

Public meeting 12th August 2025

Libanus Chapel

Present

Raiff Devlin (RD) (Powys County Council),

Jane Dodds (JD) (MS – Senedd Wales)

Paul Woods (PW) (Chair, Glyn Tarell Community Council

Andrew Jones (AJ) (Head of Operations, North & Mid Wales Trunk Road Agency)

Gareth Day (GD)(Head of Operations, Welsh Government)

And over 30 residents of Libanus and surrounding area.

Aims

To discuss and suggest solutions to

- 50 mph speed limit through Libanus
- Speed limit enforcement
- Pedestrian crossing to the bus stop

Introductions

JD introduced people at the table.

RD gave background to the concerns of the community,

PW emphasised that the issues above have been concerns raised by the community many times. GTCC would like to reduce the risk as far as possible with the background of increasing local traffic and more tourists. Efforts have been made to establish conversations and get action.

GD introduced how speed limits are set and when. The document Speed Limits in Wales provides the guidance. The 50mph was set in 1993. There have been two reviews since then, the last one in 2023, with the same outcome. The document is currently being revised with expected publication late 2025/early 2026.

For enforcement they rely on the police and #GoSafe. There is also Operation snap where members of the public can send in videos from dashcams, ring doorbells or CCTV of dangerous driving, speeding etc showing the registration number of the vehicle. This can be used to prosecute.

Pedestrian crossings assessments include road width, use by vulnerable people & children as well as collisions. The last pedestrian survey was conducted in 2021 but GD acknowledged that the situation was blurred by the effects of COVID. A further pedestrian survey is scheduled for 2026.

AJ outlined his responsibility for trunk roads in Powys and further north. The Trunk Road Agency is an agent to Welsh Government. Information about road works, closures due to accidents etc can be found through TrafficWales. If there is a fatality the police look into why it happened, recommendations put forward are implemented by Trunk Road Agency where appropriate.

The discussion was opened up to the floor.

Main points raised

- Dyffynog crossroads (A4215)– speed of vehicles, particularly motor bikes coming down the straight from Storey Arms resulting in inability to cross the road with livestock including riding horses up to the Mynnyd Illtyd common. The number of accidents (3+ in 2025) Lack of signage warning of slip road merging onto A470.
- No pavements from community around the Dyffynog crossroads into Libanus.
- Community speed monitoring - An offer of setting up a group with training. JD expressed concerns that Speed enforcement should not be passed on to the community. GD contact #GoSafe to organise training.
- Motorbikes – concerns that riders speed down the straight from Storey Arms and actually speed up through the village. Person taking photographs of motorcycles cornering RAC corner actively encouraging fast and unsafe riding to get good shots. Bikers will often repeat the corner to get a better shot
- Large lorries – usually keep to the speed limit during the day. However, the air compression and noise makes it very intimidating when walking on the pavement as they pass. At night they appear to go faster due to lack of enforcement. Causes windows to rattle and buildings to shake, waking people at night.
- Pollution – buildings covered in black grime (diesel particulates). People not able to open their windows in summer because grime enters house. Comparison to Pontypridd where speed limit on dual carriageway reduced to 50mph to reduce pollution.
- Noise pollution – motorbike high revs when accelerating and possible illegal modifications to exhausts. Large lorries
- Crossing to the bus stop – The school bus now turns into the village and drops children by the village green because they considered that it was not appropriate for primary age children to cross the road. The T4 does not do this, so secondary age children still have to cross. Mountains Nursing Home staff trying to cross on shift changes, often at night, dodging traffic. The bus usually waits for them.
- 50 mph, even with enforcement, is too high – emphasised by RD. There are a number of side roads through Libanus. Residents feel that they are at risk turning in and out of these and often feel that a vehicle has come too close to them – near misses. Ambulance trying to get out from Mountains Nursing Home and visitors. They often get flashing lights and horn blasts from vehicles on A470. At Storey Arms the speed limit is reduced to 30 mph at the weekends – this was raised by GTCC with Kirsty Williams AM due to the roadside parking issues and was successfully implemented. It was highlighted that journey times would not significantly increase – perhaps by seconds. The implementation of 20mph limit has only increased journey times by 2 minutes.
- Travelling south, Brecon to Merthyr, cars will often use the bus stop to pass vehicles turning right into the Libanus estate.

Solutions offered

- Move start of speed limit to south of Dyffynog turning (A4215) reducing speed earlier and protecting people using junction. This will effectively reduce speed through Libanus
- Reduce the speed limit to 30mph
- Island/ refuge in carriage way to provide safer space for people crossing. It will also make the road narrower and slow traffic down. GD suggested that if an island was installed then the speed limit would have to be reduced
- Average speed cameras vs Flashing speed limit signs. GD explained that Average Speed Cameras have a lot of behind-the-scenes costs
- Better police surveillance and #GoSafe monitoring

Actions

GD will

- contact police to get better enforcement and
- organise community speed check training.
- Ensure the pedestrian crossing survey will take place in 2026. Has a healthy budget at the moment.

AJ will look at

- Signage
- Investigate anomaly between school bus and service bus drop off, south bound
- Check other issues
- There will be regular meetings with police eg Storey Arms
- Police campaigns to educate motorcyclists, particularly those travelling into the area

Advised that changes will not happen over night

JD expressed the need to see change. She will

- Write to GD to get a traffic order to reduce the speed limit, potentially to 30mph
- Investigate funding opportunities to get flashing speed lights
- Request the pedestrian survey before 2026 and request a traffic island
- Request an air quality surge
- Support community speed watch
- Communication with residents through Cllr Devlin and GTCC including updates on future meetings