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To: *Sarah Gilmour – Worcestershire Highways Dept*
Richard Clewer – Worcestershire Highways Dept

CC: *Sue Everest – Network Control Manager - Worcestershire Highways Dept*
John Hobbs – Director of Economy and Infrastructure
Alan Amos – Cabinet Member responsible for Highways
Karen May – County Councillor (Clent Hills Division)
Chris Allen-Jones – District Councillor (Belbroughton & Romsley Ward)
Sajid Javid – Member of Parliament (Bromsgrove)
Rod Lake – West Mercia Police
David Perridge – West Mercia Police

Dear Sarah and Richard,

I am writing to you following the meeting we held on Wednesday 19th July in which we discussed the safety problems on the roads of Romsley and potential solutions to them.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your time as I found this session particularly informative about the options for improving the safety of the roads in Romsley. In summary;

- There was recognition that any effective solution must involve a combination of education, engineering and enforcement and that all parties will work collaboratively to achieve the best outcome.
- There was a consensus that the safety issues on the Romsley's roads are complicated, involve the interaction of several roads and will require several integrated and coordinated solutions to reduce the overall risk level.
- A critical first step is detailed traffic surveying for speed and volume. These traffic surveys will take place in September once the children have returned to school and will involve surveying of traffic on Dark Lane, St Kenelms road, Day House Bank, as well as, on the Bromsgrove road. These survey results and any resultant solutions will be shared and discussed with the Parish Council and other relevant bodies.
- I described the widespread concern amongst residents about the safety of the roads in the Parish, with many holding the belief that insufficient action has been taken in response to the many previous accidents that have occurred. The Parish Council have taken measures within the limits of its mandate, which includes the removal of the brick planter opposite the Sun Public House, the distribution to all households of educational materials and the installation of traffic calming signs. However, the community is now looking for a step change in action from the County Council Highways Department.
- The County Council is facing significant financial pressures, and any solutions must achieve an appropriate balance between risk reduction and best value. As the Highway Authority, the primary funding for any solution will sit with Worcestershire CC. However, once a set of solutions acceptable to WCC has been agreed, we will work together to secure additional funding such as grants from development money, contributions from the private sector and contributions from the Parish Councils own limited budgets.

During the meeting, we explored a number of the possible engineering solutions that could be introduced which I have listed below. However, it was recognised that these solutions were neither exclusive or binding and that any chosen solutions would be dependent on the results of surveys, subsequent analysis and scheme design work.

- The rectification of existing signage defects and improvements to position and quantity of 30MPH and hazard warning signage across the parish, as well as an accident information/frequency board.
- Possible changes to the length and start and finish points of the 30mph zone.
- Improved village boundary demarcation through the use of fences, signage, road markings and road layout.
- The possible introduction of a 20mph zone in front of St Kenelm's School.
- The installation and cost of an appropriate pedestrian crossing in front of the School.
- Review of parking section in front of School to improve passing, reduce congestion and enhance safety.
- The installation of appropriate bollards to prevent pavement mounting around the School.
- Changes on St Kenelm's road (between its junction with the Bromsgrove road to the entrance to Kenelm Court) to improve safety by enhancing width, visibility and parking provision.
- A 30 mph speed limit on day house bank.
- Hard standing at agreed places with Police for use by mobile camera units.
- The use of ANPR electronic speed indicating signs (that display vehicle registration) on Bromsgrove road, St Kenelm's road and Day House Bank.
- The benefits of installing an average speed camera (ASC) solution at the entry point to the Parish (however, it was recognised that Worcestershire might lack the capability to administer this solution).

Once again let me take this opportunity to thank you for your time, and I look forward to working with yourselves and the wider County Highways Department to resolve the many safety issues we face on our Parishes roads.

To ensure progress is maintained, I would like to meet again at the end of September to review the results of the traffic surveys and agree on next steps. I also feel it would also be valuable to invite the appropriate Police representative as well as our County Councillor to this meeting. I will ask our Council Clerk to make the necessary arrangements.

Kind Regards,



Richard Arrowsmith,
Romsley Parish Council Chairperson.