

Petition regarding Usk to Wentwood Road - Speed Reduction 50mph ~ 86 Signatures

I enclose a petition signed by 86 residents of Llantrisant Fawr, Llanllowell, Usk and the surrounding area. This is independent from, and separate to, that submitted to the council recently on behalf of residents of Llantrisant village. However, it also involves the critical issue of road safety.

The signatories to this petition are asking the council to urgently consider the imposition of a 50 mph speed limit on the Usk to Wentwood road, at least covering the section between Llanllowell Church and the top of Penycaemawr Hill. This road is currently subject to the national 60 mph limit for single carriageway non-urban roads. Many of those who have signed this petition have stated that they would support the imposition of a lower limit of 40 mph.

We contend that the road is hazardous for motorists, cyclists, horse riders and pedestrians for the following reasons:

- There are seven road junctions along this particular section of road. One, Wernddu Lane, is on a blind bend. These junctions are in addition to private access roads, drives and pathways to properties along the route. Approximately 50 households are either situated directly on this section or on the lanes served by its junctions
 - For much of the section, there is no footpath or grass verge
 - There are at least five commercial businesses situated along this route, including a pub and hotel, a garage and enterprises involving heavy plant and machinery
 - Large, articulated, exceptionally heavy vehicles carrying felled timber from Wentwood Forest use this route regularly, often several times a day
 - The road is too narrow in places to allow vehicles travelling in opposite directions to safely pass each other without a radical reduction in speed. This problem is especially acute when the timber lorries are involved
 - There are several sharp bends and other places where visibility is inhibited by road gradients. One is the triangular road junction at The Hand. Some signatories to the petition have also requested that road signage be altered at this point to give priority to vehicles approaching the Usk to Wentwood road from the south or travelling from the Usk direction towards Llantrisant village.
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- There is an overall increase in traffic, an issue exacerbated by home delivery vehicles whose drivers are less likely to be familiar with the road's hazards than local residents
 - There has been an active encouragement of touring cyclists to the area in recent years, many of whom use this road, especially at weekends. This can cause frustration to some motorists, who then take risks and therefore increase the possibility of accidents.

The road between Usk and Wentwood Forest is one of the few rural routes in the county without a specific speed restriction, despite the hazards listed above. This petition has the full support of Llantrisant Fawr Community Council. We ask Monmouthshire County Council to take action before there is a serious accident.

LLANTRISANT FAWR ROAD SAFETY:

AN APPEAL TO MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

This petition is independent from, and separate to, that submitted recently to the council on behalf of residents of Llantrisant village, as opposed to those living in the wider Llantrisant/Llanllowell community.

We, the undersigned, ask the council to urgently consider the imposition of a 50 mph speed limit on the Usk to Wentwood Forest road, at least covering the section between Llanllowell Church and the top of Penyaemawr Hill. This road is currently subject to the national 60 mph limit for single carriageway non-urban roads.

We contend that the road is hazardous for motorists, cyclists, horse riders and pedestrians for the following reasons:

- a) There are seven road junctions along the section of road described above. One of these, Wernddu Lane, is on a blind bend. These junctions are in addition to private access roads, drives and pathways to properties along the route. Approximately 50 households are either situated directly on this section or on the lanes served by its junctions.
- b) For much of the section, there is no footpath or grass verge.
- c) There are at least five commercial businesses situated along this route, including a pub and hotel, a garage and an enterprise involving heavy plant and machinery.
- d) Large, articulated, exceptionally heavy vehicles carrying felled timber from Wentwood Forest use this route regularly, often several times a day.
- e) The road is too narrow in places to allow vehicles travelling in opposite directions to safely pass each other without a radical reduction in speed. This problem is especially acute when the timber lorries (d) are involved.
- f) There are several sharp bends and other places where visibility is inhibited by road gradients.
- g) There is an overall increase in traffic, an issue exacerbated by home delivery vehicles whose drivers are likely to be less familiar with the road's hazards than local residents.
- h) There has been an active encouragement of touring cyclists to the area in recent years, many of whom use this road, especially at weekends. This can cause frustration to some motorists, who then take risks and therefore increase the possibility of accidents.

The road between Usk and Wentwood Forest is one of the few in the county without a specific speed restriction. We ask Monmouthshire County Council to address and rectify this hazardous situation.