

RICHMOND WITNEY RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

APPLICATION FOR VEHICLE ACTIVATED SIGN ON CURBRIDGE ROAD

Submission

We have made various enquiries regarding the installation of a Vehicle Activate Sign with some information coming from our area County Councillor, Mr Ted Fenton. In our case the local authority is Witney Town Council and as suggested, this application is being submitted care of Mrs Claire Green at Town Hall, Market Square, Witney OX28 6AG for the attention of the Traffic Advisory Group.

Adjoining Roadway & Developments

The sole vehicle entrance to the Richmond Retirement Village is from a busy section of the A4095 road on the south-western outskirts of the town. Although there is a four-way roundabout not far away, residents have been experiencing for some time vehicles approaching from the Curbridge direction exceeding two speed limits in quick succession. Some 300 yards from the Village they encounter a 40mph sign, followed by a 30mph sign only 28 yards south of the only Village entrance. Both limits are repeatedly ignored by drivers, putting at considerable risk those vehicles slowing to turn right into the Village and pedestrians trying to cross the road.

It is believed the two limits were set about the time of the Richmond development but consideration cannot have been taken of the massive Windrush Place development of some 1500 homes on the west of Curbridge Road between the two speed limit signs. We understand that making any changes to the speed limits, is a very costly job and involves a long-drawn-out procedure requiring a Traffic Regulation Order through the Legal Team of the County Council and agreement of Thames Valley Police who would require current accident rates. In the meantime, all these new homeowners share the same difficulty and risks as our residents in joining and exiting the Curbridge Road.

Proposal to Moderate Undue Speed

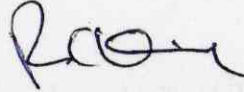
We notice that Vehicle Activated Signs are used in West Oxfordshire with several already installed further south along the A4095. These signs indicate the speed of a passing vehicle by means of illuminated numbers. Although these are not official speed checks, we believe that they are effective in making many drivers slow down and becoming aware that there is residential occupation in the vicinity.

At any one time there are some 300 staff, residents and visitors in this retirement Village. In addition, there are other residential developments in the area, including Spring Meadow adjacent to the same stretch of the A4095. There is currently a planning proposal for a large extension of warehouses in a nearby trading estate; and we are only a few miles from the biggest RAF Station in the country at Brize Norton, with a complement of some 7,000, thus making a big volume of vehicles using neighbouring roads including the A4095.

Application

In view of the above, we ask that a Vehicle Activated Sign be installed on the approach to Witney along the A4095 road near to the bridge over the A40 and that the installation be progressed urgently for the well-being and safety not only of our residents and staff but also of some 2000 or so nearby residents and road users.

We would be pleased to attend any hearing on this matter with due notice, and if we can assist in any negotiations or enquiries, please let us know.



Professor Ronald C King, Chair, Richmond Village Residents' Association Committee
(RAC)

Dr Hilary Eggington, Secretary RAC

Mr James Ruddock-Broyd, Chair, External Issues Sub-Committee, RAC

7 December 2021