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Cllr. R Humby
Executive Member for Environment and Transport
Hampshire County Council
The Castle
WINCHESTER SO23 8UJ

Dear Councillor Humby

22 November 2018

RE MAYPOLE ROUNDABOUT – HEDGE END

I write to you today as Chair of the Hedge End Town Council following a Full Council meeting held yesterday at which, a Motion was unanimously agreed and passed concerning a number of serious safety concerns relating to the Maypole Roundabout. The Motion addressed road safety issues, reducing the speed limit to 30mph and examining the current road markings on the roundabout.

During debate, Members expressed their serious concerns relating to the surfacing and finishing of the Maypole roundabout in Hedge End. It is understood that that there was a probability of the roundabout having to be re-surfaced due to the tarmac not having met the Hampshire County Council standard specification and requirements for a 40mph surface. In light of the issues with the road surface, the Town Council is given to believe that it may need to be removed and re-surfaced. Testing showed that the surface course contained insufficient stone chips, with only just over half the required amount being present.

It has been suggested by Breheny, the contractors, that a reduction in speed to 30mph could solve the issues highlighted albeit that the road may still have to be re-surfaced. As I am sure you appreciate, there has been considerable disruption to local residents and other commuters resulting from the original work to the roundabout that the Town Council is determined to avoid the need for yet further inconvenience, which would certainly result should the County Highways engineers insist on re-surfacing.

In previous matters concerning this subject, the response from Hampshire County Council has been:

'...reducing the speed limit to 30mph at the Maypole Roundabout is not considered desirable as the A334 is a local distributor road and does not meet the criteria for a 30mph limit in terms of either highway character or road casualty collision reduction benefits',

Members were keen to ascertain from Hampshire County Council the comment 'not considered desirable' as it is ambiguous and would not stand up to scrutiny and needs to be re-visited and re-examined. Please provide an explanation of why this is considered to be the case and the stance taken by Hampshire County Council.

Cllr. R. Humby

There are main roads through Fair Oak (Alan Drayton Way), Horton Heath and Bishopstoke where the limit is only 30mph, following a reduction from 40mph. These are similar to the roads in Hedge End. The Maypole roundabout is on a 'walk-to-school' travel route for several schools with a further secondary school planned at Woodhouse Lane. There are many children from Hedge End and Botley who have to cross at this prime location every day. There is a nursing home adjacent to this roundabout coupled with a convenience store in the petrol station used by numerous residents, especially from the Tripps End Caravan Park who cross at the Maypole Roundabout on a daily basis.

Hedge End Town Council therefore supports the principle of a reduction in the speed limit on the approach roads, Grange Road, Lower Northam Road, Kings Copse Avenue and Broad Oak and formally requests that Hampshire County Council evaluates and seriously considers this request as a matter of some urgency.

It is imperative that Hampshire County Council notes and addresses the fact that the roundabout has no lane markings causing safety concerns for motorists and especially cyclists. Coupled with this, the markings on the approach roads at the roundabout are causing confusion. A forward arrow or straight ahead arrow is marked in each lane at the approach, however, when you proceed straight ahead, there is only one lane on the destination side, possibly resulting in two cars coming together.

It needs to be noted that despite suggestions on various communication channels, that Eastleigh Borough Council is not in favour of a reduction to a 30mph speed restriction, I can advise you that this is absolutely not the case. Borough and County Councillors, the Hedge End, West End and Botley Local Area Committee and Botley Parish Council have all written to Hampshire County Council supporting a reduction in the speed limit to 30mph.

Please give the contents of this letter your closest attention and I look forward to your reply in due course.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Ian Corben
Chair – Hedge End Town Council