

The Axbridge Highways and Byways Action Group Survey Results 1st March 2003

Introduction

After a meeting of the Town Council Highways committee with interested members of the public it was agreed that a survey would be carried out which would elicit public opinion on the following:

- (i) Problems caused by traffic in Axbridge.
- (ii) The need for a review of traffic calming measures and traffic management with the town.
- (iii) What traffic calming measures and traffic management systems would be acceptable and which ones would be unacceptable.

Method

A questionnaire was prepared and a survey conducted in the Square at the Farmers' Market held on Saturday 1st March 2003. The responses to the questions are shown in Appendices A, B and C. Appendix D lists written comments from members of the public. There was quite a reasonable response with questionnaires being completed by 49 Axbridge residents and 11 non-residents. More questionnaire forms were taken away and further responses may yet be received.

Responses to Questionnaire

In some areas the questionnaire results gave very positive consensus but it can be seen that most of the suggested traffic calming measures will have strong supporters and equally strong opponents. Looking purely at the numbers of 'ticks in boxes' the following can be deduced:

Speeding. An overwhelming majority felt that speeding cars present a problem in the town.

Parking. The survey only referred to parking on double yellow lines and pavements; both of which are agreed to present problems. However, these questions prompted several comments about car parking generally and it would appear that the residents and visitors would like to see changes in car parking policy.

Bus Services. Good support for a review of bus stop facilities and range of bus services available.

Review of Traffic Calming Measures. Again an overwhelming majority in favour of this review; the only two votes against coming from people who do not live in Axbridge !

Suggested Traffic Calming/Traffic Management Solutions.

CCTV monitoring. Majority in favour.

Preventing Cars going through Square. Overwhelming majority against.

Road Humps. Small majority in favour.

Speed Cushions. Majority in favour.

Rumble Strips. Evenly balanced 'for' and 'against'.

Cobble stone surfaces. Majority in favour.

Pinch points. Large majority in favour.

More 20 mph signs. Small majority in favour.

'Light-up' Signs. Large majority in favour.

'Speed guns'.

Large majority in favour; 6 Abbridge residents indicated that they would be interested in being involved in this project and a further 11 indicated that they might be interested.

The written comments from the questionnaires are reproduced in Appendix D. It can be seen that in some instances the comments contradict the response to questions. It was also noted from spoken comments that many members of the general public have very little appreciation of the implications of some of the traffic calming methods suggested.

Conclusion and Recommendations.

There is overwhelming agreement that speeding cars and car parking causes concern in the town. There is also great support for a review of traffic calming and traffic management in the town. However, it would appear that there is a lack of knowledge about the measures proposed; even those measure which received majority support.

The information collected from this survey is most useful but only confirms that an overhaul of traffic management within the town would be appreciated by the residents. The following actions are recommended:

- (i) A further survey using a modified questionnaire to collect more information about public opinion and awareness.
- (ii) A presentation in the Town Hall to provide information to the general public about different traffic calming and traffic management systems to enable them to express informed opinions.

Barry Hamblin

Abbridge Highways Action Group

**Appendix A to
The Axbridge Highways and Byways Action Group Survey Results
1st March 2003**

Axbridge residents: 49 questionnaires

Question	Strongly agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree
Speeding cars are a major problem in Axbridge	30	10	3	3
It is unsafe, especially for children, to walk around Axbridge due to speeding cars	23	19	5	1
The present 20 mph speed limit is not observed	31	17	3	
Parking on double yellow lines is a problem	20	13	9	6
Parking on the pavements is a problem	17	14	8	7
Facilities for bus stops are not adequate	13	17	13	5
The range of bus services for Axbridge needs to be improved	11	20	13	4
The narrow paths and pavements in parts of Axbridge need to be widened	13	17	10	8
A review of traffic calming measures for Axbridge would be a good idea	26	18	3	
The type of traffic calming measures most suitable for Axbridge would be:-				
Closed circuit television (CCTV) monitoring	13	5	10	12
Preventing cars going through the Square	5		11	22
Road humps (sleeping policemen)	7	11	11	12
Speed cushions (cushion 'humps' in the road)	12	13	8	8
Rumble strips	8	8	13	15
Cobble stone surfaces	10	9	15	9
Pinch points, 'build-outs' or chicanes	13	15	7	10
More signage for 20 mph zone	12	8	12	12
Signs which light up to alert speeding drivers	19	13	3	8
Speed 'guns' to catch speeding drivers	17	14	8	7

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**Appendix B to
The Axbridge Highways and Byways Action Group Survey Results
1st March 2003**

Axbridge non-residents: 11 questionnaires

Question	Strongly agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree
Speeding cars are a major problem in Axbridge	3	5	2	
It is unsafe, especially for children, to walk around Axbridge due to speeding cars	3	6	1	
The present 20 mph speed limit is not observed	4	5		
Parking on double yellow lines is a problem	4	4	1	1
Parking on the pavements is a problem	2	5	5	1
Facilities for bus stops are not adequate	1	4	4	
The range of bus services for Axbridge needs to be improved	6	1	4	
The narrow paths and pavements in parts of Axbridge need to be widened	3	1	3	4
A review of traffic calming measures for Axbridge would be a good idea	4	3		2
The type of traffic calming measures most suitable for Axbridge would be:-				
Closed circuit television (CCTV) monitoring	1	3		
Preventing cars going through the Square	3			1
Road humps (sleeping policemen)	2		3	2
Speed cushions (cushion 'humps' in the road)	1	3	1	2
Rumble strips		3	1	3
Cobble stone surfaces	2	2	1	3
Pinch points, 'build-outs' or chicanes	3		3	3
More signage for 20 mph zone	1		3	4
Signs which light up to alert speeding drivers	4	2	1	2
Speed 'guns' to catch speeding drivers	2	5	2	1

