

**Ordinary Meeting of Harberton Parish Council
Tuesday 14th April 2026**

Item 11 20 mph Speed Limit in Harbertonford

The Clerk has been approached by a resident on behalf of parents at Harbertonford concerned about road speeds on the A381 at Harbertonford. Some parents are keen to understand whether it would be possible to introduce a 20mph speed restriction in the village.

The Parish Council and District Councillor (D.Cllr) have been asked to provide a reminder of why proposals to reduce speeds to 20mph on the A381 were rejected by the County Council.

The D.Cllr reminded the resident that 20mph limits were excluded on strategic/arterial roads, which the A381 is deemed to be.

The Clerk has raised the query with the County Councillor, as at a prior meeting it was commented that DCC has become more open to 20mph schemes, provided that costs are met in the community (i.e. by the Parish Council) that there was sufficient support in the community for implementation of lower road speeds.

The C.Cllr has provided the following response:

20mph is a tough one to get approved for implementation on A roads, however its not impossible as there are other A roads where 20mph has been implemented along busy / residential / potentially hazardous sections of the road. An example that has been cited to me is in Ottery St Mary.

Further to the parish protocol that DCC produced late last year and I invited comments from the T&PCs in this division, Cllr Wainwright (DCCllr for Salcombe) has been developing a much wider and better guidance briefing for T&PC on these matters. I've discussed the outcomes of my ad-hoc consultation with Cllr Wainwright and requested the draft briefing guidance. I've yet to receive this, but understand it includes 20mph applications, so I'm keen to be able to contribute. I think this will be very helpful and is expected very soon.

In the meantime, it would be useful to start having some preliminary thoughts on the section on the A381 that the residents and PCllrs would consider helpful to improve safety. The anticipated average cost per scheme is anticipated roughly at DCC to be around £20,000; a lot of this is the anticipated TRO and design work.

I'll bring more information to the next PC meeting about 20mph schemes.

Does the Parish Council wish to co-ordinate a new community effort to look at options for reducing road speeds on the A381?

This could include, but not be limited to:

- Bringing together individuals from local interest groups willing to support a campaign
- Reviewing research and data compiled by the D.Cllr during prior 20mph campaigns
- Reviewing briefing material from DCC on whether obtaining a 20mph limit on the A381 is realistic
- Considering a consultation exercise on support for: reduced speed limits and fundraising for a scheme (through the precept and/or alternative means).
- Considering fundraising for the installation of a second radar road speed sign