



## **Statement from Cllr Michael Lunn, Chair, Hadlow Down Parish Council**

Dear Residents,

### **Proposed Lower Speed Limits on A272 at Hadlow Down and A267 Five Ashes to Cross in Hand**

I wanted to write to residents to explain in a little bit more detail on the back of the Facebook post which was issued by County Councillor Bob Standley on the above subject. Firstly, on behalf of Hadlow Down Parish Council, we are extremely pleased on the announcement which was presented to the Parish Council on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2024.

You will be pleased to learn that the A272 in Hadlow Down and A267 Five Ashes to Cross in Hand has been identified that a lower speed limit would be appropriate in these two locations.

It is proposed that the existing 50mph speed limit on the A272 Main Road to the east of Hadlow Down be reduced to 40mph, and the existing national speed limit on A272 Curtains Hill to the west of Hadlow Down, be reduced to 50mph. We will also be introducing measures to help improve compliance with the existing 30mph speed limit in Hadlow Down.

It is also proposed that the existing 40mph speed limit on the A267 at Five Ashes be extended to a point south of the A272 Summer Hill junction, and a 50mph speed limit be introduced between that point and the existing 40mph speed limit at Cross in Hand.

I must note that these announcements come on the back of a long-standing multi-year campaign led by Hadlow Down Parish Council, and I would like to specifically thank Cllr Peter Weston and local resident Steve Godfrey who worked with the local community to private fundraise over £5,000 to purchase a second Speed Indicator Device (SID) with data collection which gave the Parish Council the evidence to submit to ESCC Highways and Sussex Police. I would like to personally thank every member of our community who helped to contribute to that fundraising.

I also like to thank my fellow Parish Councillors, Sussex Police and specifically our PCSO Sue Choppin, and Steve O'Connell – Sussex Police - Speedwatch in helping to raise these issues consistently over the last 3 years to our local County Councillor Bob Standley. Cllr Standley has remained supportive of our concerns which also led to site visits with Nick

Skelton – Assistant Director of Community Services, ESCC to see first-hand the safety concerns to which we were raising.

Although, we very much welcome the announcement, there has been some commentary regarding the rationale of the Parish Councils campaign which was to get consistency of speed limits between East and West of the Village. There was a specific concern on the West of the village where 3 footpaths exit onto the A272 on the edge of the 30mph limit and where primary school children from St Marks Primary School often cross the A272 to gain access to their outside learning area known as 'Smile Meadow'. The process took into account a range of factors such as the character of the road and the environment, the average speed of vehicles entering the village (Based on data collected via the Parish Councils SID)(this was a significant factor on the A272), the likely number of vulnerable road users, facilities such as schools, shops and medical facilities in the area and the existing crash record (another significant factor).

During this process we were reminded that before any change to a speed limit, ESCC have to progress a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO). This process normally takes between 6 and 9 months to complete, as ESCC must carry out various consultations and follow a statutory procedure before we can request a cost estimate from our Contractor for the new traffic signs and road markings to be introduced. The Parish Council have been told that the money allocated is not just for consultants to conduct the necessary legal requirements but also for implementation of the schemes.

### **Recent Accident**

I am sure everyone is aware of the recent accident on the A267 which led to a fatality. The inquiry into the accident is ongoing, however, I have been informed that there is more to the accident than has been reported so I would urge everyone to wait for the final report. Our thoughts are with the family who lost their loved one and those that whom were injured and to those first responders and emergency services who attended the scene.

### **Traffic Lights / Roundabout A267/A272 Junction**

There has been a lot of comments regarding the junction of the A267/A272. Firstly, I should note that the Parish Council has been raising our concerns regarding this junction for some 15 years, and we have seen accident after accident occur. We are also fully supportive of the A267 safety campaign. ESCC have conducted multiple safety inspections which has resulted in some historical redesign, but when crash data is reviewed all the accidents which have occurred are due to driver error. This was confirmed again at the recent meeting with Nusrat Ghani MP who visited the junction at the invitation of Hadlow Down Parish Council. Sussex Police have confirmed that speed and driver error specifically failing to look was a major contributing factor.

The case for traffic lights has been raised many times yet at the current time we are told that modelling does not currently favour traffic lights. This is despite the huge line up of

traffic during peak evenings trying to exit the junction towards Heathfield. The topography also does not support a mini roundabout.

The whole issue of safety on the A267 and A272 is taken extremely seriously and has been for a very long time, by many committed individuals. What has been announced is a positive step forward on our journey to make the road safer. It's a means to an end but the campaign is not over.

I want to finish again by thanking all those Members of our community who have financially and verbally supported our speed campaign. The SID was a huge help in gathering the data and to justify lowering speed limits on the A272 and A267.

May I take this opportunity to wish every a happy, peaceful and safe Christmas.

Regards,

Councillor Michael Lunn  
Chairman  
Hadlow Down Parish Council

