

# Peterchurch Parish Council ATC Speed Survey – July 2021

## Key Findings

The 85<sup>th</sup> percentile is used as an 'industry standard' to assess traffic speed.

What is the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile....?

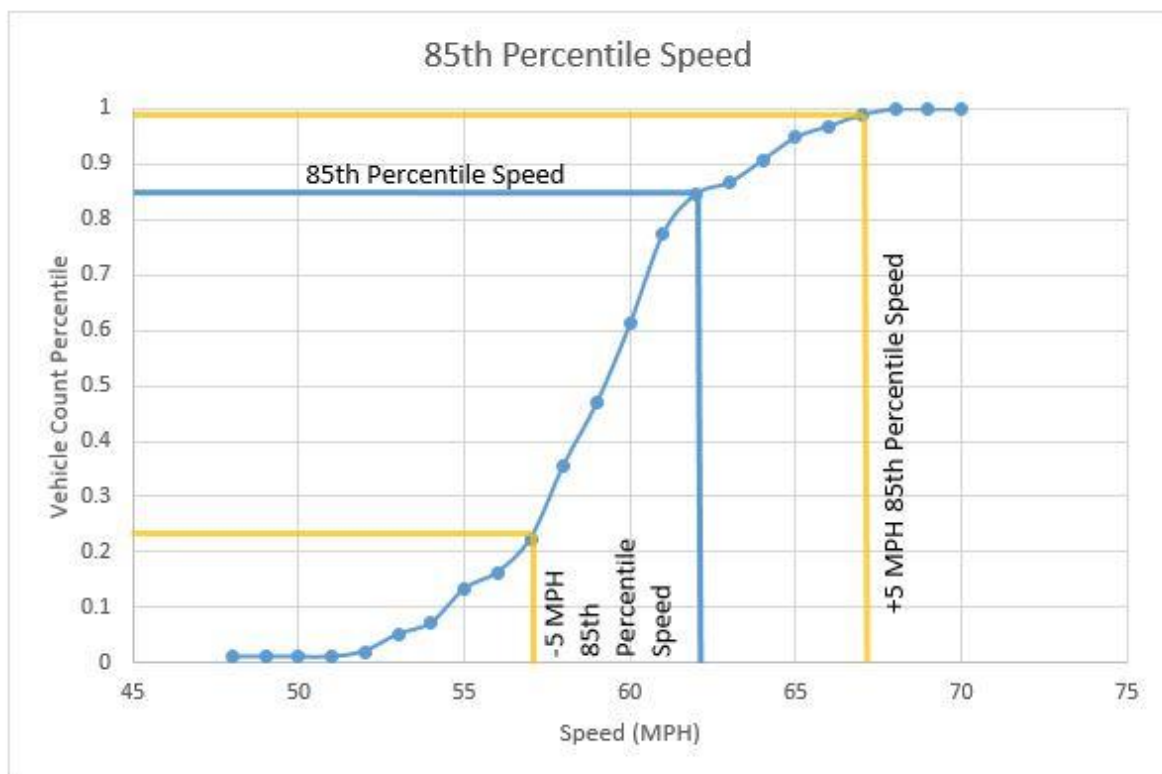


Figure 1: 85<sup>th</sup> Percentile Speed Graph

Figure 1 shows the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed of road survey. The results show that vehicles are travelling roughly 62 MPH (blue line). Using this as the base point, the percent of vehicles traveling up to 5 MPH over and under this speed limit are also checked (yellow lines).

As the figure shows, only 23% of the total vehicles on the road were traveling less than 5 MPH below the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed, while less than 2% of vehicles were traveling more than 5 MPH over the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed limit. This means that roughly 75% of vehicles on the road were traveling within 5 MPH of the 85<sup>th</sup> Percentile Speed.

This is why the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed is such a large consideration when determining or assessing speed. If the speed limit is set to the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed, we know that 85 percent of drivers will be driving at or below the speed limit, and that a majority of vehicles will be driving within 5 MPH of the speed limit (75% in this example).

### **Entrances to the Village (ATC's 1 & 5)**

The survey shows that the majority of vehicles travelling into and out of the village at ATC survey points 1 (Nags Head) and 5 (Vowchurch) are speeding.

