

## **News from Skelmanthorpe Community Action Group.**

### **SCAG survey reveals anger at speeding motorists.**

The results of the survey conducted by Skelmanthorpe Community Action Group to investigate residents' views on speeding were published on 23 October. The responses show an overwhelming desire for urgent action to curb the number of people who speed through the village.

#### **Speed cameras and police radar traps are the best deterrent.**

When asked what the best deterrent would be, 40% of respondents wanted speed cameras on Commercial road or regular police speed checks. There was also a great deal of support (37%) for making the very narrow section of Commercial Road between Barrowstead and the Three Horse Shoes public house into a priority zone, so that traffic from one direction had clear priority. It was felt this would slow traffic at this very dangerous section of road.

Many people also favoured flashing speed indicator signs at the entrances to the village to remind motorists they are exceeding the speed limit.

#### **Strong support for a 20 mph limit.**

Allied to the priority traffic flow there was a strong demand for a reduced speed limit to 20 mph along Commercial Road. This is felt to be especially important along the narrow section where the pavement is also very narrow or non-existent. There are many supporting comments about the need to protect people and especially schoolchildren in this section of road. This was seen as very important given that the promised school crossing has yet to be built.

While 26% of respondents' favoured full traffic calming measures along Commercial Road there was limited support for speed bumps with only 19% in favour.

#### **Dangerous junction needs attention.**

The junction of Commercial Road with Cumberworth and Station Roads came in for a lot of comment. There was considerable support for traffic lights to control the junctions and it was felt this would also help to slow traffic. Other suggestions concerned re-modelling the junctions or installing a roundabout. Car parking near the junctions also came in for criticism as this makes negotiating the junctions more difficult and can block sight lines.

#### **Action needed at Shelley High School.**

Many people are concerned about both the number of cars parked on the road near the High School and the positions in which they are parked. This creates a road safety hazard for both students and motorists. There is support for creating a 20 mph zone during school hours in this area. It is felt that this will also help to slow traffic entering the village.

### **Parking is a major concern.**

The lack of off street parking means there are far too many vehicles parked on the roads and pavements. Many people expressed concerns that vehicles are parked in many places where they obstruct sight lines at junctions. Parking on pavements came in for particular criticism as in some cases this means pedestrians are forced to walk in the roads. Respondents would like to see penalties applied for people who park on pavements or in dangerous positions.

### **Report known speeders.**

The local police have stated that the majority of the people speeding recklessly are in fact local people. Many are well known to other members of the community. There is a call in the survey for residents to report known speeders to the police. This might actually be the cheapest and fastest initiative to take.

SCAG will be discussing the survey findings with the local police and local councillors to see what action can be taken.

Full details of the survey can be found on the SCAG web site at [www.skelmanthorpeaction.co.uk](http://www.skelmanthorpeaction.co.uk).