Roads and Speeds

Introduction

The village roads are lined with houses, and the way that the road is used and perceived is central to the well-being of residents. 73% of respondents to the 2012 Parish plan questionnaire raised the issue of speeding, many giving the view that a speed limit of 30mph is too fast. Residents also commented on car parking, complaining of blocking of pedestrian footways and parking on blind corners. Since then a number of initiatives have been implemented. This year's speed survey (below) allows an assessment of the success of those initiatives.

Signs

Two new village roadsigns have been erected at the village entrances, with the message "a community speedwatch village". With the support of Gloucestershire Road Safety partnership, there has been a 20 is plenty campaign. You will be aware of signs and wheelie bin stickers with the message "20 is plenty".
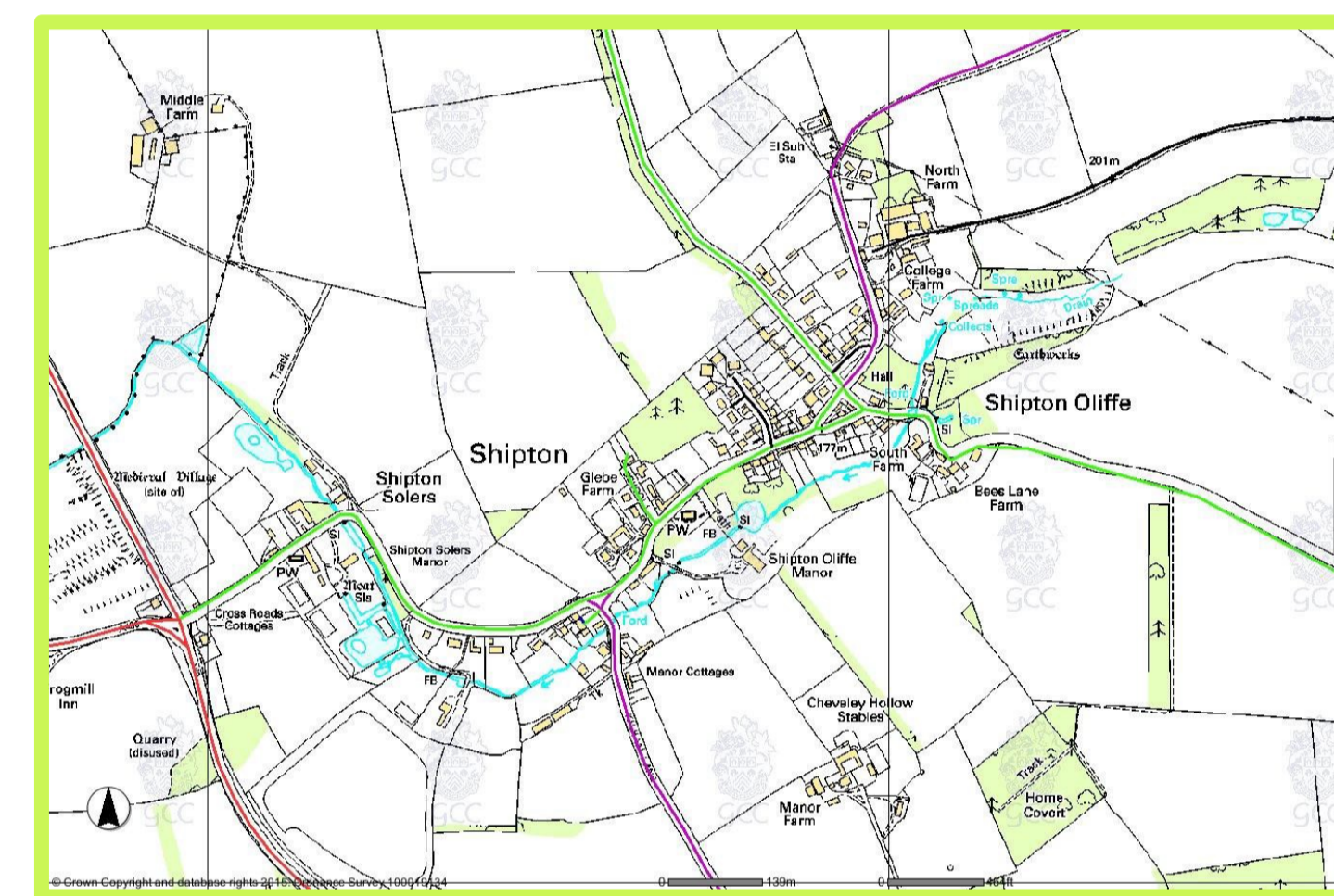

