

Greenhouses & Stones?

Most residents are only too aware of the heavy commuter traffic that passes through Flackwell Heath on weekdays, to avoid either the drag along the A40, or the logjam at Handy Cross. We all wish that people would drive more considerately through our village, without displaying the aggressive and impatient attitudes that are becoming all too evident

The Police and Traffic Group of the Flackwell Heath Residents' Association (FHRA) is doing all it can to channel these concerns to Thames Valley Police and to Bucks County Council, both of which have a responsibility for the safe management and regulation of traffic.

Sadly, through-traffic is not the only problem on our roads. There are a significant number of residents who make life unpleasant or hazardous for others in the village by their thoughtless behaviour. There is the inconvenience and danger created by lazy parking, such as on the yellow lines in Old Kiln Road. This is mainly by able-bodied drivers who are just too idle to park in the ample car park behind Budgen's and walk the short distance to the shops (we have no quarrel at all with the concession for the genuinely disabled). The parking issue in this particular road has eased somewhat since the Police put some official 'No-Parking' cones there, but the problem still persists around the village, notably near the schools.

Also, there are those who drive excessively fast along residential side-roads, to the danger of children or family pets who (mistakenly) feel safe playing in what should be a quiet, little used road. The performance of cars has increased dramatically in recent years, but the reactions of drivers and other road users are probably not much faster than a century ago, so the risk of an accident goes up. How would you feel if you injured a neighbour's child or ran over their pet by driving too fast in the wrong place? The Police are being urged by the FHRA to take firm action against speeding and inconsiderate drivers, and we would not want residents to be caught in the net. Therefore, in the interest of neighbourliness and harmony within our community, let us all try to drive more considerately in the village we love and where we have so much at stake in the shape of friends, family and quality of life.

Phil Lawrence

Member of FH Residents Association Police and Traffic Group