

Notice from the St Hilary Ward Councillors.

As residents of St. Hilary as well as representing the village on Llanfair Community Council we have been becoming more and more concerned not only by the increase in the amount of traffic through the village but also its speed and the route much of it takes particularly when following sat-nav instructions.

You probably know that large vehicles such as delivery vans, lorries and sometimes cars towing caravans can often be seen turning left round the birch tree in front of Little Hall Cottage, mounting the kerb and damaging the grass. They then squeeze between the village hall and the wall of the churchyard. An incident occurred during the summer when there was a collision between a vehicle and the churchyard wall in the vicinity of the kissing gate which damaged the wall. This is not the first time this has happened.

These matters have been discussed by the Community Council in recent meetings. In an effort to resolve the problems and at the request of the Council the Clerk wrote to the Vale of Glamorgan Council Highways Dept., suggesting a site meeting to discuss the matter "on the ground" so that the Vale Council officers could understand our concerns and discuss ways of ensuring traffic passing through St. Hilary followed the obvious route through the village.

Unfortunately the response from Michael Clogg, the Highways Manager, was, to say the least dismissive and complacent. He declined the invitation to meet. He referred to the signs at the A48 junction saying the VoG Council considered them to be adequate to deter heavy goods vehicles from travelling through St Hilary and asked for a list of dates and times when such vehicles have caused problems in the village. This seems to us to be a classic case of kicking the matter into the long grass hoping it will go away.

As Community Councillors we invite any resident of St. Hilary who sees any large vehicle trying to pass between the village hall and the church to photograph it and forward the photo to Mr. Clogg for his information. (*Mr Clogg's e-mail address is MTClogg@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk*)

As to the speed of traffic through the village (as well as St. Mary Church, The Herberts and Llandough) the Community Council is investigating the setting up of a Community Speed Watch scheme. This is a scheme which involves residents being willing to participate by volunteering, being vetted, undergoing a period of training and then manning a speed checkpoint in a group of three individuals (one to operate the speed meter, one to record the registration number of the speeding vehicle and the third to confirm that number). The Council's enquiries are at an early stage. More information will be available in due course when, perhaps, a public meeting could be called to discuss the matter.

On the subject of speeding traffic it has been suggested to us that the "30 mph" signs might be moved further out from the village boundaries. We believe this could result in traffic travelling more slowly though the village.

If you have any thoughts on any of these issues please let us know.

Mary Llewellyn, Heather Shaw and David Hawkins.