

Stourton with Gasper Parish Council

C55 Kilmington, Warminster Speed Limit Assessment

With increased traffic flows Stourton with Gasper Parish Council has been tackling issues related to Section 3 of the C55 - Stourton Lane for some years. Section 3 includes both blind corners and a single vehicle stretch of the road adjoining local houses. There are key road safety issues as there is no pavement and a crossing for a public footpath. Local residents regularly express concerns due to volume and speed at this key pinch point adjacent to local homes. This matter is a permanent issue of tension within the Parish. The Parish Council would argue that section 3 suits the criteria of local need, road geometry and road environment and warrants a continuation of the proposed 30mph limit in both section 2 & 3.

The section of the C55 that lies within the Stourton Parish includes at least 20 houses adjoining the road itself. This would indicate a Village environment. Wiltshire Council cites Dept. of Transport traffic advisory leaflet 01/04 alone as the reason to not accept a continuity of speed limit in section 3. The Parish Council believes this objection to be misguided as on a site visit 20 houses were counted on the C55 within Stourton Parish. The Parish Council believes that other statutory and material considerations should also be considered. The Parish Council would like to ensure there is consistency in speed limit throughout the residential area of section 2 & 3.

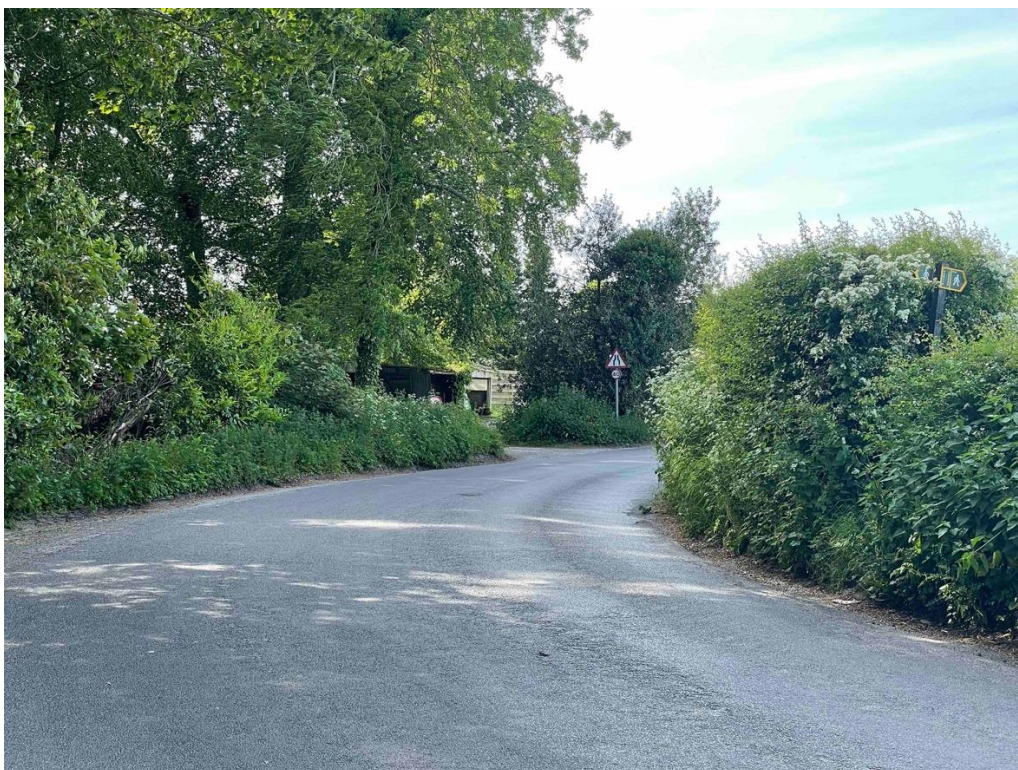
The C55 is a local Route that links two rural Parishes. It has a considerable volume of traffic as it is the direct route to Alfred's Tower on the Stourhead estate where there is a NT Carpark that is used throughout the year and attracts regular tourist visitors and locals alike. The road is also used by many HGV's going to and from local quarries and many farm vehicles.

