

**Committee: Planning, Highways and Transport**

**Date: 6 June 2023**

**Title: Speeding in Sea**

**Purpose of Report**

For Members to reaffirm the council's support for the reduction of the national speed limit to 40mph along the length of the road connecting Ilminster to the A358.

**Recommendation:**

Members to note the report and resolve to support the request for there to be a reduction in the speed limit from 60 mph to 40 mph along the road from Ilminster to Sea.

**Report:**

1. Over the past two years the Members of the Town Council have been approached regarding the ongoing concerns over speeding traffic on the road from the A358 into Ilminster through Sea (the old A3037).
2. At the Planning, Highways and Transport (PHT) meeting on the 3 August 2021 Members of the committee noted the following:

*“As discussed at a previous meeting there have been concerns regarding vehicles speeding through Sea, especially with cars coming around the S bend and being on the wrong side of the road. Whilst the data shows that accidents are declining the members are aware that speeding is still an issue, and they have a duty to support the residents of Sea and help to keep them safe. Donyatt Parish Council have indicated they would welcome a joint approach.”*

3. Residents of Sea have in the past approached the Town Council to enquire if the Speed Indication Device (SID) could be deployed along the road in Sea. Unfortunately, Highways confirmed in a meeting last year with the Town Clerk that they can only be used where there is a speed limit of 40 MPH or less.
4. The police have been asked to confirm if there has been any deployment of the mobile speed team and whilst it was confirmed that they have been there, no statistics have been provided for this.

5. In the most recent communication from the residents of Sea, it has been confirmed that they are looking to introduce a scheme along the lines of that introduced at Kingstone and that they are using the successful implementation of a reduced speed limit there as inspiration to achieve something similar along the old A3037.
6. Cllr McKenzie from Donyatt Parish Council will be attending the meeting on the 6 June to hear if this council will support the efforts to obtain a reduced speed limit. She has stated that Donyatt Parish Council have also stated that they support such an initiative.
7. Both Cllr McKenzie and the Ilminster Town Clerk have been in communication with the Somerset Highways department over the past 18 months and Highways have made it clear that any scheme will need to be financed by the local residents or the parish/town councils should evidence be sufficient to warrant the introduction.
8. Cllr McKenzie has provided photographs of recent incidents that have occurred along this stretch of road in recent weeks. This along with the comments from Somerset Highways have been included in **Appendix 10A**.
9. The police have also been invited to the meeting in order for them to provide any further information. However at the time the report was being prepared there was no confirmation that they would be able to attend.
10. The residents at Sea have set up an on-line petition and this can be found by following the following [LINK](#). Members may wish to allow residents from Sea to collect additional signatures at the Council stand during the upcoming IMEX event.
11. Members have been clear in the past that they support the reduction in the speed limit and that they will support initiatives that may achieve this.
12. As a result Members may wish to resolve to reaffirm the council's support for the reduction of the national speed limit to 40mph along the length of the road connecting Ilminster to the A358.

**Mark Tredwin**  
**Town Clerk**  
**May 2023**