

Witchampton Village

27 June 2024

Request to urgently lower the speed limit at the Witchampton Lane / Cranborne Road Junction

Dear Parish Councillors

We would like to ask you to raise with Dorset Council, as a matter of priority, the issue of the speed limit along the stretch where Witchampton Lane joins the Cranborne Road (B3078).

The current speed limit is 60mph, and yet the visibility when pulling out of this junction and turning right towards Wimborne is just a few metres, which means just 1-2 seconds of being able to see an approaching car – which in turn will need 73 metres to stop at 60mph according to the AA.

This means **we cannot exit this junction safely** and have to take a risk when we pull out and “hope” that we do not get hit by an approaching car. Almost all of us in the village have scary stories of near misses and, put simply, we fear for our safety, and that of our elderly relatives and neighbours and children, using this junction. **We believe that the speed limit needs to be urgently lowered**, and more visible signage and other appropriate traffic calming measures to be put in place to ensure our safety.

This is the main route for us to leave the village and access services in Wimborne where two of our catchment middle schools and our upper school are located. It is where most of us access doctors, physiotherapists, shops and supermarkets, so we are forced to make this dangerous journey several times a week.

The junction is also used by parents and carers dropping off or picking up their children from Witchampton First School and Little Owls pre school, many of whom will make the trip to the middle schools in Wimborne to collect older siblings as part of their journey.

We have recently been invited on to BBC Radio Solent to talk about our experiences of living in fear of this junction, and **we would like Dorset Council to take urgent action to resolve this issue before there is a serious injury or fatality**. We have previously told by the Parish Council that Dorset Council have said that “the data doesn’t support a change in speed limit” and “there needs to be a fatality at this junction before action will be taken”. This is an unacceptable response – this is an unsafe junction, with inadequate sightlines to see an approaching car travelling at 60mph and have time to pull out safely. **Nobody in the village should have to lose their life to prove this point.**

I have included testimonies at the end of this letter from residents and parents at the nursery and school about using this junction, and also co-signatories to this letter. Please read them, as they bring to life the daily dangers of using this junction.

Yours sincerely,

Witchampton Villagers

116 co-signatories are listed below, and transcripts from villagers about their experiences are listed after (we can also supply audio files)

Co-signed by:

	First name / surname	House Name / Number	Postcode	Villager	Parent/carer at the first school or nursery
1	Sarah Porretta	Wistaria Cottage	BH21 5AU	Y	y
2	Mike Porretta	Wistaria Cottage	BH21 5AU	y	y
3	Richenda Simeon	Stable Cottage	BH21 5DT	y	
4	Gemma Marshall	Ivy Cottages	BH21 5LA	y	
5	Sarah Hall	4 Mary Anna Cottages	BH21 5JY	y	
6	Cassandra Hawker	Flour Mill House	BH21 5AG	y	
7	Anthony Lock	Kings Close, High Lea Farm	BH21 5AB	y	
8	Vaughan Hawker	Flour Mill House	BH21 5AG	y	
9	Gabriel Stone	The Hermitage	BH21 5DT	y	y
10	Jodie Coda	Pedlars Roost	BH21 5BQ	y	y
11	Rosemary Ward	1 Bradford Cottages	BH21 5BX	y	
12	Susan Harvey	Sunny Patch	BH21 5AU	y	
13	Annie Cheer	Welcombe Thatch	BH21 5AR	y	
14	Helen de Mattos	Abbey Cottage	BH21 5AG	y	
15	Bart Ullstein	Abbey Cottage	BH21 5AG	y	
16	Louise Daws	5 Downlea Cottages	BH21 5AN	y	
17	Scott Bartecki	5 Downlea Cottages	BH21 5AN	y	
18	Emma Vowles	3 Harley Cottages	BH21 5ET	n	y
19	Doug Vowles	3 Harley Cottages	BH21 5ET	n	y

