

INFORMATION TO SUPPORT PETITION WHICH CALLS ON THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR WALES TO URGE THE WELSH GOVERNMENT TO REDUCE THE SPEED LIMIT ON THE A48 BRIDGE FROM 50MPH TO 30MPH

This is an important issue which affects the lives of young people in Chepstow, who walk to school along the A48 Bridge to Wydean School.

The safety of this stretch of road has been a matter of concern to Chepstow Town Council for some considerable time.

The Town Council did seek to address concerns and hosted a joint meeting inviting representatives from the Forest of Dean, Monmouthshire County Council and the South Wales Trunk Road Agency on Monday 5th November 2012, in the event, the Forest of Dean was not represented. At the meeting the Town Council stressed the fact that in recent years the number of school children from Chepstow attending Wydean School had increased dramatically and that therefore large numbers of school age children regularly crossed the A48 Bridge at peak times. The pedestrian carriageway on the bridge is narrow and therefore concerns for the safety of the school children and other pedestrians had been raised. It was also noted that the improved safety of pedestrians using the A48 Bridge had been identified as one of the three main priorities for action by the first Youth Council of Chepstow. The Town Council requested that barriers be installed to separate pedestrians from vehicles.

In response the South Wales Trunk Road Agency officers advised that the pedestrian carriageway was not standard width and that the Welsh Government would not support the installation of barriers at this location.

When the speed of traffic was raised, South Wales Trunk Road Agency officers explained that the speed limit had relatively recently been reduced to 50 mph which was considered reasonable in traffic management terms.

Subsequent to this meeting, Chepstow Town Council on 28th November 2012 received a delegation of pupils from Wydean School. The pupils very eloquently addressed the Town Council and handed in a petition calling for improvements in pedestrian safety along the A48 Bridge and in particular a reduction in speed limit to 30mph. (A copy of the Wydean presentation is attached for information)

Currently the students have collected in excess of 1,000 signatures to their petition and held a peaceful protest on Saturday 2nd March to draw further attention to their cause.

Chepstow Town Council has resolved to strongly support these young people and to work with them to try to secure the necessary road safety improvements along this stretch of the A48.

Protest on Saturday 2nd March



Sandra Bushell
Town Clerk

Hello. My name is Anna Dewar and I am a Sixth Form student at Wyedean School. I am representing our Student Campaign Group. We strongly feel that the speed limit on the A48 Bridge of 50 miles per hour is completely unacceptable, and we think that it should be lowered to 30. If you are hit by a car travelling at 30 miles per hour, you would have an 80% chance of living; at 50, this figure is less than 5%.

Approximately a quarter of Wyedean students walk across this bridge twice a day: that is over 300 children crossing the bridge each way. Therefore, there is a large volume of students walking along the pavement with no gap or barrier between them and the fast moving traffic. The beginning and end of school is also the peak time for traffic flows, which is obviously a very dangerous combination.

In the last couple of years, 2 students have been hit by a car on this stretch of road in two separate accidents. Do we need to wait for someone to be killed before the speed limit is reduced?

Our campaign group has started a petition, and we already have over 400 signatures, and this number is growing rapidly. These include signatures of parents of children at the school, and also other concerned residents of Chepstow. We gained 200 signatures in just one parents evening, which shows how strongly people feel about this issue.

We feel that this overwhelming support from the public should be taken seriously, and the speed limit reduced to 30 miles per hour as soon as possible.

We know that child safety is of the utmost importance.

Thank you for your time.