

Arkesden Parish Council Traffic and Road Safety Survey Report 2025

Background

Arkesden Parish Council conducted an initial traffic survey in March/April 2024 in which villagers were asked to share their concerns and views relating to traffic and road safety, with a specific focus on the use of electronic speed signs as a potential solution. Arkesden Parish Council are keen to prioritise actions in line with representing and responding to the articulated needs of residents so made the decision to repeat the survey in April 2025, removing the questions relating to the electronic speed signs, in order to gather views from a wider sample of residents.

Survey

The 2025 survey was sent out to villagers via the village email list (129 contacts) and the village WhatsApp group (144 contacts). The topic of the survey was also included in Parish Council meeting minutes, posted to the village website.

The survey covered the following questions as well as collecting contact information and asking respondents where in the village they lived:

- What are your main concerns about traffic? This was a multiple-choice question providing the options of speeding, volume of traffic, diversions and road closures, ability to walk and cycle on the roads, safety concerns with traffic and the children, including getting children safely to the school bus and other with the option to specify. Residents were invited to select multiple options in response to this question.
- Please tell us why this is/these are your main concern(s)? This was an open-ended question, inviting a free text response.
- Are there any examples you wish to share? This was an open-ended question, inviting a free text response.

Collective Results

The 2024 survey was completed by 43 residents and the 2025 survey was completed by 37 residents (removing duplicates where contact information has been provided) with respondents living in the following areas of the village:

Quicksie Hill to Church	19
Church to Poore Street	23
Hampit Road/Lane	16
Wicken Road	5
Newlands End Loop	6
Start of Clatterbury Lane, including Wood Hall	9
Not specified	2
Total	80

The biggest concern for respondents in relation to traffic and road safety in the village across both surveys was speeding with 75% of respondents selecting this option. This was closely followed by the ability to walk and cycle on the roads, diversions and road closures, volume of traffic and safety concerns for children as shown below.

Area of concern	Percentage of respondents
Speeding	78%
Ability to walk and cycle on the roads	58%
Diversions and road closures	46%
Volume of traffic	44%
Safety concerns with traffic and children	31%

Respondents also raised concerns about potholes, the erosion of verges, speeding cyclists, parking, insufficient or unsuitable signage, traffic noise, unsuitable speed limits and large farm vehicles driving at a speed unsuitable for the roads.

Respondents shared many reasons for these concerns with common themes including:

- Areas of concern combined making for dangerous conditions e.g. parked cars, making narrow lanes difficult to navigate with a high volume of traffic, driving too fast.
- Lack of passing places on roads too narrow for two vehicles to pass
- Lack of respect by car, van and bicycle road users for pedestrians
- Village roads being unsuitable for volume of traffic at current speed limits
- Speed limits being too high for the road types with many respondents suggesting a reduction to 20mph for both the current 30mph and 40mph zones
- Road closures and diversions amplifying other issues
- Lack of pavements and streetlights combined with parked cars making already narrow roads more dangerous than they would be ordinarily
- Non-local traffic such as delivery drivers or those attending events within the village driving too fast with a lack of awareness for the road layout, being caught out by double bends or other road users

Respondents also shared specific examples relating to their concerns which include:

- Other road users ignoring turn signals
- Damaged road surfaces in Clanver End, Quicksie Hill, Poore Street, Clatterbury Lane, Newland End and Long Lane
- Wing mirrors being clipped
- Accidents between cars
- Having to move off of the road to avoid oncoming traffic
- Large vehicles using narrow lanes, leaving no space for other road users
- Vehicles travelling at over the speed limit
- Vehicles passing dangerously close to pedestrians/cyclists
- Numerous near misses and two cyclists recently being knocked from their bikes
- Cyclist fatality on Wenden Road
- Lack of passing places causing vehicles to mount the verges, causing further damage
- Increase in speeding during rush hour due to station traffic passing through the village
- Near misses with pedestrians due to dark clothing and no streetlights

Next steps

Results of both surveys will initially be discussed at the Parish Council meeting on Monday 28 April. The Parish Council will use the information collected from both surveys and detailed in this report to decide on and prioritise actions with the aim to improve traffic and road safety in Arkesden.