Section 2 & 3 is also used by cyclists and pedestrians and those on horseback. (There are stables in Kilmington and horse owners throughout the parish.) The C55 is also part of section 3 (Maiden Bradley to Mere) of the Wiltshire Cycleway. The Parish Council would argue that reducing the speed limit to 30mph in Section 2 & 3 would recognise the needs of such vulnerable road users.

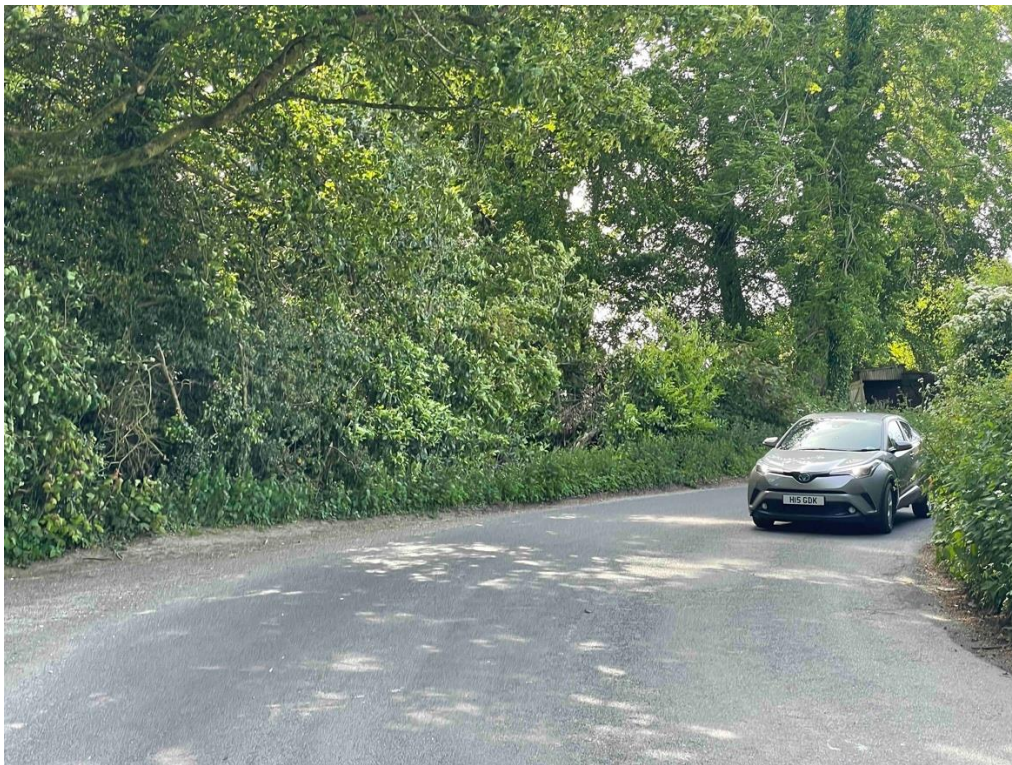
The Parish Council also endorses the policy aim of Wiltshire County Council to provide a "*consistent message between speed limits*" the present recommendation will introduce considerable confusion and variation of speed limits along the length of the C55 which risks contravening existing policy. The Parish Council is prepared to fund its share of costs to include section 3 in this important scheme. The Parish Council supports an approach that will provide consistency for drivers and believes it is essential to consider the impact on community and environmental outcomes across both Parishes.



Pic 1: Approach from B3092 on approach to sharp right hand bend.



Pic 2: Sharp bend with little visibility opposite layby on left. (entrance to Stourhead)
Footpath crossing here for W.C.C public footpath from Stourhead on the left to field on right.



Pic 3: Very little visibility on road at sharp corner



Pic 4: Vehicles travel in centre of road throughout pinch point area.



Pic 5: Impossible for 2 cars to pass



Pic 6: The approach to the pinch point from the opposite direction is hard to see (Note motorbikes with lights on)



Pic 7: The pinch point only allows one car to pass at a time.