

Swale JTB-8 September 2014 - Paper for item no.5

Dear Councillors

RE SAFETY ON SHEPPEY CROSSING

Please accept my sincere apologies for being unable to attend tonight's meeting, but an urgent family matter has cropped up.

Following the massive pile up last year and the recent tragic accident on the bridge I had many calls from residents to 'do something' I myself travel this route on a daily basis and I do travel at 70 MPH when road conditions permit. But am constantly overtaken by vehicles doing at least 80/90MPH if a car had broken down on the far side of the bridge you would be on it before you could stop.

I believe the first step is to ask the Joint Transport Board to request Kent Highways to pursue options with the Department of Transport.

I do believe that a reduction in speed from before the bridge going towards and from Cowstead Corner (A2500) would make this road much safer. Together with the installation of speed cameras. This option would not cost millions and could save many lives.

We are told that measures have to be evidence based, I would say good examples are the A13 and A2 into London and look at the evidence that reducing the speed limit to 50 MPH brought. There were daily holdups and crashes on these two roads, until the limit was introduced.

Also on the Island the reduction of the speed limit on the B2231 Jenkins Hill has vastly improved safety on what was a black spot for fatal accidents.

I am sure we are all aware of budget cuts but I hope you will support what is potentially and relatively a very small cost to save lives by calling for an immediate lowering of the speed limit on this stretch of the road.

Thank you

ClI Pat Sandle