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**Appendix C to
The Axbridge Highways and Byways Action Group Survey Results
1st March 2003**

All responses: 60 questionnaires

Question	Strongly agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree
Speeding cars are a major problem in Axbridge	33	15	5	3
It is unsafe, especially for children, to walk around Axbridge due to speeding cars	26	25	6	1
The present 20 mph speed limit is not observed	35	22	3	
Parking on double yellow lines is a problem	24	17	10	7
Parking on the pavements is a problem	19	19	13	8
Facilities for bus stops are not adequate	14	21	17	5
The range of bus services for Axbridge needs to be improved	17	21	17	4
The narrow paths and pavements in parts of Axbridge need to be widened	16	18	13	12
A review of traffic calming measures for Axbridge would be a good idea	30	21	3	2
The type of traffic calming measures most suitable for Axbridge would be:-				
Closed circuit television (CCTV) monitoring	14	8	10	12
Preventing cars going through the Square	8		11	23
Road humps (sleeping policemen)	9	11	14	14
Speed cushions (cushion 'humps' in the road)	13	16	9	10
Rumble strips	8	11	14	18
Cobble stone surfaces	12	11	16	12
Pinch points, 'build-outs' or chicanes	16	15	10	13
More signage for 20 mph zone	13	8	15	15
Signs which light up to alert speeding drivers	23	15	4	10
Speed 'guns' to catch speeding drivers	19	19	10	8

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**Appendix D to
The Axbridge Highways and Byways Action Group Survey Results
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Comments by Axbridge residents: 49 questionnaires

Parking in Houlgate Way and Starrs Close by non-residents of those roads is a major problem. Parking at top of Starrs Close next to road junction is a major hazard - there should be double yellow lines near the junction.

Make the car park free "me(a)dow street"

Parking in Starrs Close + Houlgate Way by non residents of those areas.

Walk my child to school every morning. Frequently feel unsafe and in danger due to speeding cars. Pavement not wide enough.

Yes, but must be looked at by all concerned.

- redo bus stop
- close down Square more often
- maybe redirect the traffic down Meadow Street - not up High Street
- Look at parking problem

Parking in places that are not spaces around the Square is a problem + bad parking by someone else caused me to badly scratch my car on a bollard
Speed is generally not a problem but a few people do drive dangerously fast.

In reality similar to Cheddar it's only in the evenings there is a problem.

There has been a dramatic increase in cars parking on the double yellow lines in St Mary's Street, particularly outside the Crown pub. This has only been in the last 2 - 3 months. Late at night when the cars are driven away the drivers often toot their horns and rev their engines as they drive away.

The bypass needs to have a speed limit of 40 mph. A recent accident happened on Wednesday by our house one of several that occur regularly.

40 mph on by pass + camera pointing down slip road > Townend.

The junction between the Pharmacy, Local Plus and Alms House needs mirrors so it is easier to see what is coming.
Don't think speed guns are good as it will affect community spirit of Axbridge negatively.
(Ticked 'Not Sure' on speed guns.)

Would like something done but not at the expense of increasing ugly traffic/street furniture.
(Ticked 'Agree' to Signs which light up to alert speeding drivers)

Anything to reduce speeding, especially on Houlgate way.
Young people double parking in Square in evenings.

The 20 mph speed limit is blatantly ignored on all roads including the Square.
Parking in Houlgate Way is a problem - insufficiently long passing places.

Very high speed traffic in upper West Street. Wouldn't want to stop traffic thru Square.

The 20 mph bit starts too early approaching from Cheddar. Only in the narrow bit so people obey it where it is needed.
Rumble strips/ illuminated sign at Cheddar end and Cross end.

Pinch points would give pavements outside the Old Rectory.
Extra parking in West Street would slow traffic.

I am not a car driver but am very concerned about speeding cars
(a)
(b)
the use of grass verges for parking and in some places parking on pavements. Total disregard for pedestrians | And a major hazard where children are concerned.

I wouldn't want lots of signs etc. spoiling the feel of Axbridge.
(Ticked 'Agree' to More signage for 20 mph zone and 'Strongly agree' to Signs which light up to alert speeding drivers.)

We need to target certain repeat offenders - get their reg nos & report to police.
Then we need to prosecute them.

Several residents in High Street selfishly park on double yellow lines overnight or all day (not just for deliveries which is essential).

Free parking in Old Church Road car park would clear congestion due to parked cars.

Preventing traffic (except buses) from using the Square as a through route would, in my opinion, halve the amount of traffic entering the town - an excellent prospect !

I am surprised that there is a 20 mph limit in Axbridge. The police will not enforce it. 20 mph speed limits need to be self enforcing. The measures I disagree with (*all except speed cushions and pinch points*) also cause nuisance for residents. (I am a highway maintenance engineer by profession)

Make High Street from Square 1 way with speed humps.

More Traffic Wardens.

People who live in Axbridge & have no parking available with their homes & who park in (*in?*) appropriate ways & cause problems of access for residents who do have parking with their properties.

Flashing speed signs in Shipham appear to work well.

What is the point of CCTV when there is no way of stopping a problem if it appears. i.e. no police response to minor incidents.

A pinch point outside the Old Rectory in St Mary's Street is a must - it's almost there anyway - and would provide a pavement.

Comments by Axbridge non-residents: 11 questionnaires

The Square is lovely & it's nice to be able to drive through it - but I think it would probably be better to ban traffic and preserve the Square. Whatever is done needs to be done with an eye to preserving the charm & atmosphere whilst maintaining safety.

Please don't deface Axbridge with bright road signs + road painting.

Where are the Traffic Police enforcing current speed limits ?

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