

TRAFFIC CALMING WITHIN JERSEY

**Lodged au Greffe on 24th February 1998
by Senator R.J. Shenton**



STATES OF JERSEY

STATES GREFFE

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PROPOSITION

THE STATES are asked to decide whether they are of opinion -

to request the Public Services Committee to introduce a 20 mile an hour speed limit on all by-roads recommended by the parish authorities, and introduce additional traffic calming measures where appropriate.

SENATOR R.J. SHENTON

Report

I have been alarmed at the lack of traffic calming schemes in the Island. I recently accompanied a Town Deputy around St. Helier and was pleased to note the progress being made, albeit rather slowly.

Some time ago I was approached by residents of St. Clement, including members of my own family, about the speed on the roads and the way the link roads and lanes from the Inner Road to the coast are being used as rat runs. My approaches to Public Services and to the parish received a disappointing reception and with this in mind I attended a parish meeting to hear the Constable's statement. After hearing the statement and speaking with one of the officers, it is obvious that the parish has tried to do something about serious traffic matters and had received a negative response from the Public Services Department. A copy of the statement is attached.

Following that meeting I have been approached by other residents with regard to their concerns about traffic problems and I believe it is time that the States made a decision in order to protect people from traffic dangers. Inner road residents have already requested speed limits and although some have been extended, they have not been extended into the parish for it to be meaningful. Residents of the Coast Road also suffer from traffic violations and anyone who drives in the parish now should know how dangerous are the inter-sections between the by-roads and the main thoroughfare. Green Island corner in particular is a death trap, and why nothing has been done about this is beyond me.

Having looked at traffic calming methods in the United Kingdom and in France I feel that the link roads between the Inner and the coast roads should be turned into traffic calming areas which would not only be attractive but protective of the environment and would also minimise the dangers to family life. These roads are much used by families going either to or from the beach or indeed visiting that well known family attraction - Samarès Manor. Schemes I have seen allow for extended pavements, chicane type layouts and attractive street furniture to beautify the areas. The cost of such schemes need not be prohibitive and I think I speak for many Islanders when I say that I would rather

pay a little extra on the parish rates to make sure our parishes are not spoiled by irresponsible and intolerant drivers.

It is my opinion that the parish system should be the authority to determine matters affecting the welfare and safety of their parishioners. Central government create another layer of bureaucracy which is often removed from the realities of day to day living. My proposition was intended to address the traffic problems by reducing speed limits on by-roads and transferring authority for such decisions to the parish authorities. It may be of interest to note that the United Kingdom is introducing more 20 mile an hour speed restrictions in residential areas because research has shown that speed in such areas costs lives. Surely Jersey, which was visionary enough to introduce the 40 mile an hour all Island speed limit decades ago, can continue to protect its citizens from traffic dangers. Can anyone suggest that the same speed limit should be in place for dual carriageway Victoria Avenue and our delightful parish lanes and by-roads?

Unfortunately any proposal, however well intentioned, to transfer authority from Public Services to the parish provides for major changes in legislation and the possibility of 13 separate traffic departments. In these circumstances I have to restrict my proposition to the introduction of a 20 mile an hour speed limit in all by-roads recommended by the parishes concerned in order to protect the residents.

In conclusion I would ask members to accept that I have received tremendous support for my views from Island residents and it may well be that I will ask the Connétable of St. Clement to hold a public meeting to discuss this proposition before debating it in the House.

STATEMENT

Speed limits

At the Parish Assembly held on 10th December last year it was agreed that the Connétable and the parish authorities (i.e. the Honorary Police, the Roads Committee and the parish Deputies) would meet with the Public Services Department to discuss thoroughly the matter of speed limits in the parish by-roads, obtain their views on this subject and report back to the Parish Assembly.

Therefore the parish made a request to Public Services requesting that the current speed limits on various roads in the Parish of St. Clement be reduced from 40 miles an hour to 30 miles an hour. (List of roads attached if required).

Detailed information was received from Public Services summarising the policy they adopt regarding speed limits throughout the Island when they receive requests from the parishes for amendments to the current speed limit on a particular road.

These are the details of their policy -

(a)	Green lanes	15 mph
(b)	Housing estates and other discreet residential areas with little through traffic	20 mph
(c)	Built up areas and villages	30 mph
(d)	All other roads	40 mph

When such a request is received the first task of Public Services is to assess the current traffic speed and the accident rate for the road or area.

The roads referred to by this parish do not, in the opinion of the Public Services Committee, fit the definition of built up, as the speed surveys carried out on these roads showed that 85 per cent of the traffic is currently travelling at no more than 30 miles an hour and no reduction in speeds could therefore be expected by reducing the speed limits.

The Public Services Committee therefore ruled against any change of speed limit for the following reasons -

1. Speeds are not generally high and would not be reduced by the proposed 30 mile an hour limit.
2. The accident records show that attention should be given to improving the junctions with the minor roads rather than reducing the speed on the minor roads themselves.
3. The proposals would be inconsistent with the Committee's policy which they have applied when considering requests from the twelve parishes and would lead to a considerable number of short lengths of speed limits in Jersey, which are already considered to be too numerous, and inconsistent.

Finally it must be remembered that drivers have a responsibility to drive at a speed suitable for the type of road and the conditions. There are numerous roads throughout the Island, not just in St. Clement, where speeds of lower than 40 miles an hour are considered by some to be appropriate.

To apply a lower speed limit to them all would require an enormous amount of signing and achieve nothing because the general speeds of these roads are already low, and without strict enforcement, which would be impossible for such a large number of locations, the few who drive at high speeds would continue to do so.

The Public Services Committee has highlighted the fact that our proposals must be considered in the context of the whole Island and not just St. Clement.

Parish roads requested speed limit of 30 mph

La Petite Sente
Ruelle des Tours
Rue de Samares
Rue de la Croix
Rue de la Chappelle

Rue du Pignon
Rue au Blancq
Rue Laurens
Rue du Hocq
Rue de Causie
La Blinerie (from Rue du Coin to Inner Road)
Rue du Maupertuis
Rue de Jambart
Rue de Pontlietaut