

Ilchester Parish Council Transport Strategy

Traffic, speeding and parking are a perennial concern to Ilchester residents. This has been tackled by piecemeal measures with the latest being some changes to the double line lines to increase the safety of residents in key areas. It has been recognised that a strategy is needed for the village and the opportunity has been taken this year of funding from Somerset County Council (SCC) to develop an outline strategy. This work has been led until October by our County Councillor and has included representatives of the District and Parish Council, Ilchester Schools and RNAS Yeovilton. A Feasibility Report from the SCC Transport Department has now been received from SCC aimed at resolving what are seen as the Key Issues for Ilchester

- Reduce gridlock at key travel times.
- Reduce vehicle speeds to the authorised limit or below at all other times.

The report has developed a range of options to achieve these aims.

- **Raise the Level of Zebra Crossings.** This was discounted by the report as it creates discomfort to bus passengers and hindrance to speeding emergency vehicles. It is, however, strongly supported by your Parish Council.
- **Route signing** to discourage through traffic was discounted as it would not work.
- **Additional Zebra Crossings.** The Installation of further controlled crossings on Northover was discounted.
- **Improved pedestrian crossing of Ilchester Bridge.** The narrowing of the roadway on Ilchester Bridge to 6metres was supported and a widening of the current pavement to allow easier pedestrian passing was proposed. The Parish Council would like footpaths on both sides of the Bridge.
- **Traffic Calming.** The installation of a 4 arm mini-roundabout at the Market Place Junction with 3 to 4 1.5 metre wide traffic islands along Northover which may include speed humps.
- **Pedestrian Facilities.** Various minor improvements to kerbs etc were proposed to assist pedestrians.

The Parish Council has now taken the lead in developing this Strategy and will now take these measures forward for costing and prepare an implementation plan to secure opportunity funding from SCC.