

Timeline of known actions to reduce speed limit in AA

At least three efforts have been made to reduce the speed limit around Astley Abbotts/CLH:

2012 – 40mph speed limit at Cross Lane Head. Funding mechanisms for such a change are no longer available.

1990s? (Date unknown) – campaign by residents/PC to introduce reduced speed limit in Astley Abbotts hamlet, including petition to government. Unsuccessful – reason not known.

Early 2023 – resident posted on AA WhatsApp group about the 60mph speed limit through the village. A number of people responded on the Group also expressing a desire to see the limit reduced.

Two councillors contacted the clerk to ensure the topic was placed on the next agenda.

14 March 23 – two members of the public attended to PC to express concern about speeding traffic in AA. Shropshire Councillors promised to arrange a meeting with a Highways engineer.

12 September 23 – A Highways engineer visits Astley Abbotts to take a look at the situation and explain what could be done. Highways consultant has over 35 years' experience in road safety and contracted by Shropshire Council to provide road safety audits. 2 Councillors attended the meeting along with a number of residents.

During the visit Highways engineer outlined that evidence was needed to get the support of the police to be able to progress to the next stage of reducing the speed limit. To date there has been no reports of collisions or injuries in AA so no evidence is available. Highways agreed to set up traffic sensors to analyse traffic speeds and talked through their methodology for placement of the sensors and the reasons for this. It was recommended to capture speeds that could be implemented without also putting in place traffic calming measures. It was explained that such projects are more likely to be approved as easier/cost effective to implement. Councillors and residents accepted this and agreed to walk the village with SRSS to decide on placement of sensors with guidance from SRSS.

Together, the locations of the sensors were decided. A councillor sent a record of the decision to SRSS after checking with others present. (APPENDIX 1).

AAPC agreed to use AAPC funds to pay for the traffic data collection.

7/11/23- 13/11/23 – speed sensors installed at 3 locations.

9/1/24 – speed audit data provided to AAPC.

Location 1: 1741 vehicles recorded both ways.

Mean speed recorded 24mph.

85% speed 31mph.

Location 2: 1331 vehicles recorded both ways.

Mean speed 18mph.

86%ile speed 24mph.

Location 3: 805 vehicles recorded both ways.

Mean speed 21mph.

85%ile speed 25mph.

18/1/24 – email received from SRSS:

Good Morning

Thanks for your mail below regarding the next steps with regard to Astley Abbots following the results of the speed survey

The results indicate that speeds are generally below 30mp which is good news, however as these speeds indicate there is not a speeding issue it is unlikely that a 30mph limit can be justified on the basis of these results which I understand will be disappointing news. With such limited funding I need to concentrate on implementing speed limits around the south of the county where we do have issues or road traffic collision

That is not to say I belittle the need for a speed limit at Astley Abbots its just that I have more pressing concerns which need to be addressed elsewhere and unfortunately my funding does not go very far with such a big area to cover.

Having said that I understand the concerns of the residents in Astley Abbots and maybe we can look some other options other than a speed limit

Such examples could be village gateway signage or other signage particularly where the road narrows these could be enhanced through additional road markings such as SLOW at pertinent points within the village.

To that end I have placed this on my list of potential future schemes where it will have to compete amongst other similar projects to be done on a priority basis. This means that is no guarantees as to when things might get implemented as the list as you can imagine is a long one

In addition you can put these traffic management works in your place plan or fund the works yourself through the parish funds

I am sorry I could not bring you better news and appreciate that you may be disappointed by the outcome but unfortunately my hands are tied.

Regards

xxxxxxxxxxx C Eng, FIHE, FCIHT, FSoRSA Traffic Engineer (South)

12/3/24 – The above email was read out at the PC meeting. Given the data presented and the sentiments in the letter the PC decided it was very difficult to pursue this course of action without evidence of speeding.

A resident complained that residents had been misled by the Traffic Officer regarding placement of the sensors by junctions.

The PC noted that location 1 was on open road and not by a junction. Also, given the qualifications and experience of the officer it was not minded to challenge his experience.

The resident noted he would complain as an individual.

A Shropshire Councillor suggested contacting the West Mercia Speed Monitoring team to see if anything else could be done. This was done and later the following statement was posted on the AA WhatsApp Group:

Astley Abbots Parish Council arranged for speed data to be collected with Shropshire Council who are the highways authority. The average speed across the data monitoring equipment was well below 30mph. This meant a scheme could be devised for the roads, however sadly there are no funds available and the waiting list is 15 years long and therefore the project was not added to that list.

A suggestion to contact West Mercia's Police's speed monitoring team was carried out and they were not interested in taking on a project in the parish. Stating data had already been collected and there was nothing more they could do.

So at this time there is no further action the Astley Abbots Parish Council can take. All it will do and can do is keep an eye out for an opportunity in the future to ask Shropshire Council to reconsider.

An example of timescales to compare is the 20 odd years wait for funding to be found to build a pavement between Cross Lane Head and Bridgnorth. The route is used by both residents of Astley Abbots Parish and Bridgnorth.

The project has been fully funded 4 times in that time only for the funds to be diverted to a more pressing scheme elsewhere on each occasion, in the eyes of the highway team at Shropshire Council. It is hoped this scheme will go ahead with some Government funding connected to active travel routes.

It is disappointing. The Parish Council has been informed the funds required are above £10000.00. To implement the scheme, beyond the Parish Council's means and the Parish Council has no power to implement a speed limit."

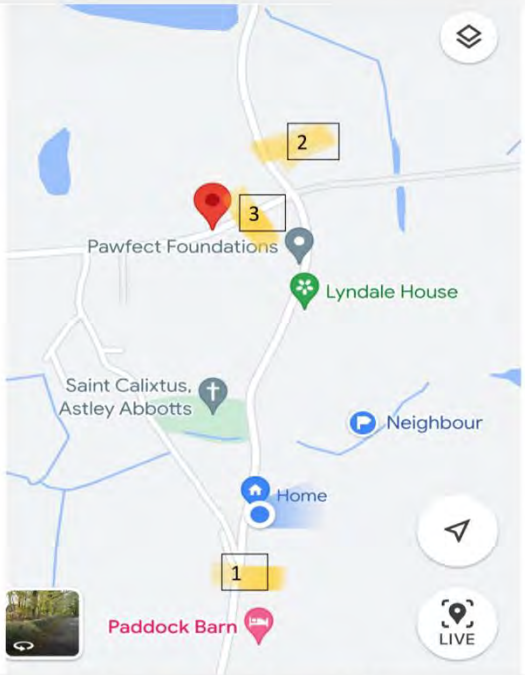
Appendix 1

◀ Mail 13:17 Sun 26 Jul

AA speed data collection 130923

43%

3 data collection strips to be installed as marked in yellow, numbered 1-3



1.
Pole directly before
'Wildwood'
property on
main AA road



2.
Pole at T- junction
with 'School House
Lane' opposite The
Croft residence and
the entrance to
Stanley Hall



3.
First post up from the
t-junction on 'school
house lane'.

