

Our Ref 2308

Date 17 August 2021

Councillor Roger Harmer
c/o Council House
Birmingham
B1 1BB

Dear Councillor Harmer

PETITION 2308 – TO TACKLE THE HIGH NUMBER OF SPEED RELATED ACCIDENTS ON FOX HOLLIES ROAD

I refer to the above petition which you presented to City Council on 22nd June 2021 on behalf of the residents of Acocks Green and Hall Green Wards calling upon Birmingham City Council and the Birmingham Road Safety Partnership to tackle the high number of speed related accidents on Fox Hollies Road, Hall Green by installing average speed cameras.

Average Speed Camera Enforcement (ASE) was implemented as a pilot scheme in August 2016 in the following locations:

- A38 Bristol Road, between Priory Road and Speedwell Road (30mph)
- A456 Hagley Road, between Portland Road and Lordswood Road (30mph)
- A4540 New John Street, between Lucas Circus and Hospital Street (30mph)
- A34 Newtown Row, between New John Street West and Newbury Road (30mph)
- A45 Coventry Road, between Berkley Road and Rowland Road/Steyping Road (40mph).

The pilot scheme successfully demonstrated that ASE has a positive impact on speed limit compliance and speed reduction, with consequent benefits in reducing the number and severity of road traffic collisions.

The site selection for the ASE routes for the pilot was based on existing safety camera locations, which were already approved through the Department for Transport (DfT) Circular 01/2007 criteria for locations suitable for camera-based speed enforcement i.e.:

- There must be a history of road collisions within an agreed zone.
- There must have been three or more people killed or seriously injured per km within that zone in the previous three years.
- There must be a degree of non-compliance with the safety limit.
- There will be no obvious viable road safety alternatives to camera use.

In the future, any new camera locations would be assessed on the same basis. Whilst we are not in a position to bring forward new sites yet, a preliminary desktop exercise indicates that the A4040 Fox Hollies Road may be suitable for consideration of Average Speed Cameras. However, this would need to be assessed fully with an up-to-date speed survey, a detailed analysis of the road traffic collisions with regard to speeding, and a comparison against other suitable sites in the city.

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It should be noted that BCC will need to prioritise the rollout of ASE to stretches of highway which can be proven to deliver the greatest community benefit, first. There are a number of high priority A-class routes already listed in a draft potential programme for future ASE rollout (including the A34 Walsall Road, for example). Assuming that Fox Hollies Road is found to meet the criteria for ASE, there may be some time between identification and delivery of an ASE scheme here, as available funding to pursue schemes of this nature is limited.

Due to the ongoing maintenance of the cameras and cost implications, Birmingham City Council are undertaking a review of existing arrangements to assess the practicality of further expansion of ASE technology to new routes. There are issues with the financial sustainability of the current partnership model and contract, for both the West Midlands Police (WMP) and the City Council. Whilst road safety and speed management remain high priorities, a funding source to support further roll-out of ASE has not yet been identified. We are in discussions with the West Midlands Combined Authority in terms of the future of ASE, as the most likely way forward is that there will be a coordinated approach across the West Midlands.

Meanwhile, Birmingham City Council continues to compile information on locations of community concern to inform future road safety programmes, as well as any potential further implementation of ASE or similar systems. This information is being shared with the Police as part of our ongoing partnership working arrangement.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'PSJ', written in a cursive style.

Paul Simkins
Head of Transport Projects, on behalf of
Philip Edwards, Assistant Director Transport and Connectivity