

From:
Sent: 12 September 2020 17:07
To: spcclerk@btconnect.com
Cc:
Subject: Coxham Lane Traffic Calming

Dear Sir

I am writing as a resident of Coxham Lane regarding traffic speed and parking issues in the hope that the Parish Council may be able to assist.

As you may know, the Lane runs parallel to the South side of the grounds of the Grammar school and at it's far end is a turning circle bisected by three twittens which, along with the rest of the length of the lane and twitten half way down, are used by countless pedestrians and, increasingly now, more and more cars to access both the secondary and the primary school in Shooting Field. Coxham Lane is unusual for such a narrow route in that it has no pavement or pathway of any kind, meaning that both children of all ages and adult pedestrians share the road with cyclists and vehicles. This has been an issue that has concerned me greatly for a long time as I have often wondered how, given the circumstances, there has never to my knowledge been an accident. I think this has been due in the main to the relatively light traffic and that for the most part the majority of motorists using the lane have been residents and hopefully aware of the unique surroundings and the substantial likelihood of 'free-range' children in the road.

However, the understandable decision by both schools to all but close vehicular access by parents, students and some staff has meant a marked increase in the amount of traffic coming into the lane at the start and end of the day. Sadly, despite many being parents (and also some six form pupils) they are driving far too fast down the lane with scant regard for the safety of others, for (what I assume) the 30 mph speed limit (which given the lack of pavement, in my opinion should probably be 10 mph) or for the almost inevitable fact that there will be children walking in the street, some of whom are not with parents and, in any event, may not have a speeding car as the first thing on their mind. The cars are also then needing to reverse in the turning circle with, at peak times, streams of children, adolescents and adults trying to cross the end of the lane, which is another danger. Added to all of this, there has been a significant increase in the number of cars parking in the road, further decreasing the visibility of pedestrians and increasing the need for them to walk in the centre of the Lane.

We have seen cars and vans driving at up to 40-50 mph down this lane, which would no doubt result in a fatality should someone be hit at that speed.

So, I have finally put pen to paper after procrastinating for years to ask if the council is able to provide some form of warning such as a 'Slow Down' 'Caution Children' or, additionally, to reduce the speed limit and perhaps even consider a parking restriction notice at the end of the lane. I genuinely fear that luck may not remain on our side indefinitely and that it is now only a matter of time before an accident occurs.

Yours faithfully