

TRAFFIC CONDITIONS IN BAMBURGH

Over recent weeks, as well as parking, residents have commented on vehicles speeding through the village. It has been suggested that such excessive speed is caused by, or is exacerbated by, roads being clear of parked cars because of the additional double yellow lines.

We need to be absolutely clear; there is only one thing responsible for a vehicle's speed and that is the driver. For the driver's speed to be controlled, it is important to have effective "traffic calming" measures in place.

During the course of the Streetscape process, two specific measures were suggested to achieve this:

Signs which light up and indicate the vehicle's speed to the driver.

These are recognised as being relatively low cost although very effective in reducing incidences of speeding.



Raised safety platforms

These are sections of road where the surface is raised by around 12 centimetres. The sections are long enough to include the whole wheel base of vehicles (except for the longer lorries and articulated vehicles). The ramps leading to and from the raised section are relatively gentle and so while they make the driver aware that the vehicle is being "elevated", they do not deliver the "trauma" experienced when a vehicle goes over a speed bump.

As well as helping to moderate the speed of drivers, the raised platforms also provide a useful and very visible opportunity to locate a pedestrian crossing.

Please see the images below.

Raised platforms are used extensively in Europe (e.g. on main routes through French villages) and in the USA and Australia.



Image courtesy @RantyHighwayman



Raised platform with pedestrian crossing

The raised platform would have been used on Church Street and would probably have included a pedestrian crossing. In the consultation which took place in April 2017, 72.5% of responses were in favour of this.

However, as Streetscape progressed both these measures, illuminated speed signs and the raised platform, were withdrawn. The primary reason for this was that certain agencies felt that these measures, and their associated signage, were inconsistent with the heritage and historical aspect of the village.

Please consider the following 'manufactured' images:





Please note that these images are illustrative. It is NOT being suggested that this number of speed notification signs would be deployed.

The Parish Council would be interested to know if the residents of Bamburgh:

- consider such speed warning signs to be intrusive
- whether they feel they are inconsistent with the heritage and historical aspect of the village
- what other traffic / speed calming measures they would like to see considered for the village; for example, chicanes on the approach roads to the village.

We welcome any comments from our community.

Please can they be addressed to bamburghcouncil@gmail.com.

Traffic will be an agenda item at the next parish council meeting next Tuesday 14th May at 6.30pm in the Pavilion.

All welcome.