

Having previously received correspondence from you in March and June (Case ref: TT69267) this year in relation to speeding issues in The Ridgeway, I am fully aware of the conflict the 20mph zone is causing between residents and motorists travelling between Shipbourne Road and Hadlow Road.

The 20mph zone was introduced by KCC, and, the roads that it applies to are supposed to self-police themselves to a degree; the width of the carriageway, layout, structural surroundings, on street parking etc were supposed assist with reducing the speed of vehicles using the roads. However, in the case of The Ridgeway this does not apply as it is a wide, straight road with good visibility.

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As I mentioned in my letter dated 28/06/23, a Speedwatch group would assist with collating information and data for Speedwatch to pass back to KCC and other relevant agencies and it appears that this idea has gained traction and a group is being put together. PC Burns, who is the local Beat Officer, has carried out speed checks along The Ridgeway on several occasions and, surprisingly, found that the majority of people that were stopped for speeding were local residents – not something that was expected considering those who have raised the concerns. However, both these interventions are only temporary deterrents for motorists who choose to ignore speed limits. I understand that a small amount of data from speed checks has been passed back to KCC by Alan Watson, Speedwatch Manager, which supports the idea that there is a speeding issue on The Ridgeway, but, I understand that further data will be required before they consider further action. As this is currently a 20mph zone, the signage is only at the start and end points, whereas a limit will have repeater signs – initially, it could be that Highways can install further signage. It is also worth noting that Pembury Road and Quarry Hill Road that were included in the town wide 20mph zones have now reverted back to 30mph.

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