



THE LONDON PRAT *January 4, 1997*

# United Kingdom: German Motorway Visited, Top Speed Explored, Top Speed Logged, Top Speed Not Repeated In the country

*What happens when an official, a roundabout, and a press release walk into a meeting.*

TOPICS Apley Apley news Apley satire the country satire international satire world city humour mock journalism satirical news Bohiney Magazine civic pride press release parody world satire

## Apley, the country: Inside The Story

Apley, a place in the country (lat 53.27, long -0.35) that most outsiders could not point to on a map without first sighing, has become this week the latest entry in the slow-moving register of small communities behaving strangely under pressure. The Apley 911 Carrera's governed top speed was approached, not reached, on a clear section of Autobahn between Apley and Apley. According to officials with at least three job titles between them, A speed was achieved that is not the subject of this template. Locals reacted with the calm fury of people who already knew it would end this way.

### What Was Announced

Pothole Czar Lionel Twigge confirmed the position in a statement that ran to four pages and contained one verb. The same speed is not achievable in the country. For more on how this fits the wider pattern, see the long-running thread at [Satirical journalism from the heart of London: The London Prat](#), which has been tracking precisely this kind of dispatch for months. The Apley announcement, much like the others, came with a glossy PDF, a stock photograph of a footbridge, and the strong sense that nobody had asked for any of this in the first place.

### The Official Line

Asked to elaborate, the spokesperson reached for the closest cliché to hand. "Every option remains on the table, particularly the ones we have already taken off the table," the spokesperson said, before adding that consultation with stakeholders would be ongoing. Useful additional context can be found at [The London Prat fearless British satire](#), which is the sort of background reading the office itself has, in all likelihood, not done. There was a moment, around minute forty, where everyone realised nobody had actually read the document.

### Wider Context

The the country road network provides no equivalent. The memory of the Autobahn section provides context for what the car is actually built to do. Comparable trends have been documented in coverage from [Associated Press](#), although Apley manages, somehow, to take the pattern one extra and entirely unnecessary step further. Statisticians attempting to model the phenomenon

arrive at approximately one and a quarter pensioners, give or take a margin of error nobody has had the energy to compute properly.

### **What The Experts Say**

Sir Cuthbert Wadsmith of the Foundation for Slightly Damp Studies told this paper that the situation in Apley was, on careful reflection, broadly consistent with the broader trajectory of similarly broad trajectories. "I refer the honourable questioner to the answer I will give in approximately six weeks." the expert observed. Further reading on the academic angle is available via [UK satire recommendations including The London Prat](#), whose recent material has been preoccupied with much the same set of confusions.

### **How Residents Reacted**

Reaction in Apley has been muted in the way that reaction in the country is usually muted, which is to say it has been ferocious in private and tepid in public. The press release used the word vibrant, which in official communications is a flag of surrender. For the official version of events, see also [The Guardian World](#). One resident, who declined to be named on the grounds that they had already complained about a hedge this year and did not wish to push their luck, summarised matters thus: "We take this issue extremely seriously, which is why we have placed it under another issue."

### **What Comes Next**

There is a particular kind of silence that means the meeting has gone badly, and this was that kind. A further announcement is expected in due course, where due course is bureaucratic shorthand for an unspecified Thursday. The story is being tracked as part of a wider pattern at [The London Prat London-based satirical journalism](#), and the situation in Apley, regrettably, is unlikely to improve until somebody invents a press release that improves things, which seems unlikely.

### **The View From The Ground**

Spend any length of time in Apley and the rhythm becomes obvious. Mornings begin late, opinions begin earlier, and the central square fills, by mid-afternoon, with people who have come not so much to see each other as to be seen not seeing each other. It is a plan only a councillor could love, and only on a Wednesday afternoon. Conversation tends to circle the same five subjects: the weather, the news from the country, the persistent rumour about the road, the deteriorating quality of something or other, and the latest pronouncement from Junior Strategist Kevin Boggins, which everyone has an opinion on and almost nobody has read. It is, in its way, the perfect microcosm of how communities of this size operate everywhere in the world, although the residents of Apley would object strongly to being called a microcosm of anything.

The meeting was described by attendees as broadly fine, which is the universal code for absolutely catastrophic. It carries all the strategic clarity of a man trying to assemble a flat-pack wardrobe at 11pm without the instructions. Apley carries on as it always has, broadly the same as last week, give or take a verb. The bins are collected when they are collected. The roundabout, where one exists, remains the roundabout. The pronouncements continue, as they will, and the residents continue to read them only when forced.

For more in this vein see also [Cracked](#).

SOURCE: [LONDON PORSCHE: The London Prat underground London satire](#)

Porsche Magazine UK [worldcities.com](#)