

Whitchurch's new speed limit – Letter to the Henley Standard

Dear Sir or Madam

I saw your article on the 'success' of introducing a new 20 mph speed limit along the Whitchurch high street and as we live right on the high street at the fastest point I thought I should write and tell you that it has not made a jot of difference. Traffic still races up and down the street including cyclists at 40 mph or more and will continue to do so until it is restricted in some way.

Drivers from the Whitchurch Hill end having been held up by the chicane at the bottom of the hill, are keen to get going again and traffic from the Toll Bridge and the chicane outside the Ferry Boat Pub are equally keen to get going, regardless of any signs. This high speed driving has accounted for several of our parked cars being written off in the last 5 years.

Having spent a month in the Costa Blanca in January this year I was very impressed by their intelligent use of 'speed bumps' where they control the speed without causing a hazard or inconvenience.

The Spanish have realised that by varying the length of the speed bump they can get the traffic to pass through at the right speed without any discomfort to drivers, passengers or car suspensions.

By making the speed bump several feet long the cars can travel up along and over the bump with hardly any noticeable discomfort even at 40 kmph and they cleverly vary the length of their speed bumps to tie up with the local speed limit.

In the UK we have got used to the standard short speed bumps which have to be negotiated at walking pace to avoid wrecking your suspension. This need not be the case!

The longer the bump the faster the speed possible and drivers soon realise that if they stick to the speed limit they can pass along the road with absolutely no discomfort and without speeding up and slowing down.

There is no need for expensive cameras etc. involving maintenance, posting fines and so on.

Where we were staying in Moraira, and the surrounding villages for miles around we came across these 'bumps' and they were different lengths for 10, 20, 30 and 40 kmph.

Fantastic! So easy and so simple. Please could our road transport departments please look into this asap.

We mentioned speed bumps in the recent Whitchurch survey and were told 'oh no impossible for emergency vehicles' but in fact we already have a speed bump before the toll booth which has been there for years and as it is about 6 ft long nobody really notices it!

David Maynerd

High Street, Whitchurch on Thames, 2nd June 2022