

# **Proposal for Traffic Survey on the A184 in Rhu: Addressing Speeding and Safety Concerns**

## **Introduction**

The A814 road through Rhu has become an increasingly congested route. With more cars passing through the village, residents and local stakeholders have raised concerns about dangerous driving, excessive speeding and the safety of pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers alike. However, the data available on traffic speeds and volumes is outdated, limiting our understanding of the full extent of this problem. This proposal aims to address this gap by conducting a comprehensive, two-week traffic survey to gather up-to-date information and identify the scale of the issue.

## **Problem Statement**

The growth in traffic through Rhu, compounded by speeding vehicles, has raised serious safety concerns among local residents, particularly parents and teachers at the local school, as well as members of the local cycling community. The out-of-date local survey data no longer accurately reflects the current situation, and without updated information, it is difficult to assess the impact of the increased traffic volume and speed on the safety of the village.

## **Objectives**

1. To carry out a two-week traffic survey on the A814 (Rhu) to collect data on vehicle speeds and traffic volumes on both directions of the road.
2. To analyse the data to understand the volume of traffic on the road and the scale of the speeding issue.
3. To identify key areas of concern, such as pedestrian and cyclist safety, and assess the need for future traffic calming measures.
4. To provide actionable insights that can be shared with local authorities and the community for potential safety improvements.

## **Survey Methodology**

### **Data Collection:**

1. Acquire the automated traffic monitoring system – SpeedSpy from Decatur. The SpeedSpy features:

- Stationary mounted data collection
- Hidden SI-3 K-band antenna
- Weatherproof case
- Directional target speed tracking
- Easy installation in multiple applications
- Supplied mounting hardware
- Two days continuous battery powered operation
- EZ Stat software technology
- Customized traffic speed and flow reports

2. Place the automated traffic monitoring system in a strategic location on the A814 (location TBC)

3. Survey period: 14 days, both directions during peak and off-peak hours, to ensure comprehensive data collection.

### **Data Analysis:**

1. Analyse traffic speeds, volumes, and patterns, with a focus on identifying trends in speeding behaviour.

2. Compare the current data with the outdated survey to highlight changes and growth in traffic flow.

### **Community Engagement:**

1. Online survey to gather feedback from local residents, teachers, parents, and cyclists to gain qualitative insights into their concerns about speeding and road safety.

2. Conduct a public meeting at the end of the survey to present findings and discuss possible solutions.

### **Expected Outcomes**

1. A clear understanding of the current traffic situation on the A814, including the extent of speeding issues.

2. A report detailing areas of concern and recommendations for improving road safety, including potential traffic calming measures (e.g., speed bumps, improved signage, crossings).

3. Increased awareness within the community about the risks posed by speeding cars and a data-driven foundation for advocacy with local authorities.

### **Budget Estimate**

Traffic monitoring device: £650 + VAT

Community survey - online via SurveyMonkey. Synthesis carried out by Shellie Montgomery: £0

Community engagement activities (printing, venue, refreshments): Meeting could be held at the church with refreshments provided at minimal cost: £30

### **Total Estimated Budget: £810**

It is proposed that we seek funding from the Community Council, RPSA and local business. We would also seek to engage the MoD in our plans and invite them to support and contribute. We would launch a GoFundMe page and harness local social media and press to raise awareness and invite residents to contribute.

### **Timeline**

- **Week 1:** Setup of traffic monitoring device, collection of baseline data.
- **Week 2:** Continued data collection, engagement with local community members for feedback.
- **End of Week 2:** Data analysis, preparation of report and presentation.
- **Week 3/4:** Presentation of findings to the community and discussion of next steps.

### **Conclusion**

The increased volume of traffic on the A814, combined with speeding vehicles, presents a significant safety concern for Rhu's residents, especially for children and cyclists. This traffic survey will provide up-to-date data that can be used to guide effective solutions for making the road safer for all users. By taking action based on real data, we can work together as a community to ensure that safety remains a priority, and that necessary changes are made in collaboration with local authorities.

### **Call to Action**

We encourage the Community Council, RPSA, local residents, school parents and teachers, and cycling clubs to support this initiative, either through participation in the survey or by attending the public meeting at the conclusion of the survey. Together, we can address this growing problem and work towards a safer Rhu.