speeding. 7 to 9am period is the highest risk duration followed by 5.30 to 6.30pm.

The afternoon session revealed only 8 speeders but all but two were between 2.40 and 2.55pm, the time of the school run.

It's very likely that much of the traffic observed will be local Nailsea residents and that the pattern observed will be repeated daily during the working week.

Pedestrians using the Festival crossing are at risk from speeding drivers. The risk is greater from the western approach as traffic is on the inside curve of the bend which reduces the time available for clear vision of the crossing.

(I refer to the report on the investigation at the crossing dated 4 November 2019)

There is no evidence of widespread speeding overall. 95% of drivers are complying within the 30mph limit even if many drive above 30mph but below 36mph. The problem lies with the 5% who, for whatever reasons chose not to comply. These are the drivers who present the high risk to other motorists, to cyclists and pedestrians.

What Actions Could be considered to counter the speeding threat?

I have recommended that a Community SpeedWatch team be established and work is being done by a prospective site leader to harness volunteers. Frequent speedwatch sessions wearing hi-viz tabards will provide a reminder that speeding will not be tolerated. There is an opportunity for the Council to let Nailsea residents know that those who complain about a problem have the power to be part of the solution.

I will be recommending to the Avon and Somerset Constabulary Road Safety manager that the force's Speed Enforcement Unit be authorised to visit an appropriate safe site on Trendlewood Way and apply enforcement regulations and prosecutions. Prosecutions will need to be advertised in order to discourage future speeding

The Council should consider asking A&S Constabulary Road Safety team to instal data capture boxes during 2023 or 2024 to establish how the speeding pattern has been impacted by any changes made to improve the situation

The Town Council may wish to ask NS Council Highways department to apply 30mph roundels to the Trendlewood road surface at regular intervals. They are a less expensive alternative to fixed signage and more visible, therefore more effective

The Council could consider, at the right time, including an article in the NS Times to remind residents of the issue and the steps that have been taken to counter speeding.

END

Report produced at the request of Councillor Rod Lees
Report by John Hunter
October 2022

ADDENDUM November 2022

Police based in Nailsea have an additional resource which may be considered for use on local and area speeding sites. The author will be investigating possibilities.