#### ATC 1 (Nags Head)

- 75.5% of all traffic (north and south bound) is travelling over the Posted Speed Limit (PSL).
- Furthermore, 77.4% of all traffic (i.e. southbound) entering the village at ATC1 is speeding with 42.5% travelling over 35mph and 4.5% travelling over 45mph.
- the highest recorded speeds at this location were:

Northbound:

- 12 vehicles travelling between 50-55mph spread throughout the day with the majority (10 vehicles) between 07:00 and 19:00 – i.e. during daytime hours.

Southbound:

- 1 vehicle travelling between 55-60mph @ 11:00
- 28 vehicles over a 7 day average were travelling between 45-50mph with the vast majority of vehicular movements taking place between 06:00 and 20:00hrs

#### ATC 5 (Vowchurch)

- 82.5% of all traffic (north and south bound) is travelling over the Posted Speed Limit (PSL).
- 74.9% of all traffic entering the village (i.e. northbound) at ATC5 is speeding with 45.8% travelling over 35mph and 6.9% travelling over 45mph.
- the highest recorded speeds at this location were:

Northbound:

- 1 vehicle travelling between 65-70mph

Southbound:

- 1 vehicle travelling between 70-75mph

#### ATC 2 (Fire Station)

- 37.7% of all traffic (north and south bound) is travelling over the PSL.
- 10.2% of all vehicles were travelling over 35mph with 0.6% travelling 45mph or higher.
- the highest recorded speed at this location was:

Northbound:

- 1 vehicle travelling between 50-55mph

Southbound:

- 1 vehicle travelling between 50-55mph

The data shows that as vehicles approach the core of the village they tend to slow. Conversely, as vehicles leave the core of the village they speed up.

#### ATC 3 (Primary School)

This ATC was not as close to the Primary School as I would have liked but nevertheless, it provides interesting data for the core of the village.

- 6.6% of vehicles are speeding in the core of the village with only 1% of vehicles travelling over 35mph.
- 17,777 vehicles were recorded which, when compared to the ATC5 (Vowchurch data) shows that the majority of traffic is travelling within the village or from the Hereford direction. It is worth noting that the data does not record vehicles entering the village from Stockley, Ulrishay or Long Lane (Hinton) which must account for a good degree to local trips.
- The data shows that there is a natural slowing within the core and this could be 'built upon' to achieve greater speed reductions

#### ATC 4 (Hawthorn Rise)

Like ATC 2 (Fire Station) this ATC shows that traffic is speeding as it enters the core of the village.

- 33.2% of all vehicles are travelling over the PSL but the majority of vehicles are traveling northbound towards the village core. In fact, 48.1% of all northbound traffic is speeding with 15.4% of vehicles travelling at or above 35mph. 1.4% are travelling at 45mph or above. Considering that there were a total of 18,838 vehicular movements recorded during the survey period these are quite significant numbers.
- In common with ATC2 (Fire Station) this confirms that vehicles are naturally slowing as they enter the core of the village.

What does it all mean....?

In broad terms the data confirms that as traffic enters the village at the Nags Head or from the Vowchurch direction, the likelihood is that 75-80% of all vehicles are speeding.

This is also true of vehicles leaving the village with 73.6% of all vehicles heading northbound (i.e. towards Dorstone) speeding. Similarly, 90% of vehicles heading southbound (i.e. towards Vowchurch) also speeding. The survey also shows that 12.3% of southbound vehicles heading towards Vowchurch were travelling over 45mph at ATC 5 (Vowchurch).

We can also see that as vehicles enter the core of the village, they are slowing but only slightly – they only seem to slow down to 30mph (or thereabouts) in the core of the village between the shop and Food for Thought. They then accelerate away from the core in either direction.

Given the layout of the village, and from a Town Planning perspective, I am of the view that the main 'slowing' of traffic occurs as vehicles near the pinch-points at The Boughton (Casa Lupo) and 'Wayside' near the western entrance to the Primary School.

Clearly, we need to look into ways to reduce speed as it enters the village, maintaining that speed throughout the entire length of the village and also, to use the narrow feel of the road in the core of the village to our advantage in order to further improve safety.