

# Hill Chorlton Road Safety Campaign 2020

## A Road Safety Plan for Hill Chorlton

### Kennels Lane to Maer War Memorial

Here in Hill Chorlton we have campaigned over many years for measures to make our village a safer place to live in and to travel through.

In 2006, following our contact with the police, the Safety Camera team started to visit Hill Chorlton, and it continues to do so. In spring 2013, after 7 years of campaigning and engagement with the police, our county councillor and (sometimes) Highways, we finally got the speed limit reduced to 40mph from Chapel House to Maerfield Gate. In summer 2019 we finally got a Speed Indicator Device (SID) in one direction (but only after first getting local representation on the parish council, and even then it was put in the wrong place).

Now, following 2 road traffic accidents outside Slaters in the space of 4 weeks, **it's time for us to get back into campaigning gear** and nail **ALL** the problems, well and truly, once and for all.

We, the residents, are very well qualified to draw up a Road Safety Plan for Hill Chorlton. We live 24/7 with the A51. We know this road and its traffic better than anyone else. We face the risks every day. A Hill Chorlton resident was just one minute's walk from the site of the accident on 18 July. We understand the issues and dangers like nobody else.

Now, to achieve our objectives, we must act together. By working unitedly and enlisting support from neighbouring communities we can make the Hill Chorlton Road Safety Plan a reality.

### What you can do

- 1 Complete the enclosed response form and return it to one of the addresses on the form by **Monday 14 September**. The campaign is NOT limited to Hill Chorlton residents – residents in Maer, Baldwins Gate and elsewhere are encouraged to respond.
- 2 Sign up **now** as a volunteer for the Hill Chorlton Speedwatch group.
- 3 Look out for information / announcements on Baldwins Gate Facebook and on [www.hillchorlton.co.uk](http://www.hillchorlton.co.uk)



Sunday 16 August 2020

## Hill Chorlton Road Safety Plan

- 1 Extend existing 40mph zone eastwards to Kennels Lane and westwards to Maer War Memorial; the full 40mph zone to run from Kennels Lane (east) to Maer War Memorial (west), with dragon's teeth road surface markings at either end.
- 2 Eastbound: install Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) (solar powered) on approach to A51/Woodside junction with "Junction" sign and "SLOW DOWN".
- 3 Westbound: install VAS (solar powered) on approach to bend at Chapel House with "Bend" sign and "SLOW DOWN".
- 4 Upgrade signage to increase the number of "40" road surface roundels.
- 5 Re-site westbound SID to grid reference SJ 379836 339348 (about 80m west of current location).
- 6 Site eastbound SID at grid reference SJ 379590 339247 (east of A51/Sandy Lane junction).
- 7 Prohibit westbound overtaking from Chapel House to Sandy Lane.
- 8 Install verged footway from Maer War Memorial to Woodside, to link up to existing Hill Chorlton footway.
- 9 Resurface existing Hill Chorlton footway from Maerfield Gate to Sandy Lane.
- 10 Install verged footway from Chapel House to Kennels Lane, to extend existing Hill Chorlton footway.
- 11 Carry out maintenance on trees in cutting east of Maer War Memorial and west of Woodside
- 12 Cut roadside hedge from Rose Cottage to Eden Rock, Hill Chorlton regularly during the growing season.

## Detailed explanation

### 1 Extend existing 40mph zone.

Kennels Lane and Maer War Memorial are logical termination points for the 40mph speed limit. This stretch of the A51 is an important local pedestrian route, giving access to lane and footpath networks and connecting communities. The A51 is the route from Kennels Lane to bus stops in Woodside and is the only pedestrian route from Maer to Baldwins Gate. The traffic speed limit needs to have regard for the safety of vulnerable road users.

### 2 Install VAS on eastbound approach to A51/Woodside junction.

A warning VAS at this location will slow vehicles down and protect the Woodside junction and the access to Slaters. It will also protect pedestrians, including people accessing the bus stops.

### 3 Install VAS on westbound approach to bend at Chapel House.

A warning VAS at this location will slow down vehicles on the steep downhill approach to a very sharp bend. If vehicles take the bend at slower speeds, hopefully they will not speed up so quickly as the road straightens out into the village.

### 4 Upgrade 40mph signage.

Drivers need more reminders of the speed limit. Medallions on the road surface are more visible to drivers than signs on poles. The village is so small that you can drive through

without noticing it. There is very little “side friction” on the south side of the road, and none at all after you leave the village.

**5 Re-site westbound SID about 80m west of current location.**

The SID is obscured by trees and is activated at a distance of only 15–20 metres. It needs to be relocated to where there is better forward visibility and where it will slow vehicles down as they reach the point where the footway is narrowest and danger to pedestrians is greatest.

**6 Site eastbound SID east of A51/Sandy Lane junction.**

The SID needs to be located so as to slow vehicles down as they enter the settlement. This location has good forward visibility for approaching vehicles and will also give some protection to the Sandy Lane junction.

**7 Prohibit westbound overtaking from Chapel House to Sandy Lane.**

The highway through Hill Chorlton is substandard. The carriageway is 1.18 metres *narrower* than the standard width. The footway width between Moss Cottage and Arnside varies between 0.92 metres and 1.29 metres and is *way below* the standard width of 2 metres. Vehicles pass *unavoidably and dangerously close* to pedestrians. Westbound overtaking vehicles, travelling at speeds significantly above the 40mph limit, put pedestrians at significant and unnecessary risk.

