

Hopes raised for new speed restrictions following hit and run

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Rebecca Cain – Hereford Times



HOPES have been raised that better speeding restrictions will be in place sooner than expected in a village lane which residents say is unsafe.

Doreen Joseph, 70, was knocked down in a hit and run in Tump Lane, Wormelow in August by a stolen Land Rover. She was taken to hospital and sustained bruising.

Villagers said they have been campaigning for better road safety for more than 25 years and hoped the accident more prompt action.

Mrs Joseph's husband, Eric, handed in a copy of a petition of 335 signatures at a Much Birch Parish Council meeting last night calling for chicanes to be put in place and a reduction of the 40mph speed limit. Mr Joseph said: "We have been here for 25 years. All of those years we have been campaigning for something to be done in the lane. Since the accident we have really campaigned hard to get action." He said it has become a rat run for huge lorries and fast cars.

Mrs Joseph added: "We have 80 houses down our lane. It was always a lane - never a road. "We have 30 children who live in the lane who go up and down for school. It is not about what happened to me but what could happen in the future."

Parish council chairman Alison Cook said the council had lodged a request for two traffic orders to be carried out at the same- a restriction in a weight limit for the road and a reduction in the speed limit from 40mph to 30mph. But she said county Cllr Paul Rone attended the last parish meeting and said this would not be possible. There is a ranking system for roadworks in the county- a request for a weight restriction is ranked at 18, with an estimated start date in 2017, and a request for a speed limit reduction is ranked at 63, with an estimated start date in 2020.

But county Cllr David Harlow read an email from Graham Hornsby, traffic regulation officer at Balfour Beatty, who said three traffic order regulations could be carried out at the same time, including the reduction of the speed limit through Wormelow village, which is seventh on the list. But he said any traffic calming measures would need to be paid for by external independent funding.

Cllr Cook said if all three could be done at the same time it would be a positive result. She added: "Hopefully between us all we can actually achieve something this time."