

“ PPP ”

People for Proper Policing in North Wales

The SAGA of Bull Bay Road ... Perception or Reality

One man said.....Sounds like madness to me. Either a road is dangerous, or it isn't. Either there's a speed limit, or there isn't. Either it should be enforced, or it shouldn't! It's not that simple!

We would like to tell you a story.....About a coastal 'A' road which has a recently reduced speed limit of 30 mph and a record of 6 nonfatal metal crunches in the last few years. The section has a downgrade to a tricky bend, a short straight and a long series of sweeping bends

The local's perception is that the average speed (even for school coaches) is around 40 and 60 is not uncommon for bikes and some cars and vans. On these bend there are several houses and a side road to an estate of bungalows where many residents fear turning out particularly right, across the traffic. Many actually go left and turn around beyond the bend when safe to do so.

One household had two young children who are born climbers, they have since moved. Another household and a similar family have had two cars on their roofs in their garden! The local councillor got the road resurfaced from **asphalt** to granite chippings & this has apparently stopped them losing control (so far!) but the road noise is quadrupled! and they may now roll rather than slide with fatal consequences! (**Watch Formula 1 for the stark difference!**)

These residents had also been on to the local police, who sent the highway patrol who did two locals for parking on pavements and then spent an hour with a hand held camera. After another complaint, the Police fitted a device to a signpost and recorded traffic frequency and speeds for two weeks. The results and our comments are attached.

The narrow lanes and narrow pavements (dangerously so in places!) make even 30 mph (44 ft/sec) traffic seem very fast, particularly buses and HGV's which nearly suck you off the pavement

There is nowhere to park an 'Arrive Alive' Van and maybe **not enough** traffic/**revenue** (see survey) **for a permanent camera** and if they did get one records show that mostly the locals will get done at 35what do we consider the solution is!?!.....the SafeSpeed philosophy means 30 or below because of the bend and house drives and side roads BUT how do you get the message over?, the worst offenders are local commuting workers and PSVs and vans from 20-100 miles away.

It is everybody's problem! Wherever there are similar towns and villages. Come on folks, we're in charge our ONLY concern is safety, what are the options? let's have some really positive and innovative proposals!?

The Council have generously provided us with.....

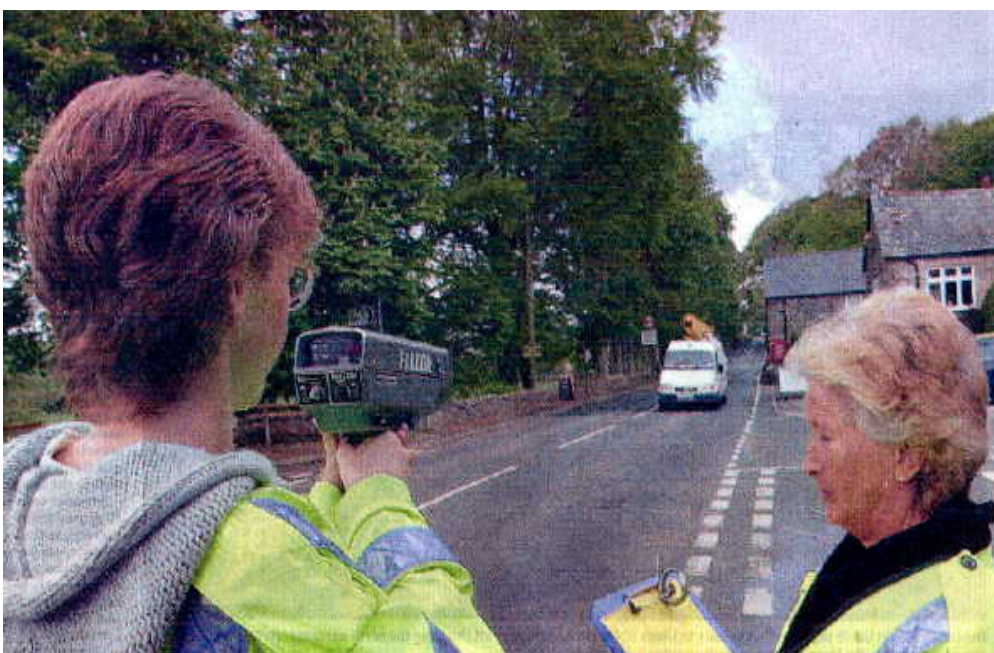
1. TWO large 30 signs at each end with bilingual Village names above and ditto DRIVE SAFELY below.
2. Solid double lines and cats eyes and Sodium street lights throughout.

3. THREE sets of ARAF/SLOW signs on the road at the correct spots.
4. Two large Chevrons on the downhill sharp bend.
5. FOUR illuminated sharp bend signs plus a SLOWDOWN NOW sign on the downhill.
6. **All the section NOW** has beautifully surfaced and cambered roads, pavements with clear kerbs and walls and good falls to storm drains. Regular (near weekly) road sweeping.

