



# Froxfield News

July 2023

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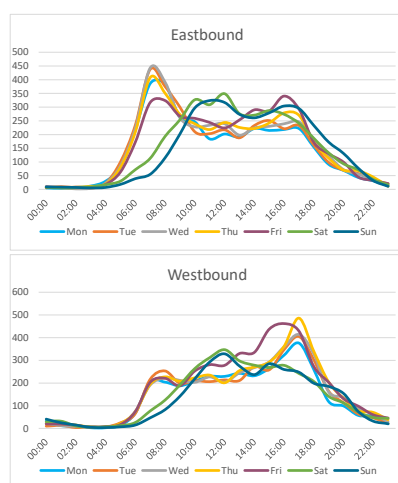
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## Official — Speeding through Froxfield is down!

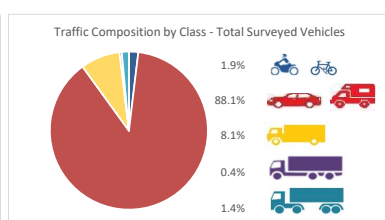
Fewer cars are excessively exceeding the speed limit — as shown by the recent Traffic Survey carried out by Wiltshire County Council. The survey revealed average speeds are down by over 6mph on those of a decade ago.



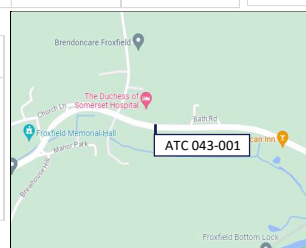
Client: Wiltshire Council  
Project: 4460-MID Batch 043-045  
Site: 043-001 - Bath Road  
Start Date: Monday 12 June 2023  
Speed Limit: 40  
Lat/Long: [51.4104, -1.56965](#)



Direction	7-Day Average Speed	7-Day 85th %ile Speed	On a 7-day average		
Eastbound	39.4	43.9	43.0%	7.8%	0.5%
Westbound	38.2	42.1	27.7%	4.8%	0.4%
Combined	38.8	43.1	35.3%	6.3%	0.4%
	mph	mph	of vehicles are travelling over posted speed limit (PSL)	of vehicles are traveling 10% +2 over PSL (46mph)	of vehicles are 15mph over PSL (55mph)



Direction	Weekday Average Total Traffic	7-Day Average Traffic	Weekly Traffic Total
Eastbound	3725	3667	25672
Westbound	3850	3697	25878
Combined	7575	7364	51550



Incidents/Observations
No incidents or observations during the survey period.

Data annotated with "\*" denotes when a given time period has been affected by data loss. For a full breakdown of data loss please refer to Data Summary.

Tracsis will retain all personal data relating to this project, including all video images, for a period of 3 months after receipt of this report and all other data files for one year. If you would like a copy of the personal data or wish for us to retain for a longer period, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Speeds were recorded in front of The College over 7 days by 'double rubber line' sensors. The results need some explaining, but essentially within the 40mph zone where the test took place, just over 35 per cent of the motorists were found to be breaking the speed limit. But, crucially, the bulk of drivers were going no faster than an average speed of 43.1mph.

There were still a small number of drivers exceeding this and more drivers were found to be speeding eastwards towards the Pelican.

The average speed is particularly significant because we are told that the Police assess the need to take action based on what percentage of drivers are travelling 10 per cent over the speed limit, plus another 2 miles an hour.

Therefore, in Froxfield, within the 40mph speed limit, they would be particularly concerned by all those driving at **46miles an hour or faster**. Over the 7 days, only 6.3 per cent of drivers were found to be travelling at 46mph or faster! To be considered a severe problem this would need to be 15 per cent of total traffic.

However, it is clear that nearly **twice as many east-bound** drivers were caught doing these excessive speeds: 7.8 percent as opposed to 4.8 per cent driving west. But, the numbers of vehicles found going 15 miles an hour over the speed limit — 55mph or more — was as few as 4 in every thousand vehicles (0.4%).

**The results of a traffic survey carried out in 2014, recorded the average speed as 49.4mph. Therefore the average traffic speeds appear to have dropped by 6.3mph.**

Another startling result of the survey was the level of traffic recorded over the 7 days. The weekly traffic total was 51,500 vehicles — roughly the same number travelling in each direction. In 2014 the number of vehicles recorded over a similar period was 27,329 — showing that **traffic has almost doubled over the last 10 years**.

The Parish Council discussed the results at its most recent meeting on Monday 17th and it was felt that some of the success in reducing speeds could be put down to the installation of the new traffic calming gates. Councillors noted that the traffic is speeding eastwards — in all likelihood this is in anticipation of the 50mph zone. The FPC will continue to push for a 40mph zone between the two sets of gates so that cars should not be encouraged to gun their engines until they have left the village! We are also moving forward with plans to install a **Speed Indicator Device** in the village just east of The College with the ambition of further calming the traffic speeds. The proposal has been approved by the WCC Local Highways and Footpaths Improvement Group (LHFIG), which was attended by Councillor Steve Heppenstall. The next step will be for WCC to install the base and post, then Froxfield PC will buy the most suitable solar-powered SID.



