

8. Roads & Traffic

As noted in Section 3, part of the character of the community area is its rural past, the nature of its stone buildings and the countryside and lanes linking them. These lanes have become the thoroughfares for modern traffic and many of them are narrow with blind bends.



Roads

In particular, the villages of Shirenewton and Mynyddbach are characterised by narrow streets, often with stone walls on both sides and no pavements. Street lighting has only been introduced where required as part of a new development. In the more rural areas of Earlswood and Newchurch West, the lanes are narrow and often not wide enough for two cars to pass with ease and no lighting is provided.

Most of the roads are C-roads or unclassified, although the vast majority are adopted and maintained by the County Council. The exception to this is the B4235 Chepstow to Usk road which skirts Mynyddbach and the northern side of the community area. This road takes a considerable amount of through traffic and a particular problem is speeding and high-revving motorbikes using it as a recommended weekend route. Although Shirenewton is not on a main road, there is also a considerable amount of through and heavy traffic along its arterial lanes, some of which does not respect the nature of the village or the 30mph speed limits.

Traffic

The amount of traffic in the community has increased considerably over the period since the last plan. Today, each community household owns and uses an average of 1.9 cars (and only 0.7 bicycles) and commuting alone would appear to account for some 800 car journeys per day. This level of traffic is supplemented by through-commuters from the Llangwm, Devauden and Crick directions, leisure traffic and considerable road haulage and agricultural vehicle movements. There is a disturbing increase of large lorry traffic which seems to be using the area as a short cut and is too large for the nature of the roads

Traffic Calming

The amount of traffic has led to a considerable weight of calls for some further measures to be taken to calm vehicular speed both through Shirenewton and on the