

WENDRON PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of a Public Meeting held on Friday, August 27, 2010 at 7:00pm in Edgcumbe Methodist Chapel to consider concerns about Road Safety on the A394 as it passes through Rame and Edgcumbe.

Present:

Cllr Mrs Carol Lay (Chairman Wendron Parish Council), Mr George Eustice MP, Mr Andy James (CC Highways Regional Engineer), PC Mark Leath (Police Road Casualty Reduction Officer), PC Alan Read (Speed Camera Partnership), CCllr Mike Clayton and approximately forty members of the public.

The Chairman, Cllr Mrs Carol Lay, welcomed everyone present and stated that, although it would be unreasonable to expect definitive answers to the problems of road safety on the A394 as it passes through Rame and Edgcumbe, she hoped that by the end of the evening residents would have received a firm commitment to a rigorous investigation of all the available options.

She then presented members of the panel and invited them to introduce themselves, which they did.

It was noted with considerable disappointment that CCllr Graeme Hicks (Cornwall Council's Portfolio Holder for Transport and Highways) had declined an invitation to attend the meeting.

Concern was expressed that not all the households in Rame and Edgcumbe had been made aware of the meeting, an omission for which the Chairman apologised. Residents present then outlined the problems they experience using the A394 and the incidents they see on a daily basis and, where possible, members of the panel addressed them. A considerable number of points were noted, including the following

- a meeting at which the same problems had been expressed had been held in 1986: nothing had since come of that meeting
- a roundabout should be built at Rame to present a physical barrier to speeding motorists
- a footpath should be constructed on the southern side of the road between the bus shelter and the island outside the post office
- there should be an island in the centre of the road opposite the bus stop at the eastern end of Rame to allow people to cross the road in comparative safety
- a box junction should be constructed at Lestraines Lane
- the present speed restrictions are inadequate
- a flashing sign similar to that sited in Trewennack is required
- CCllr Clayton is willing to use his Highways allowance to purchase such signs
- subject only to cost, Wendron Parish Council has indicated its agreement to purchase the necessary infrastructure for these signs
- there are a number of regular offenders who speed along the A394
- cars regularly pass through Rame and on to Herniss at speeds exceeding 70mph
- vehicles frequently use the carriageway on the other side of the traffic islands to overtake
- for this reason, the centre of the road is not a safe place to wait to cross the opposite carriageway
- a pedestrian crossing should be introduced
- a Speed Visor recently sited at Rame had been in the wrong place
- a discrete speed recording box will be deployed at points to be decided by residents
- although Central Government has cut the speed camera grant this does not mean that speed cameras have been abolished
- the 50mph sign at the top of Retanna Hill is in the wrong place

- the police have lost control of the A394
- unmarked police cars should target the A394
- in the last month there have been five police operations in Rame which have targeted speeding vehicles: 60 motorists have received 'education' and 10 tickets have been issued
- police operations targeting the inappropriate use of speed take place at all times of the day and night
- all complaints received through the official channels will be addressed by the Police
- educating errant motorists who are caught breaking the speed limit does not address the problem of those who are not caught
- the 2011 Speed Limit review will recommend a 30mph limit through Rame
- the same review recommends retention of the existing 50mph limit through Edgcumbe
- an opportunity to alter the latter recommendation exists at the consultation stage
- a well-argued comment will have an effect on the 2011 Speed Limit review
- no money is available to implement the recommendations of the 2011 Speed Limit review
- there have been more accidents at Edgcumbe than at Rame
- the road is safe: the way people drive is not
- the Community Speed Watch scheme (which allows members of the public to use hand-held speed guns), although subject to budgetary constraints, will be reintroduced in September
- many of those present are willing to be part of a Community Speed Watch team
- budgets are irrelevant: peoples' lives are at risk.

Matters which will be taken forward

1. A discrete box to record vehicle speeds will be sited at locations to be indicated by Cllr Mitchell in both Rame and Edgcumbe.
2. The legalities of positioning repeating 40mph signs will be investigated.
3. The possibility of creating refuge islands in the centre of the road opposite the bus shelters at the eastern end of Rame and in Edgcumbe will be investigated.
4. A petition seeking a reduction in the speed limit through Edgcumbe to 40mph which will form part of the Parish Council's response to the 2011 Speed Limit Review will be organised.
5. Flashing warning signs will be sited beside both carriageways in Rame.
6. Residents from both Rame and Edgcumbe will run a Community Speed Watch team.