

AVERAGE SPEED CAMERAS

Presentment by Gilly Jones, on behalf of the New Forest Roads Awareness Facebook Page

Good Morning, Official Verderer, Verderers.

In light of the high death toll involving Forest Stock in December 2020, I would like the Verderers to help lobby the Police and Crime Commissioner to look again at the feasibility of getting average speed cameras (ASC) sited on the B3078 Roger Penny Way.

3 donkeys, 2 sheep and 4 ponies died in just over 3 weeks on this road. The early half of 2020, with lockdown did make a huge difference in accident numbers, and I'm sure that, without these 3 incidents, the numbers for 2020 would have been an improvement on previous years. But each animal death is a loss to the Forest and the Commoner.

I think we would all agree that this was a shocking month, the likes of which, we never want to see again. ASC may not be the total answer, but I'm sure they would help reduce the speeds some people travel that road at. They may also help to remind people that animals are on the roads, and stock have the right of way.

I do find it saddening that there is still a huge lack of knowledge by the public that these animals are owned, There is so much work going on to prevent animal accidents, but that runs double handed with the 'No Petting or Feeding' Messages. How we solve this problem, is for another day.

As part of New Forest Roads Awareness Facebook Page, and working with Hampshire Police on Community Speed Watch (CSW) I know and have seen that static cameras would not work. We all know, and have probably all done ourselves, People tend to slow down for a static camera, then speed up again. Drivers who have passed a device, including the camera van, have a habit of flashing oncoming drivers too.

I have started a petition asking for NFDC to support the idea of revisiting the feasibility of the cameras, and this has been signed by hundreds who live in the area.

With the increased house building in and around the Forest, we have to look at this now, with, I'm sure, the view that we may have to extend the scheme to all four main routes. This is a cheaper, easier and far less damaging way to go, rather than fencing.

We have to consider that, with the amount of traffic that uses the Roger Penny Way, it is now an A road in all but name. At one 8am to 9 am CSW we counted over 660 cars going one way in an hour.

I would like to thank the Verderers, office staff and of course, the Agisters for the huge amount of great work they do, and I wish the public would understand that these issues are under constant review.

In conclusion, I know I am preaching to the converted, but I hope you will respond favourably to my request for the lobbying of the PCC. If any of you would like to talk to me about this my contact details have been included.