

Lifton Parish Road Safety Plan

Objectives - To ensure safer roads for road users and pedestrians living or visiting Lifton, Tinhay and Liftondown (the 'three communities').

Encourage Active Travel to reduce traffic volumes and air pollution.

Aims - To introduce greater speed awareness and compliance by all drivers.

To increase safety measures for pedestrians.

To reduce air pollution.

Lifton Parish falls within the Borough of West Devon and with a population of 1200, plays an important role as a local centre for jobs and services. The Ambrosia Creamery and Mole Valley factories are situated in Tinhay along with a number of other businesses. The village shop and post office are in Fore Street and the Strawberry Fields farm shop is at the western end of the village and is a popular visitor destination.

Lifton Parish Council recognises the value these businesses add to our local economy and provide much needed local employment.

Prior to 1993, when the A30 trunk road was completed, the A30 ran through the centre of Lifton and its adjoining communities of Tinhay and Liftondown. The A30 bypass brought much needed relief to these communities, but, over the years, there has been a significant increase in traffic year-on-year including HGVs accessing the employment sites in Tinhay and other important businesses along the route of the old A30.

The population of the community has increased over time, in addition, due to the success of our local primary school and doctors surgery, school children and patients attend these facilities from neighbouring communities, which has resulted in added pressure on our road infrastructure, including traffic congestion in North Road during peak periods.

Lifton Parish Council recognise and welcome the sustainable nature of our thriving community and wish to take positive steps to mitigate the impacts of increasing traffic movements for the safety of all road users.

Lifton Parish Council has been very aware of resident concerns over the years and has implemented measures locally in an effort to reduce traffic speeds.

In 2014, Lifton Parish Council purchased two Vehicle Active Signs (VAS) which are deployed on a rotation basis around the three communities.

A Community Speedwatch group was formed in 2021, and has been active since then. A list of current sites is attached.

These local measures do make a difference, but with an increasing trend of vehicle activity combined with the impacts of a new housing development in Fore Street, which will result in 120 new dwellings, Lifton Parish Council now wish to implement additional speed reduction measures across the three communities.

The following proposal was agreed by Lifton Parish Council at its meeting held on 28th September 2023, with a recommendation it be submitted for consideration to DCC Highways, the responsible authority, along with a copy sent to Devon County Councillor Lois Samuel.

Lifton Parish Council proposal:

Reduce the current 30mph speed limit to 20mph in the areas identified in red on the attached maps, for the following reasons:

Fore Street/New Road – The centre of the village and the highest level of pedestrian footfall in the area. High volumes of traffic and air pollution are experienced during the period 8.00am to 6.00pm, from private cars, HGVs and large agricultural vehicles. The 20mph limit to start on the western side of the Wain Homes development site and extends to the east of the property known as St. Marys in New Road. This will include the New Road school entrance drop-off/pick-up area.

Darkey Lane – A narrow single carriageway popular with pedestrians and cyclists. The road is frequently used by parents during the school run and visitors to the doctors surgery in North Road. Excessive speeds represent a real and significant danger for pedestrians and cyclists in this area.

North Road – A narrow road bordered by houses from its junction with Fore Street, leading to the school and doctors surgery. Traffic congestion is experienced at peak school times combined with surgery visits. Speeding and inappropriate parking are almost daily safety concerns for residents living in this area.

Old Tinhay – A popular pedestrian and cycle route. Sharp bends and inappropriate vehicle speeds increase the risk of using this road.

Leat Road – A narrow single carriageway road used by residents walking and cycling to the QE11 Recreation Ground. The road also serves a number of outlying farms resulting in frequent HGV and agricultural vehicle movements.

The stretch of Leat Road from its junction with Station Road to Colmans Cross is used by schoolchildren walking to Colmans to catch the school bus to Tavistock. The route takes them past the entrance to the busy Ambrosia Creamery with frequent HGV movements and over a narrow bridge. The risk is exacerbated during the dark mornings/evenings of the winter months.

Tinhay – A number of significant businesses are located in Tinhay, which results in frequent lorry/van movements and in some cases, emerging from sites with restricted visibility. Air pollution is a concern in this area.

Liftdown (back road not the A388/front road) – A narrow road bordered by dwellings on both sides and a popular pedestrian and cycling route. Inappropriate vehicle speeds represent a danger for residents leaving their property by car or on foot.

Recognising the cost implications, Lifton Parish Council will consider covering the cost of the Traffic Order required to implement the proposed changes; and

Purchase a further mobile VAS for deployment at identified sites across the three communities.

Request DCC to install 'Wig Wag' lights on either side of the school entrance in New Road.

Lifton Parish Council will undertake a resident consultation to establish the views of the three communities affected by these proposals.

Request the Police, copied to the Police Commissioner, to increase speed monitoring and enforcement action across the three communities.

The following road safety measures were considered but not pursued:

Speed bumps – increased vehicle noise and cost implications.

Weight restrictions – Previous requests declined by DCC Highways. Lifton Parish Council to ask residents if they would support the proposal for a weight restriction for vehicles on Fore Street.

Village entry gates/chicanes – Impractical due to high level of heavy transport and cost, previous requests declined.

One-way systems – Likelihood of increased vehicle speeds and high cost of traffic order.

Lifton Parish Council firmly believe that making our roads safer and air cleaner will encourage residents and visitors to leave their car at home to undertake more journeys by walking and cycling. We therefore urge you to approve our Road Safety Plan to help us to achieve our objectives.