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## Traffic in the Wychwoods Progress on Traffic Calming

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When I first looked into the Shipton Parish Council filing cabinet, there was a very fat file marked Traffic Calming. The correspondence goes back a long way and many of the attempts to improve measures, such as the hatching on the A361, the extension of the 40 mph limit on Station Road, the dragon's teeth marking by the bridge and on Leaffield Road, have become part of the scenery. The Parish Council has been pressing the County Council to introduce more effective and modern methods of reducing vehicle speed through the centre of the village for the past four years.

### New Measures

The two main elements have been the introduction of speed reactive signs and construction of a pedestrian crossing on the High Street. Councillor Malcolm Cochrane has maintained the pressure with a series of reports and letters to the many County Council officers and elected representatives who need to be convinced, and it now looks like these efforts have paid off. The Parish Council has had the first confirmation that a

pedestrian refuge near Bradleys, will be authorised for construction in the summer of 2005. It also seems likely that the erection of one speed reactive sign, near Station Road Garage will be funded by the County Council and, with a contribution from the Parish Council, a second sign on the south side of the village is a possibility.

### Balancing Act

The concerns expressed by local residents at Annual Parish Meetings and through the Wychwood Magazine, have helped the case. By next year we should have the new measures in place. The A361 is part of the A road network and the increase in the number of lorries is a problem for all towns and villages on such routes. All of us depend on road freight in some way, particularly local businesses, and it will be a constant balancing act to try to preserve the quality of life in rural areas against the rising tide of heavy traffic – but we have made a start. I suspect that the file will get even fatter.

**Alice Burns, Clerk to the Parish Council.**

## Traffic Survey

For three mornings in September, between 6am and 8am, we monitored traffic speed and noise nuisance on the A361 between The Shaven Crown and The Red Horse. On one of these mornings, we were with Tony Cradock from Oxfordshire County Council together with his 'Smiley' reactive speed sign. The volume of traffic builds up substantially during this two-hour period although the first regular HGVs generally come through the village before 5am. Around 5% of the vehicles were excessively speeding and this is aggravated by the additional noise from speeding HGVs going over loose manhole covers. It was noticeable that many vehicles immediately slowed down when they saw either the flash of the camera or the 'Smiley' speed sign. It's clear that a number of drivers need reminding of the speed limits. **Mike Watson**