

## CLERKS REPORT – October 2014

### Agenda Items

Agenda Item 8b) Letter from Mr. Spence Gunn, The Hurdles, Water Street, Mere.

#### Traffic management in The Lynch

I attended the Parish Council September meeting and wanted to thank you for your work in monitoring traffic in The Lynch. We have lived, and worked from home, at The Hurdles for 10 years and as the property overlooks the corner of Water Street, Lynch Close and The Lynch, we know something of the situation there.

It is good to hear that average speeds in The Lynch are below 20mph, and I would support the suggestions made at the meeting to introduce a 20mph zone. However, I strongly believe that it is inappropriate to look at The Lynch in isolation and would urge the council, if a 20mph zone is possible, to consider extending it to cover Water St and the adjoining residential cul-de-sacs (The Lynch, Springfield Rd). I am sure the school, and parents whose children play in Lynch Close would appreciate the safety aspects. 30mph is too fast along a narrow road such as Water St where parked cars block a clear view ahead and pavements are narrow.

I was, however, worried by the suggestion made, and apparently agreed for further action, about managing movements of heavy lorries by installing a sign at the Lynch Close junction encouraging lorries to turn round here. As you will appreciate, they would be turning right outside our property causing noise and nuisance and, potentially, damage to parked cars or other property. In any case, in my experience, lorry drivers have so-far needed no further encouragement to turn here and a sign would be a waste of resources. We have had bad damage to a car that was parked in Lynch Close, well away from the junction and apparently caused by a reversing articulated lorry.

You will therefore understand why I'm unhappy about the suggested signage to encourage more of the same. Residents' parked cars in Water St often make it impossible for larger lorries to turn at the junction – they then drive into Lynch Close and turn there, which is hardly fair on those residents either. Finally, although we are not planning to move in the foreseeable future, road signs suggesting the area is blighted by lorries is hardly likely to encourage anyone to move-in!

Leaving it till this part of Water St to control lorries is too late. The problem is not with the majority of small to medium-sized 'fixed chassis' trucks delivering to local properties but with large articulated lorries which have entered Water St 'by mistake' and preventing them from entering The Lynch at one end or Water St at the other should be possible without compromising deliveries to local properties – in the last 10 years I don't remember a single occasion when a neighbour has had a delivery from an intercontinental articulated lorry!

There is already a lorry weight restriction sign at the northern entrance to Water St. This should be all that is required but it is currently ineffective because it is well-hidden and drivers don't see it until they have already entered the street. Surely the most cost effective solution is simply to move that sign onto the lamp post on the traffic island and angle it properly so it can be seen by drivers before they make the turn ?

I would be happy to discuss these issues further with councillors if interested.

Yours Sincerely  
Spence Gunn