

CITY OF PLYMOUTH

BRIEFING NOTE

Subject: Vehicle speeds at Taunton Avenue - Accident Study and Speed Visor

Committee: Budshead, Honicknowle and Southway Area Committee

Date: 30th September 2009.

Cabinet Member: Councillor Kevin Wogens – Cabinet Member for Transport

CMT Member: Assistant Director of Plymouth Transport and Highways

Author: Jessica Stevens

Contact: Tel: 01752 398020
Email: Jessica.stevens@amey.co.uk.

Ref: Taunton Avenue – BH&S Area Committee Report

Executive Summary:

A request has been submitted by members of the Committee to prepare a briefing note on the provision of a speed visor on Taunton Avenue. This report also advises the public and ward members of the analysis and results of a 3 year accident study.

Vehicle speeds at Taunton Avenue

Accident investigation:

An accident study was carried out over the 1900m of Taunton Avenue, investigating injury only accidents occurring over a 3 year period (01/01/06 - 31/12/08), that have been reported to the police.

The results of the study showed 2 accidents at the locations shown in Figure 1 below. For both of which the injuries were classified as slight, the lowest level of injury accident.

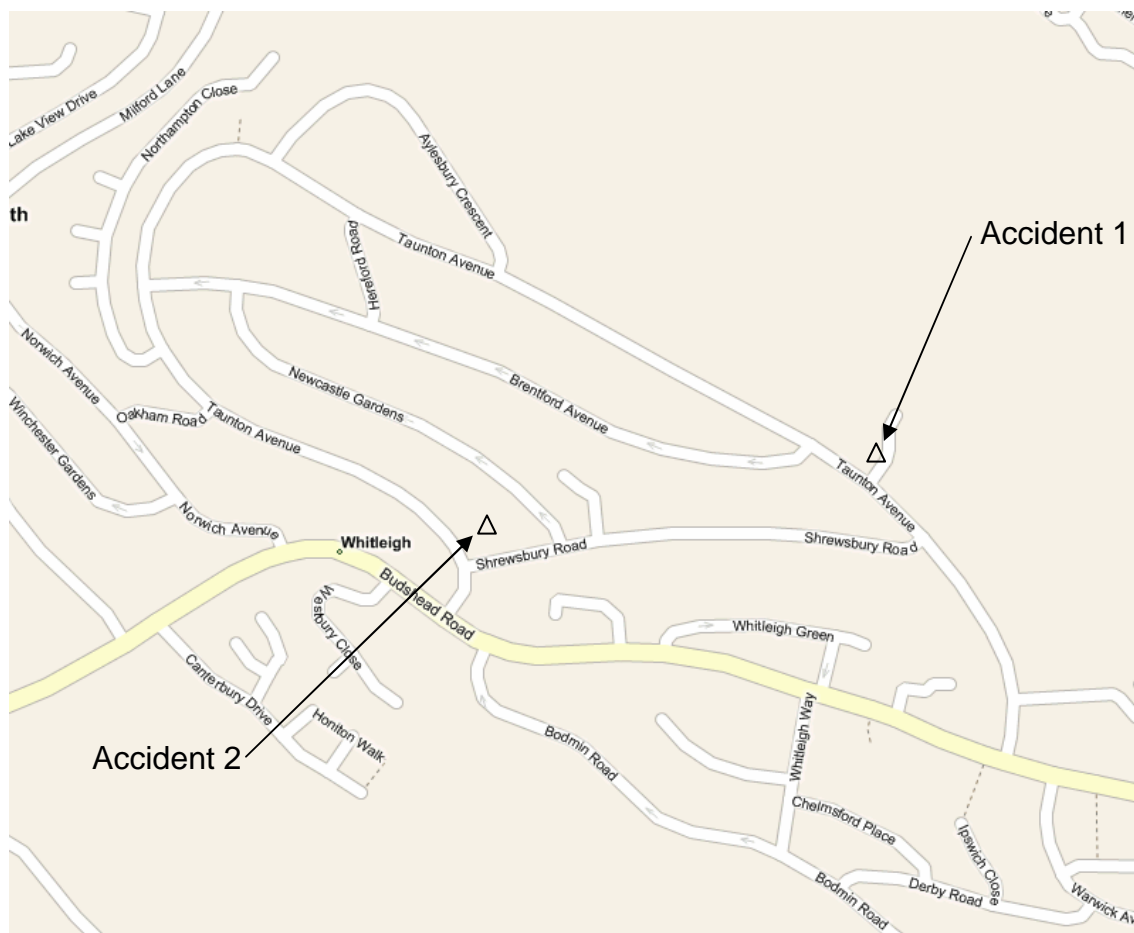


Figure 1.

Accident 1: bus pulling away, causing an elderly passenger to fall over.

Accident 2: head-on vehicle collision

Accident 2, the head-on collision on the southern part of Taunton Avenue could be attributed to vehicles parking on both sides of the road at the accident locations, narrowing the carriageway to a single lane.

