

Petition to Make Salisbury Road Safe for Residents, Road Users and Pedestrians

There have been many collisions on Salisbury road over the years involving motor vehicles. The volume of traffic continues to grow and the speed of vehicles is often greatly in excess of the legal limit. Lives have been lost, the latest just recently. Pedestrians crossing the road feel endangered because fast vehicles limit the time to safely reach the other side. People with mobility problems simply cannot cross at all. Residents have had their property damaged by cars being out of control.

We care about each other's well-being and that extends to everyone who uses our road. We aim to provide Birmingham City Council with reasonable solutions which will benefit all people who use our road, many of whom are from our local community.

We believe that in order to protect everyone using our road-

1. Traffic speed should be enforced by speed cameras
2. It should be clear where and when parking is allowed
3. Pavements should be kept clear of bins, scooters and overgrown hedges and bushes which restrict the safe movement of pedestrians.
4. Means of crossing the road safely should be provided

Proposals Explained

Salisbury Road has several inherent hazards namely two long bends with the brow of a hill between them limiting the view along the road considerably.

1. Traffic speed should be enforced by speed cameras

These inherent hazards result in speeding drivers suddenly coming across unexpected hazards, including pedestrians in the road, who themselves have not been able to know when speeding vehicles might suddenly be upon them.

Evidence is attached which shows that traffic travels at different speeds dependent upon particular situations such as volume, blocks of vehicles coming from the traffic lights in Moseley Village and other situations which restrict the speed of vehicles.

Data included shows

- a. Counts of vehicles approaching the VASS at different times of the day and the proportion of these causing the device to flash indicating that they are travelling above the speed limit. When cars are not in convoy they are more likely to speed.
- b. Spot checks with a pocket radar device. Speeds of 60mph have been measured in both directions on the bottom half and the top half of the road. It is estimated that in the evening and through the night that a few cars travel at speeds in excess of this.
- c. Timed checks over a fixed distance at different times of the day between Amesbury Road and Edgbaston Road.

It is often reported by residents that impatient drivers determined to travel well above 30 mph will overtake other vehicles at high speed, will intimidate pedestrians by sounding their horns at them and not even reduce their speed as they draw near to them.

Overtaking at speed is not uncommon nowadays particularly along the section of road between Amesbury Road and Edgbaston Road.

The VASS, which is on the approach to the Amesbury Road junction when travelling from Moseley Village, seems to have no effect in reducing speed. Cameras measuring speed at a fixed point usually cause drivers to reduce their speed but only at the site of the camera.

The only way to ensure that vehicles drive within the speed limit is to have average speed cameras, covering Alcester Road to Amesbury Road in both directions and also covering Amesbury Road to Edgbaston Road in both directions.

2. It should be clear where and when parking is allowed

The inherent hazards are exacerbated by the number of cars parked on the pavements, particularly at the Alcester Road end of Salisbury Road. The number of cars parked there increased when the parking charges were increased in the Alcester Road car park. There has been a further increase with the removal of parking spaces in Moseley Village outside the shops on the outbound side of Alcester Road.

Given that there will always be vehicles parked in Salisbury Road, restrictions need to be applied, such as parking on one side only at certain times of the day, and/or if pavement parking is to be allowed to mark the allowed encroachment by parked vehicles on the pavement with a white line, say 0.5 metre from the edge, with penalties for vehicles parked beyond this line.

The fact that there are always cars parked encroaching too far onto the footpath means that in autumn and winter leaves cannot be cleared away. These become mushy and slippery and pedestrians often walk in the road to avoid slipping on the leaves.

3. Pavements should be kept clear of bins, scooters and overgrown hedges and bushes which restrict the safe movement of pedestrians.

Visibility along Salisbury Road is already reduced by the two bends, but hedges, bushes and trees which encroach on the footpath reduce the visibility considerably more, particularly for pedestrians trying to cross the road. Drivers have a restricted

view of pedestrians and cyclists, particularly those cycling up the hill where both bends sweep to the left. Overhanging trees block the light from street lights, particularly in summer. The Highways Act 1980 s154 needs to be enforced.

Badly placed bins/ unwanted furniture etc and Voi scooters often reduce the useable space on the footpath which when added to vehicles parked on the pavement often results in a total blockage or the width allowing only a single pedestrian to pass. The result is pedestrians, people pushing pushchairs and wheelchair/mobility scooter users having to go among the traffic to continue their journey. Again the Highways Act 1980 needs to be invoked.

4. Means of crossing the road safely should be provided

The bends in the road, the brow of the hill and speeding traffic make it extremely hazardous for pedestrians to cross the road. People with mobility problems are unable to cross and so cannot even use buses because they cannot cross to a bus stop. Even the fittest people often have to run when crossing because a speeding car often appears.

The provision of central refuges would make it possible for pedestrian to cross safely and without having to wait for a long time to do so. They would have the added benefit of preventing drivers from overtaking.

Support for this petition

We have-

418 votes on Change.org plus 71 signatures on paper (489 total)

45 unsolicited positive comments from Change.org voters

This petition has brought together the residents of Salisbury Road and there are high expectations that we will be heard.