



The crash scene on Morfa Bychan Road, inset: Chloe Anne Bunney, 10, who died in the three-car collision.

Tragic death triggers road-safety scrutiny

ROAD safety bosses will meet this week to discuss improvements to the busy Porthmadog to Morfa Bychan route, after the tragic car-crash death of a "popular" 10-year-old girl.

Porthmadog's police chief, Gwynedd Council highways officers, the local county councillor, and possibly a residents' representative will consider long-standing suggestions to upgrade the two-mile stretch from the town to Morfa Bychan and Black Rock Sands.

But Porthmadog-Pwllheli police inspector Mark Davies urged residents to ignore rumours about the accident, which killed Chloe Anne Bunney from Felinheli, and avoid drawing any conclusions about appropriate safety improvements.

Insp Davies said: "We want to reassure people that they will see a lot more police visibility and activity in that area over the summer, including our ongoing operation to deter anti-social driving at Black Rock Sands.

By Ian Spindley
ian@cambrian-news.co.uk

"But we cannot accurately address residents' concerns and work with council highways to tackle the issues until our accident investigations reveal the exact cause. No one has so far suggested that speeding was a factor in this particular incident, so we must put it into context and avoid jumping on a bandwagon."

Porthmadog West's councillor Selwyn Griffiths said everyone's biggest concern was to express their deepest sympathies to Chloe's family, and to hope that her tragic death would not be in vain.

Cllr Griffiths said the Friends of Morfa Bychan had launched a petition to improve safety on the busy road - including a pavement, double-white lines and a 40mph limit all the way - just a month before Friday's three-car smash.

He said: "We understand the accident was within or very close to a 30mph zone near Borth y Gest, rather than further along where many drivers have lost control or overtaken badly in previous incidents."

"I am meeting this week with police and highways officers to discuss the issues, and within Morfa Bychan itself. This is a hectic road in the summer, with traffic going to the beaches and campsites, and there have been numerous accidents over the years."

"I have campaigned on this for some time but nothing has been done. I can understand why local people are concerned that the problem has been ignored by the county for far too long. I cannot understand why one of the busiest holiday routes in Dwyfor is not on a county priority list for upgrading."

Cllr Griffiths said there are problems with the road itself, a lot of speeding, and no protection whatsoever for pedestrians except an un-

even and dangerous grass verge.

North Wales Police is appealing for witnesses to the crash, in which Chloe suffered a heavy impact head injury while travelling in a VW Golf involved in a collision with an Audi and a Ford, at 4.50pm.

She was airlifted to Ysbyty Gwynedd by the Wales Air Ambulance but pronounced dead at the hospital.

Tributes were paid to Chloe, a "popular little girl", as her family released a statement saying she was "full of life and always smiling".

"Chloe was a bright and popular member of both her school and the community. She loved to dance, hip-hop in particular. Chloe will always be in the thoughts and memories of all of those that met her, and will be greatly missed by her family and friends," they added.

Anyone with information can contact officers at the Western Roads Policing Unit on 0845-6071001 (Welsh line) or 0845-6071002 (English line).

Three injured in jetskis crash

THREE people were hurt when two jetskis crashed off Black Rock Sands near Porthmadog on the afternoon of Sunday 31 May.

Two casualties were airlifted by Wales Air Ambulance, and a third was taken by road, to Ysbyty Gwynedd, a Coastguard spokesman said.

He added that Cricieth Coastguard and Porthmadog police assisted Gwynedd Council maritime unit beach patrol wardens with the rescue, by helping to get the injured ashore.

Saturday and Sunday had been the two busiest days for call-outs on record, he added.

Artwork on show

TEN students graduating from a pioneering arts degree will exhibit a wide range of their work to the public at Y Ganolfan in Porthmadog from 14 to 18 June.

Among the students completing the new part-time Fine Art degree over six years at the College of Education and Lifelong Learning, Bangor University is Julie Critten, of Penrhyndeudraeth.

Julie's work featured in a diploma exhibition three years ago, and she was then selected to show at a top London environmental show.

The intensive BA Hons Fine Art programme is unique in Wales and the UK and was recently highly commended at national level. Y Ganolfan is open Monday to Friday, from 10am to 5pm.

Five arrested

POLICE have arrested a group of five men on suspicion of criminal damage, after three cars parked in Porthmadog's Bank Place were allegedly jumped upon on Tuesday night. Inquiries are on-going.

Caravan plan

DWYFOR planners have received an application to establish a site for 11 touring caravans, together with the installation of a toilet block and treatment plant, at Ffynnon Ganol, Edern, near Pwllheli. The application was made by Alan Jones of that address.

Redevelopment

PLANNERS in Dwyfor will decide on an application to demolish the existing Magoc Buildings, in Lôn Dywod, Pwllheli, and build five three-storey terraced houses. The application comes from Mrs F I Wood, of Ynys Bach, Lôn Abererch, Pwllheli.