**8 Install verged footway from Maer War Memorial to Woodside.**

The A51 is the only pedestrian route between Hill Chorlton and Maer, and from Maer to Baldwins Gate, linking these communities and providing access to important and footpath networks. The grass verge has been so poorly maintained and has been dug up so many times for utilities and not properly reinstated that it has become very rough and is no longer suitable for walking on, forcing pedestrians to walk in the carriageway.

**9 Resurface footway from Maerfield Gate to Sandy Lane.**

The footway provides access from Hill Chorlton to Slaters and the bus stops at Maerfield Gate. It has not been repaired since it was installed in 1968 and has become rough, broken and dangerous. In January 2015 a government Planning Inspector actually commented on the “overgrown” state of the footway.

**10 Install verged footway from Chapel House to Kennels Lane.**

The A51 links the Kennels Lane community to Hill Chorlton and the bus stops at Woodside, and links Hill Chorlton and other communities to important lane and footpath networks. The grass verge has been so poorly maintained, and has been dug up so many times for utilities and not properly reinstated, that it has become very rough and is no longer suitable for walking on, forcing pedestrians to walk in the carriageway.

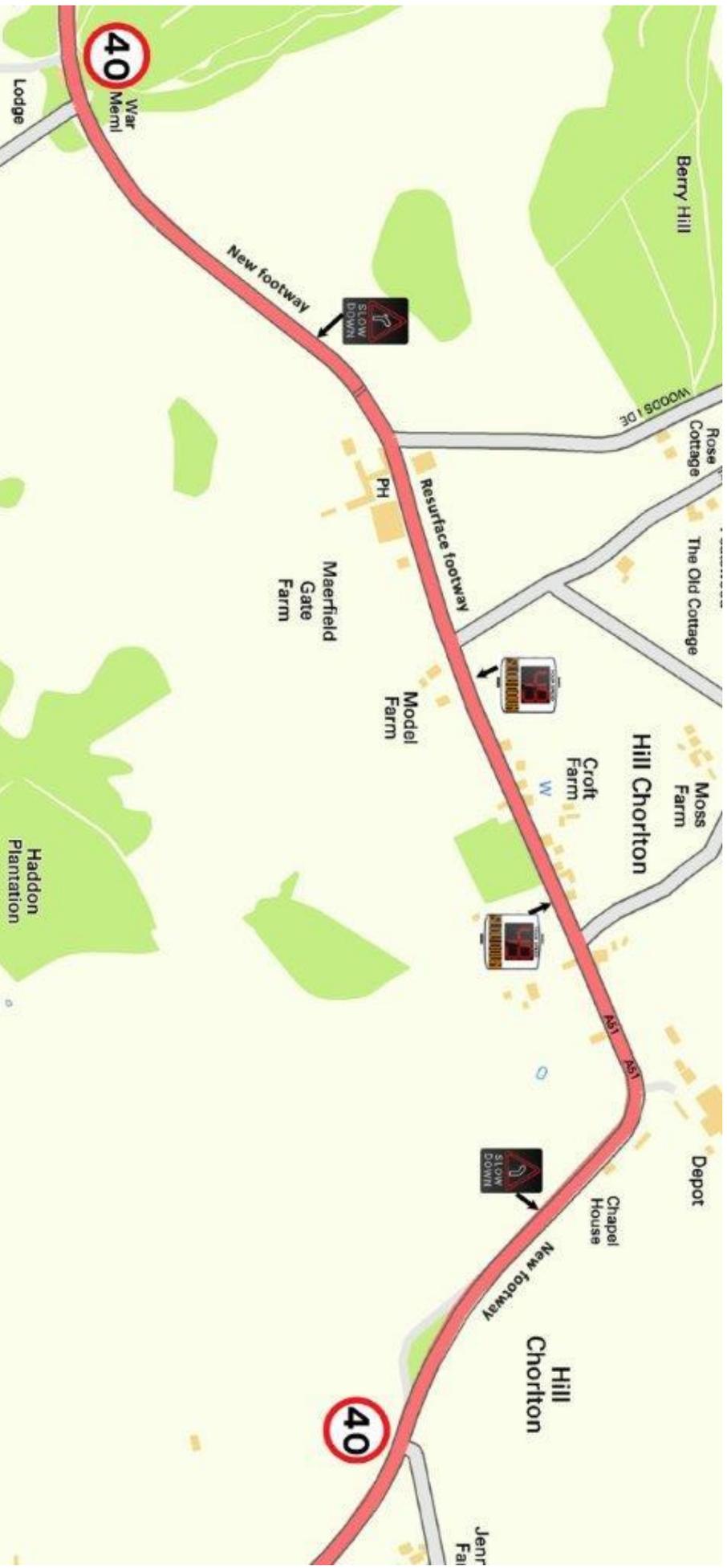
**11 Maintenance work on trees between Maer War Memorial and Woodside.**

Maintenance is needed to improve visibility, to clear growth away from road signs and to create adequate space for pedestrians.

**12 Roadside hedge from Rose Cottage to Eden Rock.**

The narrow footway from Rose Cottage to Eden Rock is separated from the carriageway by a grass verge of barely 30cm. The hedge and bracken grow out over the footway every summer, blocking the footway and forcing pedestrians onto the narrow verge or even into the carriageway.

## Hill Chorton Road Safety Plan



This leaflet and the response form are also available on Baldwins Gate Facebook and at [www.hillchorton.co.uk](http://www.hillchorton.co.uk)