## Walter Newton — A Tribute

Froxfield paid tribute to one of its oldest residents when friends and family gathered at All Saints Church to say farewell to Walter Newton of Brewhouse Hill, who died last month aged 93.

Walter and his wife Barbara have lived in the village for 40 years, but met through their local Church and were wed in Wokingham — they had been married for 69 years!

Having moved to Froxfield in 1983, Walter became heavily involved in the community, serving on the Parish Council for many years. Walter was also a keen campanologist and rang the bells at Chilton Foliat St Mary's Church for more than 40 years. He then remained an active bell ringer to the end.

Walter overcame a challenging early childhood to achieve success in his life. He was brought up in difficult circumstances in Battersea, London, but evacuated during WW2 to Wokingham — where he remained after the war with his adoptive family. The evacuation became a life-defining event and Walter eventually worked for the local council and as a librarian, before becoming a Deputy Manager with Lloyds Bank in Thatcham until retiring in 1990.

His widow Barbara described Walter as 'a man of quiet demeanour ... He was always kind, loving and protective'.

# MP visits Froxfield

## New constituency for 2024 general election

Our MP Danny Kruger enjoyed a flying visit to Froxfield last month and was shown around the village by Froxfield PC Chair Vanya Body. Danny had earlier signalled his intention and desire to continue to represent Froxfield when the village becomes part of a new constituency — that will come into place for the general election next year.

Froxfield will fall into the new [Wiltshire East Constituency](#) — which stretches from the borders of Swindon all the way down to the edges of Salisbury. A detailed map can be found [here](#).

Meanwhile, Devizes will become part of the new [Melksham and Devizes](#) constituency. These changes have been confirmed by the [Independent Boundary Commission](#).

The commission held public consultations on the proposed changes and the final report — with recommendations for the new boundary changes across the nation — has been submitted to the Privy Council. Boundary changes no longer need the approval of Parliament: the recommendations are sent directly to the Privy Council for approval and the new constituencies will in all likelihood be accepted and be used at the next general election. (Not at any interim by-elections).

During his visit, Mr Kruger popped into the Memorial Hall and heard how this community hub is entirely financially supported by The Phoenix Brass Band, which is based there. He was shown around All Saints Church and learned about the financial pressures facing the small congregation which struggles to pay the hefty diocese funding demands and upkeep costs. He was very impressed with the historic Duchess of Somerset Hospital (The College) where he is pictured with Vanya on the steps of the recently-refurbished chapel. After this, Danny was introduced to the team at BK Grain Handling Engineers where he was taken on a tour by Mr Bill Bird and discussed the challenges of the current business climate and navigating the vagaries of the planning rules by different counties. At the end of the two hour visit, Danny said he would aim to be back soon and potentially to hold a public forum at The Pelican pub. [More details to follow on confirmation of an agreed date.](#)





# Volunteer weeders needed!

Thanks to all the rain this summer the weeds have risen up to engulf large lengths of the new hedge along the edge of the **Froxfield Water Meadow Nature Reserve**

The Parish Council would like any willing workers to join in a 'Hedge Care' volunteering morning. This would only require an hour or two's work on **Saturday 29th July** (This coming Saturday).

The work will involve cutting back all the encroaching vegetation in and around the young hedge plants. The teams from **Community Payback** have cut back the main verge and along the boardwalk — this is more about hand cutting the encroaching cleavers, nettles and bindweed. Meet at 10am at The Watermeadow. You will need stout gardening gauntlets and hand shears for the work.



## Local Man is now Lay Minister

David Wilson of The Rectory became an official Licensed Lay Minister at All Saints Church, in a moving ceremony led by Bishop Andrew, the Bishop of Ramsbury (pictured with David outside the Church).

The special evensong service was attended by friends and family as well as supporters from other churches in the Whitton Benefice, including Rector Beth Hutton.

## Help us to keep in touch with you...

This newsletter is being emailed out to residents of Froxfield who have signed up to our email news service. We hold a list of those wanting to be kept abreast of the PC's activities and being informed about opportunities to get involved as with village projects. If you are not already on this email broadcast list and would like to be, send your details to the PC Chair: [v.body@froxfeld.org](mailto:v.body@froxfeld.org)

• WE WILL NOT SHARE YOUR NAME WITH ANY OTHER ORGANISATION AND INFORMATION SENT TO YOU WILL RELATE TO FROXFIELD VILLAGE MATTERS.

**Froxfield Parish Council  
meets in the Memorial Hall  
every two months.**

**See our website  
[www.froxfield.org](http://www.froxfield.org) for  
dates, agendas and minutes  
of previous meetings.  
The next Parish Council  
meeting will be in  
September.**