Speedwatch

What is it? Speedwatch is a community scheme supported by the police and Gloucestershire County Council. During the past 5 years, over 200 Gloucestershire community groups have made use of hand held radar speed detection guns. In Shipton, 6 volunteers have trained, and twice per year there have been speedwatch weeks, where the volunteers measure vehicle speeds. It is primarily intended to raise awareness, though has the power to ask the police to take action against those persistently breaking the law.

Speed Survey (Sept 2015)

Site	Vehicles (per 24 hours)	Number per day (%) over given speed	Number (%) over given speed during fastest hour (time)	Average Speed over 24 hours
Syreford Road	367	55 (15%) over 30mph	2 (5%) over 39mph (10pm)	25.1
Shipton Road	440	66 (15%) over 29mph	2 (5%) over 39mph (10pm)	24.4
Church Row	387	58 (15%) over 26mph	11 (5%) over 31mph (5pm)	21.6

Shipton's survey is consistent with national research identifying three types of drivers:
Compliant drivers who observe speed limits (52%)
Moderate speeders who occasionally exceed speed limits (33%)
Excessive speeders who routinely exceed speed limits (14%)

Parking on the road or pavements?

The number of cars per household is increasing (see table, from census data, right). Parking a vehicle on the pavement can lead to an offence of obstruction, resulting in a fixed penalty notice issued to offending vehicles. It can also cause danger/nuisance for pedestrians and wheelchairs users. Police advice is that there should be adequate space on the pavement for a pram or wheelchair to pass.

Potholes and Road damage

Potholes and other damage to roads and pavements are caused by many factors including number of vehicles, their weight and their speed.
Gloucestershire Highways are aware of the need to repair potholes, but they need to be alerted to them.
They can be reported by email: http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/potholes or by phone: 01452 425000

	2001	2011
Number of Households in Shipton	132	155
Households with no cars or vans	5	4
Households with one car or van	45	48
Households with two cars or vans	58	64
Households with three cars or vans	17	22
Households with four or more cars or vans	7	17

Why is 20 plenty?

It maintains the community by encouraging people to walk, ride, run and play in a safe environment.
It improves safety for people and animals. The chance of a pedestrian being seriously injured or killed if struck by a car is 45% at 30 mph, but 5% at 20 mph. Data from seventy-two new 20 mph zones found that road accidents in the zones fell by 61%. Pedestrian accidents were down by 63%, cyclist accidents down by 29% and child accidents by 67%.
It reduces damage to village features.
It only takes 1 minute longer to travel the length of the village at 20mph.

Ice and snow

Shipton is prone to snow and icy roads. There are grit bins at hazardous points. It is the responsibility of the driver or pedestrian to spread the grit and avoid accidents.

Conclusions

Speeding remains a problem despite speedwatch, 20-plenty and entrance signs and more parked cars. What do you think?
What else can the parish council do? What else should the parish council do? What can individuals do?

1. 20 mph speed limit (Estimated cost >£25000)
2. Encourage legal parking, off-pavement and on-road, to provide physical barriers to speeding
3. Install physical barriers such as narrowed road sections
4. Purchase and install Vehicle Activated Speed signs (eg flashing at every vehicle driving above speed limit)
5. More signs and more speedwatch campaigns
6. Request regular police speed checks or install speed cameras. A hidden 24 hour speed camera would, for example, "catch" 55 speeding vehicles on Syreford Road, and 66 on Shipton Road within 24 hours
7. Do nothing and hope for the best