

Escrick Parish Council
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15th November, 2016

Barrie Mason - Assistant Director, Highways and Transportation
North Yorkshire County Council
County Hall
Northallerton
North Yorkshire
DL7 8AD

Cc: Cllr Elizabeth Casling (County Councilor)
Cc: Cllr Don Mackenzie (Highways, road safety)
Cc: Nigel Adams MP

Re: Safety of A19 through Escrick village.

Dear Mr Mason,

Escrick Parish Council sent the attached letter and 66 'speed awareness forms' to the '95 Alive' partnership of NYCC and NYP in the summer, representing residents' concerns relating to the safety of the A19 through Escrick village. We are not satisfied with the response to that letter and request that (a) the response is re-evaluated, (b) options are proposed to address the underlying concerns raised.

Our letter set out a structured list of reasons why residents do not consider that a 40mph is safe nor appropriate. We also noted that government policy, as explained in TAL01/04, is in favour of 30mph limits through villages.

The response was simply: *"The speed of vehicles at this location are well within the 40mph speed limit, which is appropriate for this road"* – with no explanation as to how the conclusion that the speed limit is 'appropriate' was reached and offered no solutions to the concerns raised.

The response also stated *"we have decided unfortunately neither police enforcement nor road engineering works would be suitable"*. Again the letter offered no explanation as to how this conclusion was reached.

A subsequent site visit with Gary Lumb from your department was able to elaborate on some of the history of schemes evaluated for the location, and highways design standards that constrain certain options. Whilst this was helpful to understand these constraints on junction alterations – we do not believe that these prevent a change of the speed limit, nor would they prevent improvements to the current crossing facility (for example making it a 'highlighted crossing' like the crossings at Deighton & Riccall).

We have raised a valid concern affecting a large number of residents, supported by structured rationale, and evidenced by a significant number of 'speed awareness forms' – but North Yorkshire County Council has not reciprocated, nor offered any meaningful option to address these concerns.

Next steps

The Parish Council would like your team to review the points made in our original letter, and propose a suitable option to address the underlying concerns.

The Parish Council believes that a 30mph speed limit, and improvements to the existing traffic island to make it a 'highlighted crossing' would go a long way towards addressing those concerns.

We would like to meet with the relevant experts to explore options and provide local input.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Rowson
Chair – Escrick Parish Council

(Attached: (i) map of affected area; (ii) Letter sent to '95 Alive' partnership in June of this year)

