

# Sleepers Hill Association

The Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held on:

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2000 at 11.30**

at

**The Conference Room, Highcroft, Sleepers Hill.**

See attached instructions on how to get there.

The agenda for the Annual General Meeting is attached. The following notes are intended to prepare the way for discussion of Item 7.

Item 7. Traffic calming scheme (essential details of consultants' design are shown on attached sheet)

- Topics:
- Outline of scheme and action taken to date. Shape and positioning of speed tables.
  - Order of cost. Estimates (all road work but not signs/lighting) range from £8,000 to £20,000. Choice of potential contractor and division of cost between members.
  - Discussion and vote on size of majority required to justify proceeding with this scheme.
  - Focus on practicalities of current proposal. Willingness of 'road owners' to participate.  
(In a preliminary poll at least one of each 'pair' of owners expressed reluctance).
  - Consider pros and cons.

Pro: - All available evidence, including many studies and reports in the public domain, confirms the common sense supposition that road humps do indeed force vehicles to slow down significantly, in some cases by as much as 15-20 mph.

- The fact that the flat top of the speed table is not wide enough for two cars abreast, thus forming a virtual 'pinch-point' at no extra cost, might cause drivers to exercise additional caution.
- The scheme would thus undoubtedly help to encourage drivers to find alternative routes where possible.

Con: General points highlighted in RAC and Transport Research Laboratory reports:

- delay to emergency vehicles
- pain and distress caused to passengers with disabilities or joint problems
- increased noise and pollution due to braking, gear changing and acceleration
- increased risk of minor accidents, particularly those involving cyclists.

There is anecdotal evidence of 'hump rage' (drivers sounding horns, avoiding humps by driving on the verge or simply responding to damage caused to their vehicles). Many incidents have been reported of legal action (actual or threatened) by aggrieved drivers who have suffered damage to their vehicles while traversing road humps.



With regard to the speed tables proposed for Sleepers Hill, it has been suggested that the sloping sides (forced by drainage considerations) may present an additional hazard to cyclists, and possibly to pedestrians who, where the verge is too wet/muddy/uneven, may choose to walk on the flat centre section of the table, i.e. well out into the carriageway.

- Members will be invited to consider the balance of benefit versus cost and to vote on a motion to proceed to the next stages, namely to seek the formal agreement of the 'road owners' concerned (critical and by no means certain), to obtain the full cost of the scheme (including signs, lighting etc) and the final agreement of the City and County authorities concerned, and to ballot all members on whether to implement the scheme with the cost shared as decided at the AGM.

CJLC

Chairman SHA

4. January 2000.