

Bid to put brakes on speeding goes to top

Prescott asked to impose 20mph limit

By **KAREN ROSINE**

A VILLAGE is being put forward as a guinea pig in an experiment to slow down racing motorists.

Transport minister John Prescott is being challenged to try a new scheme to impose a 20mph speed limit on every road in Wheatley for a year.

Wheatley Parish Council chairman Peter Audley-Miller has come up with the idea in a last-ditch attempt to solve the village's traffic nightmares.

He claims, if the scheme is successful, it could be used across the whole of the UK.

Mr Audley-Miller claims the environment is being destroyed by commuters and heavy lorries using the village as a short cut, cluttering up roads and polluting the air.

He said young motorists use the village as a race track and traffic calming measures introduced last year by Oxfordshire County Council had failed to tackle the problems and had just left the village cluttered with signs and ironmongery.

Mr Audley-Miller is now proposing a year-long experiment in which 20mph speed limits are introduced at all entrances to the village.

Ban

In addition, he wants to see a ban on vehicles over three tons - other than for access.

Mr Audley-Miller claims if signs are put up telling motorists of the restrictions and they are rigorously enforced, motorists will soon treat the village as a no-go area.

He said: "We don't want to stop other people coming into the village, except if they are using it as a short-cut.

"We have a fairly high accident rate and we have to slow them down."

But Errol Carrington, senior engineer for Oxfordshire County Council, said the idea would cover too wide an area and would be very difficult to enforce.

He added that new traffic calming measures were only bought in two months ago and it was too soon to see if they would work.