



## Backwell Bow speed limit

1 message

Backwell Parish Clerk <clerk@backwell-pc.gov.uk>

2 February 2024 at 12:21

Dear Cllrs,

Please see email exchange between a resident and NSC regarding the Backwell Bow Speed limit, that has been sent to us by Geoff Wells, BRA.

The resident's personal information has been redacted.

This item will be added to the Agenda for the Full Council meeting 7th March.

Kind regards

Lisa

"To: Backwell Parish Council  
From BRA

BRA thinks you should be aware of quite a long string of exchanges between XXXX , resident in Backwell Bow, and NSC. (I believe I have been included in the exchanges as the sender of BRA bulletins)

This is for information.

Geoff Wells"

"From: XXXX

To: traffic.orders <traffic.orders@n-somerset.gov.uk>; Bridget Petty (Councillor) <bridget.petty@n-somerset.gov.uk>; XXXX

Sent: Wednesday, 31 January 2024 at 16:16:26 GMT

Subject: Re: Backwell Bow speed limit

Thank you for your response however as a resident directly affected by the proposed decision we feel it is dismissive & unacceptable for you not to consider this.

Your point around consistency is blurred. Using the U.K. is inappropriate as we NSC have implemented similar road speed changes in the local area where we believe this sets a precedent.

Your point about Backwell Bow being outside of the village catchment is subjective & not legally correct. The address is clearly within Backwell a village which extends to Backwell Common and is listed as such on the U.K. Gov website.

Re your point that an on-site visit & evaluation was completed. Please can you confirm when this was done and the times it was undertaken. Also, detail of the results / volume of traffic & speed recorded

For NSC to be so dismissive of the actual homes that are the only properties that are affected by the proposal is ludicrous & absurd. In addition, the community that use this road are also being dismissed. Factually where you propose to make the change is directly along the road & outside of the properties located on Backwell Bow & up to the current 30MPH by the railway bridge up to Chapel Hill and which is 20MPH.

You have missed my point re the current speed consistency. There are at least as many homes on Backwell Bow up to Chapel Hill as there are on the end of lodge lane where it meets the Bow House where the current 60MPH

starts.

If NSC have not actually driven on this road we urge them to do so. It is unsafe to drive at 60 or 40 given the narrowness of this village lane.

Regarding a meeting it is sad that NSC can hide behind your emails rather than have a direct dialogue & discussion with the very people they are alleged to represent.

We look forward to your review & response."

"From: traffic.orders <traffic.orders@n-somerset.gov.uk>  
Sent: Wednesday, January 31, 2024 11:20 am  
To: XXXX  
Cc: Bridget Petty (Councillor) <Bridget.Petty@n-somerset.gov.uk>; XXXX  
Subject: RE: Backwell Bow speed limit

Dear XXXX

Thank you for your emails.

I can confirm that site visits and surveys were conducted by the designers during the development of the scheme. The brief of the proposal was to remove the existing National Speed limit on the lanes and implement a 40mph speed limit zone to assist in creating a better environment for all vulnerable roads users around these lanes, as part of the scheme there are no measures being proposed directly outside anyone's property, therefore it was not necessary to make direct contact with residents that live on the roads.

As you mention, Backwell Bow is frequently used by vulnerable road users as it forms part of The Festival Way cycle route. This is the main justification for proposing to reduce the speed limit from 60mph to 40mph.

You are correct that speed limits are based off guidance instead of legislation; however, North Somerset Council being a responsible Council, would have to justify why a road or section of road is exempt from the guidance compared of other similar road layouts throughout the district and country. In this case there are no significant external factors or supporting evidence to justify deferring from guidance.

Despite the current guidance documents being approximately 10 years old, it doesn't mean they are outdated and should be ignored, North Somerset Council must follow the current guidance to the best of our ability.

Although Backwell Bow is part of the Backwell Parish catchment, it is not in the built-up area of Backwell and would not be considered as part of the village environment with regard to speed limits. The 20mph speed limits is our own policy, and North Somerset Council must remain consistent with it.

Regarding the introduction of a weight limit, as previously stated, this would be outside of the scope of these works. If you and other residents feel that a limit should be introduced, you should raise this with the Parish Council. If the Parish Council agree with your concerns, they can raise it with us as a potential scheme. It will then go through our scheme pipeline to see if it meets criteria in line with our priorities and policies before making it onto our Integrated Transport Programme. We would expect the Parish Council to do some monitoring to justify their reasoning for requesting a restriction.

We do fully understand the road use and consider that we have responded to all the points you have raised. Because of these reasons and that we consider that we should follow government guidance, unfortunately we do not feel that a face to face meeting will be beneficial to either of us.

If you are still not satisfied, you may wish to follow the Council's complaints procedure at the following link:  
[Complaints about council services | North Somerset Council \(n-somerset.gov.uk\)](#)

I am sorry I am unable to help further in this matter.

Many thanks

Lauren Dean

Technical Support Officer

Neighbourhood Traffic & Road Safety Engineering  
Place Directorate  
North Somerset Council"

"From: XXXX

Sent: Friday, January 19, 2024 8:42 AM

To: traffic.orders <traffic.orders@n-somerset.gov.uk>

Cc: Bridget Petty (Councillor) <Bridget.Petty@n-somerset.gov.uk>; XXXX

Further to our correspondence with you see attached.

One key point for councils' consideration is that this road is the main road for the national cycle way to Long Ashton & Bristol. Route 33 - Sustrans.org.uk

It is a very well used road by commuters cycling to work every day.

Therefore, as part of council's green active travel plan this should be a major consideration as part of any decision. *Green light for active travel* | North Somerset Council (n-somerset.gov.uk)

We feel this supports our view that the road should have the same & consistent speed limit a minimum 30MPH. In the interests of safety to cyclists & walkers.

Many thanks."