The likely causes of this saga are.....the earlier spate of incidents, when the limit was 40 mph, were due to excessive speed on the downhill section which had a poor undulating surface and adverse cambers, distraction by the view, late braking before or even on the bend, **loss of grip on the SMA surface** (use of this material **discontinued in 1999** in Anglesey) and vector forces causing spins and slides.

We now need a **Vehicle Actuated Sign (see reports TRL 483 & 548 on effectiveness of VAS's)** at each end and a review of the total signing. **Too many signs are dangerous ..(see our bulletin on 'Naked Streets!)** All readily financed by last year's speed camera revenue of over £5million.

This SAGA may well be mirrored by the very similar one in **Pentrefoelas on the A5** which has been casually 'visited' by the Daily post on several occasions over the last three years. The **Police then, dangerously, got local elderly ladies wielding speed cameras**. This type of vigilante activity would be vigorously criticised and resisted by the Police and Councils if it applied even to **mildly antisocial behaviour**. The photo, posed for the Post, shows the lady, apparently, **standing on the EDGE of the highway**. **Is she covered by INSURANCE and are North Wales Police RESPONSIBLE for her actions and subsequent safety??**
A distracted or even deranged driver could swerve momentarily and kill her. Don't forget 'SPEED KILLS'!
Can we assume that the Daily Post 's editors support this 'initiative'



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Results of Arrive Alive Speed Survey showing Speeds and Flow of vehicles per hour

Statistics

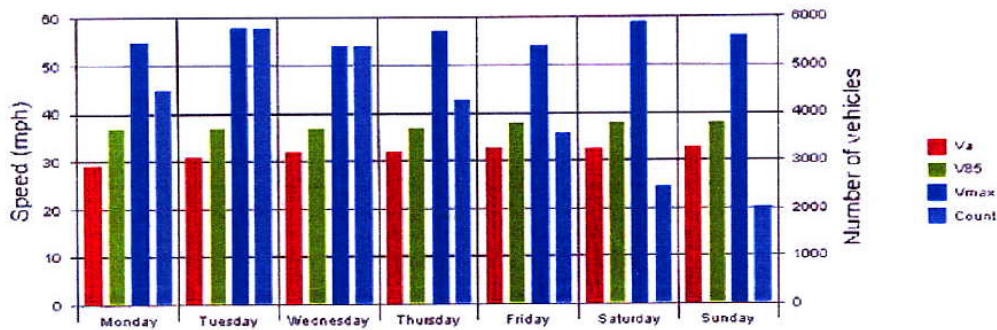
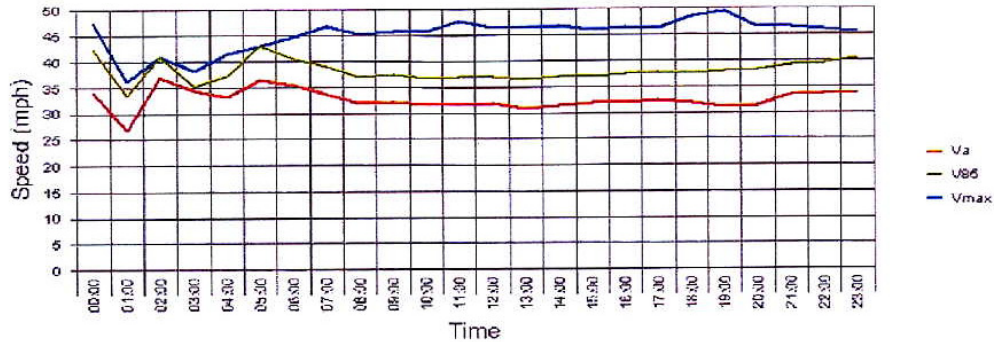
Period:

28 November 2003, 12:28 o'clock to 11 December 2003, 14:40 o'clock

			Count	Va [mph]	V85 [mph]	Vmax [mph]
Speed violations:	63 %	Motorcycle	508	24	35	52
Average time interval:	1.2 sec.	Car	27475	32	37	59
Traffic in column:	22 %	Truck	26	22	32	36
ADT:	2139	Long truck				
Truck Share:	0 %	Total:	28009	32	37	59

SIERZEGA

Bull Bay Anglesey



This survey was carried out at the request of concerned residents. The results confirm that Va @ 32 mph is close to the current limit of 30 mph and V85, the 85%ile @ 37 mph is consistently below the previous 40 mph limit. The Vmax of 59 is the problem and as the crashes are all individual loss of control on the worst bends these drivers should be prosecuted by a fixed camera set accordingly!

We are not satisfied with the precision/completeness of the survey.

Results of Arrive Alive Speed Survey showing flow of vehicles per hour