20	Ana Chambel	Welbeck House	BH21 5AR	Y	
21	Mark Beauchamp	Welbeck House	BH21 5AR	Y	
22	Sarah Brown	The Old Vicarage	BH21 5AP	Y	
23	Karen Pearce	4 Primrose Hill	BH21 5BA	Y	
24	Claire Hankinson	Flowers Cottage	BH21 5AR	Y	
25	Jolyon Hankinson	Flowers Cottage	BH21 5AR	Y	
26	Kerry Rowland-Hill	Pound Hill Cottage	BH21 5AW	Y	
27	Hugo Rowland-Hill	Pound Hill Cottage	BH21 5AW	Y	•
28	Nathan Steele	10 Northfield	DT11 8JD	N	Y
29	Mandy Steele	10 Northfield	DT11 8JD	N	Y
30	Steve Yardley	Downley Cottage	BH21 5AN	Y	
31	Vicky Yardley	Downley Cottage	BH21 5AN	Y	
32	Janet Mason	8 Downlea Cottages	BH21 5AN	Y	
33	Dave Mason	8 Downlea Cottages	BH21 5AN	Y	
34	Sarah Hardy	More Farmhouse	BH21 5DU	Y	
35	Linda Brookes	3 Corner Cottages	BH21 5AW	Y	N
36	Penny Graves	Malthouse Cottage, Lower Street	BH21 5AH	Y	N
37	Rick Graves	Malthouse Cottage, Lower Street	BH21 5 AH	Y	N
38	Joe Pearce	4 Primrose Hill	BH21 5BA	Y	
39	Elliot Pearce	4 Primrose Hill	BH21 5BA	Y	
40	Freddie Pearce	4 Primrose Hill	BH21 5BA	Y	
41	Cathy Morris	Honeysuckle Cottage	BH21 5DU	Y	
42	Audrey Hayter	1 Five Ash Cottages	BH21 5AJ	Y	Y
43	Lynne Frost	2 Bena Cottages	BH21 5DY	Y	

44	Kate Fenton Smith	Allen House	BH21 5DE	Y	
45	Leonora Armson	1 Hilda Cottages	BH21 5BJ	Y	
46	Evelyn Cooper-Smith	Highview	BH21 5DG	Y	
47	Claire Mackay	3 Primrose Hill	BH21 5BA	Y	Y
48	Katrina Keeling	Abbey Farmhouse	BH21 5AH	Y	
49	Sarah Edwards	White Farm	BH21 5DR	Y	Y
50	Cassie Schofield	Loverley Farm	BH21 5EB	Y	Y
51	Wendy Parker	Windy Ridge	BH21 5AU	Y	
52	Carole Slater	1 The Buildings	BH21 5BG	Y	
53	Tracy Slater-Hawksworth	4 The Buildings	BH21 5BG	Y	
54	Jan Wayman	Rose Cottage	BH21 5AU	Y	
55	Annette Lockwood	Saddlestones	BH21 5DE	Y	
56	Gail Ennis	Rose Lea	BH21 5AP	Y	
57	Robert Cowie	Rose Lea	BH21 5AP	Y	
58	David Buxton	Dovecote Cottage	BH21 5DT	Y	
59	Bridget Buxton	Dovecote Cottage	BH21 5DT	Y	
60	Fiona Read	White House	BH21 5AU	Y	
61	Fiona Hamilton	Swiss Cottage	BH21 5AR	Y	
62	Rosalind Stockley	11 Witchampton Mill	BH21 5DE	Y	
63	Jackie Coakes	2 Michaelmas Cottages	BH21 5AX	Y	
64	Georgina Winn	2 Michaelmas Cottages	BH21 5AX	Y	
65	Ceri Wolfe	Pavilion Barn	BH21 5AH	Y	

66	Beth Hamilton	Lower Farm Cottages, Long Crichel	BH21 5LE		
67	Simon Hamilton	Lower Farm Cottages, Long Crichel	BH21 5LE		
68	Sibylla Whitmore	CockCrow Farm, Moor Crichel,	BH21 5DS		
69	Kimberley Hicks	1 Napier Cottages	BH21 5BE	Y	
70	Melanie Lyons	The Bothey, Moor Crichel	Bh215du		
71	Samuel Lockyer	2 Hilda Cottages	BH215BJ	Y	
72	Hannah Poole	2 Hilda Cottages	BH21 5BJ	Y	
73	Suzanne Hayter	14 Five Ash Cottages, Witchampton	BH21 5AJ	Y	Y
74	Victoria West	1 High Lea Cottages	BH21 5AA	Y	Y
75	John Buchanan	Beeches	BH21 5AZ	Y	
76	Clare Buchanan	Beeches	BH21 5AZ	Y	
77	Amanda Messer	Applegarth	BH21 5AP	Y	
78	Melissa Tory	3 Downlea Cottages	BH21 5AN	Y	
79	Jennifer Jenke	Hollygrove Farm	BH21 5LB		Yx2
80	Jo Vigar	The Barn	BH21 5AG	Y	
81	Amy Giles	3 Humphreys Cottages	BH21 5LD		Y
82	Paul Giles	3 Humphreys Cottages	BH21 5LD		
83	Robert McCormack	1 Five Ash Cottages	BH21 5AJ	Y	
84	Paula Harvey- Gorbutt	Sunny Patch	BH21 5AU	Y	
85	Louise Hill	2 Moor Farm Cottages	BH21 5DU	Y	N