The accidents shown above do not meet our intervention criteria of 3 or more related injury accidents, occurring within a 3 year period, over a distance of 200m. Therefore no action is recommended at this location, at this time. However, injury accident records are monitored throughout the whole of Plymouth on a regular basis and if the situation changes at Taunton Avenue, appropriate action can be taken.

Speed Visor:

A speed visor, which records and displays a vehicle's speed on its approach was erected on 10th

September 2009 at the junction of Taunton Avenue and Shrewsbury Road (see Figure 2), where it will remain for 2 weeks. The speed visor shows the vehicle speed to the driver and tends to influence driver's behaviour in a positive way. The visor points south-east, therefore it will show the speeds of vehicles travelling north-west bound on Taunton Avenue from it's junction with Budshead Road. After 1 week the visor will be turned around to face the opposite direction and will show the speeds of vehicles travelling south-east bound on Taunton Avenue.

The sites where the visor could be erected were limited as it needed to be located on a suitable existing pole such as a lamp column, it needs a clear view of a straight length of carriageway ahead, and there needed to be space to park a van at the location.

The exercise will be completed by the time the committee meet on the 30th September 2009. The speed data collected during this period will be recorded and made available for the next committee meeting on 11th November 2009.

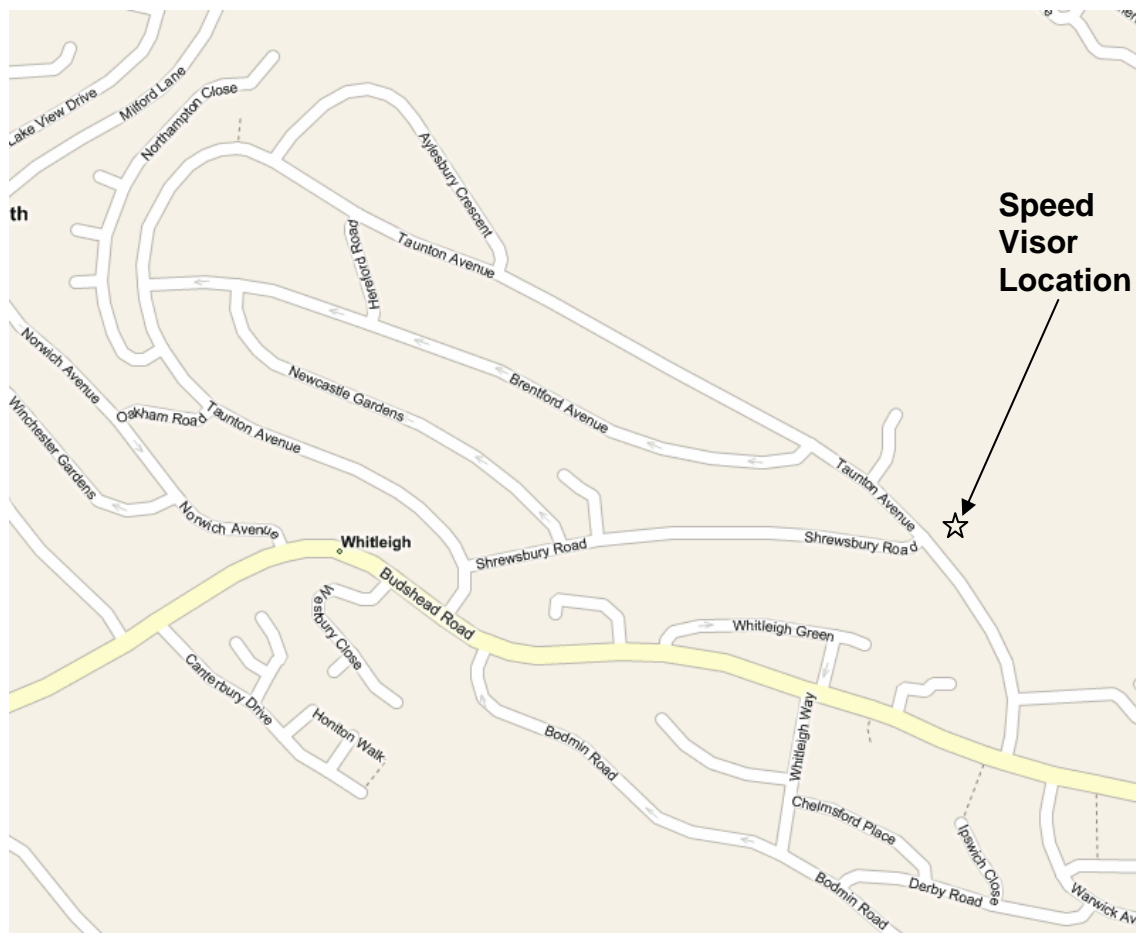


Figure 2.