

Village Plan 2007

B4235 in particular. Already well marked 30mph signs are in place for the area of the two main villages (although not on the Usk road), together with village names and red road entrance markings.

In 2004, MCC proposed a series of measures aimed at traffic calming including a 20mph zone, chicanes, road narrowing and speed bumps. This elaborate scheme was out of character with the local environment and did not find general support in the community for a number of reasons and was abandoned. However, the recent questionnaire shows clear support for some action to increase safety and reduce the speed of traffic (61% for, with only 9% against), but with many comments to the effect that any measures need to blend in with the character of the community.

Most popular suggested traffic calming measures are improved speed signs, lower speed limits and flashing warning signs, with the least popular measures being speed bumps, chicanes and street lighting. The Community Council has taken on board the views expressed in the questionnaire and the lack of support for the elaborate MCC scheme. Out of this, it intends to develop proposals for traffic management and is studying a range of options which will be sensitive to the character of the community, but shown to be effective in other locations.

Public Transport

As has been noted already, the community is not well served by public transport. There is a bus service which operates 4 times a day to Chepstow and Usk, except Sundays, calling at many local stops, but it is not well used and is mainly patronised by school children travelling to and from Chepstow in the morning and afternoon. There is local support (61%) for an on-demand “bendy” bus service, which could be booked in advance and would pick up from a local agreed place at an agreed time. A “community bus” service is starting to operate in the vicinity, but has not had time to be evaluated at the time of writing.



Parking

Parking is not generally seen as a problem either in the villages or the more rural areas. Only 6% of respondents parked their vehicle on the road and only 3% has any difficulty parking within 50 yards of their own property. Overall, 29% felt there was a parking problem, roughly half in Shirenewton and half in Mynyddbach. The key pinch-point locations mentioned were outside the shop at popular times and outside the school gates at the start and end of the school day (see Education).