86	Robin Hill	2 Moor Farm Cottages	BH21 5DU	Y	N
87	Susan Lock	Kings Close, High Lea Farm	BH21 5AB		
88	Tim Chambers	Stocks Barn	BH21 5AH		
89	William Slater-Hawksworth	4 The Buildings, Manswood	BH21 5BG		
90	Martin Slater-Hawksworth	4 The Buildings, Manswood	BH21 5BG		
91	Emilia Hall	4 Mary Anna Cottages LC	BH21 5JY		
92	Irene and Simon Newton	1 Michaelmas Cottages	BH21 5AX		
93	Martin Ward	1 Bradford Cottages	BH21 5BX	y	
94	Kieran Cheer	Welcombe Thatch	BH21 5AR	Y	
95	Simon Meyrick-Jones	Swiss Cottage	BH21 5AR	Y	
96	Andrew Brown	The Old Vicarage	BH21 5AP	Y	
97	Scott Mackay	3 Primrose Hill	BH21 5BA		
98	Julie Fullerton	Hamble Cottage	BH21 5AU	Y	
99	Iain Fullerton	Hamble Cottage	BH21 5AU	Y	
100	Kirill Coda	Pedlars Roost	BH21 5BQ	Y	Y
101	Linda Pope	8 The Buildings, Manswood	BH21 5BG	Y	
102	Martin Pope	8 The Buildings, Manswood	BH21 5BG	Y	

103	Olivia Trickey	1 Crows Nest, More Crichel	BH21 5DX	Y	Y
104	David Trickey	1 Crows Nest, More Crichel	BH21 5DX	Y	Y
105	Frances Trussell	Lois Cottage	BH21 5DU	Y	
106	Kevin Trussell	Lois Cottage	BH21 5DU	Y	
107	Mandy Steele	10 Northfield, Tarrant Hinton	DT11 8JD	N	Y
108	Nathan Steele	10 Northfield, Tarrant Hinton	DT11 8JD	N	Y
109	Neil Edwards	White Farm, Witchampton	BH21 5DR	Y	Y
110	Lauren Morris	10 Five Ash Cottages	BH21 5AJ	Y	
111	Jim Morris	10 Five Ash Cottages	BH21 5AJ	Y	
112	Robin Sadler	Spindleberries, Chalbury Hill	BH21 7EY	N	
113	Marilyn Sadler	Spindleberries, Chalbury Hill	BH21 7EY	N	
114	Sue Mallet	The Watermill,	BH21 5AG	Y	
115	Michael Jeans	The Watermill	BH21 5AG	Y	
116	Katherine Tizzard	Manor Farm	BH21 5HQ	Y	

Transcripts of villager experiences of using this junction

Speaker 1: Regarding the junction of which Hampton Lane to the Cranborne Wimborne road. I just want to express my concern, um, as I have a daughter who has newly passed her test and obviously is still quite nervous and avoids that junction on my advice because it's so unsafe. There are cars hurtling at 60 miles an hour, and once you've decided to leave Witchampton Lane onto that road, you've taken your life into your own hands as it's a blind bend to the left and people obviously can't read the slow signs. Um, you have motorbikes as well, overtaking, even though there is obviously a junction signposted. So it's very dangerous. And I'm very alarmed to hear that we have to wait for a fatality. Which potentially is my daughter and any other new driver because they don't have the experience to know that pulling out of that junction, you've got to go hell for leather. If you're heading down onto into Wimborne, um, to, uh, you know, the cars are right up your backside and certainly not considerate to most drivers, let alone learner drivers. So, um, I'm just, as I say, just flabbergasted to understand that nothing will be done unless there's a fatality.

Speaker 2: I've had several near misses on this junction. I only have a little Fiat 500 and the acceleration is not very good. So as much as I can slam my foot down hard to get out of the of which Hampton Lane I do. But I have had several cars come close to smashing into me on several occasions. Um, they've tried to overtake me and have often, um, nearly driven into, um, potential oncoming traffic because they can't slow down quick enough. And one car, um, even drove into the verge to avoid a collision with me. It's a really terrifying junction.

Speaker 3: When my youngest daughter was living at home during lockdown, she was working at a small Tesco the other side of Wimborne, and it meant that she had to drive regularly along the Cranborne Road and um, although she was, at least 20 at the time, I found myself forbidding her to make that turn at High Lea. I would worry anyway, about her driving on the Cranborne Road, because it's quite dangerous. And by forbidding her to make that turn at Haigh Lea. Um, it made me feel a bit better. Uh, whether she followed my advice, obviously, I don't really know. But hopefully she did.

Speaker 4: Getting out onto the Cranborne Road from Witchampton Lane. You really do need to take your life in your own hands. And a number of us have taken to switching off your indicators, winding down the windows and just listening, um, which gives you a little bit of hope that you can get out of there safely. But of course, with electric cars, that doesn't help. And people will speed down the road, even though it's 60 miles an hour, absolutely certain they're going faster than that. And it really is a dice with death.