**REPORT FOR DUDDON PARISH COUNCIL’S 2022 AGM**

**ON ROAD SAFETY WITHIN BROUGHTON**

*Provided by Annette Carmichael (Broughton Speed Watch Co-Ordinator)*

Between October and November 2021 a 20 mph zone was installed by Cumbria Highways in Broughton. The installation included traffic calming measures on Foxfield Road (road narrowing markings and parking bay markings) and on Kepplewray Hill (a build out with associated markings and signage). This denoted the culmination of 6 years of campaigning and fundraising to reduce the speed limit from 30 mph to 20 mph.

In January 2022 Highways laid speed data tubes down on all roads within Broughton to monitor traffic volumes and speeds.

On 17 May a Safer Speeds Group meeting took place attended by Cumbria Highways, Broughton Speed Watch, the Clerk of Duddon Parish Council and County Cllr. Matt Brereton. The Group reviewed the 20 mph zone, associated traffic calming measures and findings from the speed data tubes.

As envisaged, vehicle numbers have significantly dropped. Data shows a 31% reduction in overall traffic volumes compared to when the previous 30 mph limit was in place. Two roads, Church Street and Kepplewray Hill have seen reductions of between 38% and 35% respectively, meaning nearly 7,000 fewer vehicles per week are using these roads.

In line with expectations, average speeds have also reduced with the two-way mean speed on all roads now between 17 mph and 23 mph. The implementation of traffic calming measures, although constrained on Foxfield Road and Kepplewray Hill by various factors, has assisted in encouraging general compliance with the new speed limit.

Despite the undoubted success of the 20 mph zone in decreasing vehicle numbers and speed, there is evidence that a minority of motorists are failing to observe the 20 mph limit, especially on Church Street, Market Street and Kepplewray Hill. This is especially marked during commuting hours with the data showing both higher speeds and higher volumes of traffic along this route at these times.

In view of this, Highways was asked to assess what further measures might be appropriate to reduce this ongoing rat-running. Broughton Speed Watch has also approached Cumbria Police for their assistance in modifying driver behaviour. Road safety within Broughton and its environs is now on the agenda of the Casualty Reduction and Safer Highways Group while PCSO Harris is also deploying the speed gun in Broughton on occasion.

The community is playing a part in improving road safety as well. In early April Broughton Speed Watch recommenced sessions with new volunteers joining and receiving training in the use of the laser speed gun and the logging of vehicle details. As well as the presence of Speed Watchers at the side of the road noticeably slowing most vehicles down, log sheets of those breaking the speed limit are passed on to Cumbria Police who then send out warning letters. 131 drivers received such a letter between early April and mid-May and in addition one repeat offender received a visit in person from a police officer. The Speed Watch Group also intends to put up roadside banners reminding motorists to drive considerately while Broughton School has been asked to design road safety posters for display prominently around the town.