

MELMERBY PARISH COUNCIL

Summary of the Public Meeting hosted by Melmerby Parish Council held on Tuesday 15th February 2022, at Melmerby Village Hall.

Present:

Parish Councillors:	Ruth Beaumont (Chair), David Bardsley, Chris Jones, Marjorie Jones (Vice-Chair)
Guest:	PC Norman Black
Officers:	Lisa Beken (Clerk)

Twenty-six members of the public were also present.

1. **Introduction by Chair:** Councillor Beaumont welcomed everyone to the meeting, and introduced PC Norman Black, who is Chair of the Local CRASH Meeting (Casualty Reduction and Safer Highways) for Eden and North Cumbria.
2. **Open Forum:** PC Black introduced himself, and explained the role of the CRASH Meeting, which brings together Police, Fire, Ambulance, Highways agencies and Councils. He explained that the Meeting works in four areas; serious incident prevention, community concerns, education and working with the Police and Crime Commissioner. He confirmed that there had been no recent collision issues within Melmerby Parish itself. He also confirmed that the CRASH team had agreed to situate a mobile SIDs (Speed Indicator Device) in the village. These are used on a rotating basis, normally for a period of two weeks. Highways had agreed to situate a pole to accommodate the device, and this should be installed in the Spring. He also confirmed that speed monitoring had been conducted during the Appleby Horse Fair, through the centre of the village for a period of 30 days. This recorded average speed at 24.8mph.

Throughout the meeting residents raised a variety of issues and concerns.

- a. Previous speed monitoring, conducted just prior to covid-19, had recorded average speeds of 34mph. Concerns were expressed that monitoring during the Appleby Fair did not give an accurate picture, as vehicles were forced to slow down due to the number of parked vehicles, and increase in pedestrians. It was also pointed out that average speed over a whole week did not accurately reflect the issue, as occurrences tended to be concentrated to specific times, particularly the weekend.
- b. It was felt that there were two distinct issues, that of excessive speeding and of noise pollution. The latter in particular occurred at specific times, including Sunday mornings and bank holiday weekends. PC Black that tickets can be issued for non-standard exhausts, and that an operation to combat this had previously been conducted in Melmerby in 2019, at the Easter weekend. A request was made to repeat this, which PC Black agreed to consider, as well as arranging operations on Sunday mornings,
- c. Residents felt that the biggest issue with speeding and dangerous driving was vehicles entering and exiting the village on the A686 towards Hartside, rather than directly through the village itself. PC Black explained that there were safety issues with speed monitoring at that point. A resident offered to allow the police van to park on a field entrance, to which PC Black agreed.
- d. Following a request, PC Black agreed to install speed monitoring strips on the A686 towards Hartside for a period of one month.
- e. Concerns were raised over aggression from drivers if confronted by residents over safety concerns. PC Black informed the meeting that camera footage could be used to prosecute individuals, both for driving and other offenses, and that this could be submitted online. Vehicle number plates need to be visible in any footage. PC Black also stated that footage showing use of mobile phones whilst driving could also be submitted.
- f. Concerns were raised that a new café at Hartside would increase issues and vehicle numbers.
- g. A request was made for noise monitoring cameras, however PC Black explained that cameras only measure speed, not noise. He agreed to raise concern over excessive noise with Environmental Health, and ask them to investigate.

- h. A resident queried whether the '20 is plenty' campaign is used in Cumbria. PC Black clarified that a 20mph limit is not enforceable in law.
 - i. A request was made to consider installing a chicane on the entrance to the village to slow traffic. PC Black explained that this would be a Highways decision, and cost may be a factor. He agreed to raise with the CRASH Meeting.
 - j. A recent speed monitoring device purchased by Clifton Parish Council was suggested as a potential solution, PC Black explained that these types of devices can not be used to prosecute speeding drivers, as they were not approved by government for that purpose, and the data gathered was not accurate. They had been used as a source of intelligence, if it was found drivers had no MOT, tax or insurance. They also do not act as a deterrent, as they cannot be seen.
 - k. A resident requested that a speed camera be placed in the village. PC Black confirmed that this would be a decision for Highways, and that budget constraints restricted the use of such devices.
 - l. PC Black informed the meeting that he is in charge of the Community Speed Watch Scheme. This is funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner, and requires a minimum of six volunteers. They would be fully trained, and provided with kit to use within the 30mph zone, to record speed. Any offender would be sent a warning letter on their first and second offences, and receive a house visit from PC Black on their third.
 - m. An enquiry was made as to the possibility of installing average speed cameras across the village. PC Black explained that these were very expensive to install, but agreed to raise the issue with the CRASH Meeting.
 - n. Residents questioned the cost to the emergency services of dealing with incidents and accidents caused by excessive speed and dangerous driving, and whether mitigating that would therefore justify expenditure on large scale speed prevention measures. PC Black agreed to provide figures on the cost on incidents in the area.
3. **Future actions:** PC Black agreed to carry out the following actions;
- a. Confirmation that it has already been agreed by the CRASH team to site a SID (speed indicator device) heading out of the village. Cumbria Highways had agreed to site a post in the village to accommodate this device, which would be planned for Spring.
 - b. To raise concerns over excessive noise from vehicles with Environmental Health, and ask them to investigate.
 - c. To consider arranging an operation to monitor use of non-standard exhausts, over a bank holiday weekend.
 - d. To install speed monitoring strips on the entrance to the village at the A686 for a period of one month.
 - e. To situate a speed monitoring van on the A686, utilising a field entrance as agreed by owner.
 - f. To raise the issue of installing average speed cameras at the entrance and exit of the village, to monitor speeding through the village, with the CRASH team.
 - g. To consult with Cumbria Highways regarding the cost of installation of a chicane or other traffic calming measure at the entrance to the village on the A686.
 - h. To provide the Parish Council with data related to the cost of dealing with incidents and accidents resulting from speeding and dangerous driving in the area.
 - i. To attend the Annual Parish Meeting on May 24th 2022, at 7pm, to provide an interim report.

The Parish Council also agreed to add the issues of installing a chicane or other speed reduction measure and of establishing a Community Sped Watch Group to the agenda for the March 2022 meeting.

Meeting ended: 8:50pm

ANY RESIDENTS INTERESTED IN JOINING A COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH GROUP SHOULD CONTACT THE CHAIR RUTH BEAUMONT AT ruthbeaumont.melmerby@hotmail.com OR THE CLERK LISA BEKEN AT melmerbypc@gmail.com