

Policy & Strategy Unit
Highways & Transportation Division
Environmental Services
Worcestershire County Council
County Hall
Spetchley Road
Worcester
WR5 2NP

28 April 2009

Re: Beoley Pedestrian Crossing – Dangerous crossing

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am writing to you with regard to a current pedestrian crossing within the village of Beoley, which due to the disregard of many motorists, I believe to be insufficient to provide safe crossing to the local school, nursery, village hall and car park.

The zebra crossing is on Beoley lane postcode B98 9AN. There is Beoley First School , School House Day Nursery on one side of the road, and the village hall and the car park used for dropping off and collecting children at the other side. The crossing provides a vital link for children arriving and returning from school and for the users of after-school club and the day nursery which provides child care for young children. The crossing is used outside of the normal school times by the nursery and after-school clubs and is used from 7.30 am to 6pm.

The crossing is clearly marked, in one direction in particular there are multiple signs including a 30mph sign at the sides of the road, a 30mph sign on the road, 3 sets of caution crossing signs (one marked as school crossing) an active flashing 30mph sign for those driving above the speed limit, another 30mph marking on the road, .a small 30mph reminder sign and then the beacon lights on the zebra crossing. Despite all these signs there are many drivers that are going well in excess of the speed limit and would be unable to stop should a child step out onto the crossing.

In the last few days I have witnessed the following examples of dangerous driving:

9 April 2009 – A driver came down the hill at the opposite side of me and made no attempt to slow down or stop until the last minute.

15 April 2009 – A car stopped on my side of the road and I started to cross, but a car at the other side of the road made no attempt to slow down (although there was clearly plenty of time for them to do so), and continue across the crossing in front of me.

27 April 2009 – I was approaching the crossing, but had not yet gone on the crossing. The nearest car slowed down as though planning to let me across, when the car behind overtook at speed at the other side of the road.

These all happened in the evening between about 4.30 and 5.30pm. This time in the evening

appears to be particularly difficult time to cross the road when children are being collected from nursery or the after-school club.

There are many other examples I have personally seen including: cars that have accelerated when approaching the crossing to beat the pedestrian to the crossing, cars that were clearly going too fast to be able to slow if someone stepped out and many that have driven across the crossing when the pedestrian is half-way across the road (often accelerating away at speed) or continuing across the crossing if the pedestrian has entered the crossing from the other side of the road.

I have also spoken with other parents and carers that have had similar experiences and consider the crossing to be dangerous.

Due to these problems there is a very real danger to pedestrians, in particular young children that may not appreciate the danger of drivers that are ignoring the safety measures that are currently in place. I am very concerned that a child may be injured or killed due to the reckless drivers that pass over this crossing.

Please can you review the crossing and identify steps that can be used to make this safer. My own thoughts are that a light-controlled crossing (such as a puffin crossing) would be much safer, as this places a greater emphasis on stopping drivers. Alternatively speed controls, such as a permanent or temporary speed cameras may help reduce the speed, though not necessarily those drivers that ignore the law with regard to stopping at a pedestrian crossing.

Please let me know your findings and whether this is some action that you can take to make this a safer place for children to cross.

Yours Faithfully

Stewart Watkiss