



Dear Mr Richardson and Kirkby Stephen Town Council,

For many years now, Kirkby Stephen as a town, The Town Council and the County Council have been discussing the traffic issues of South Road. I have lived on the road for nearly 6 years, and it is a major concern to us. The discussions and worries have been continual, the traffic levels are rising, especially as more housing developments are being built adjacent, and now there are added implications that the A66 Dualling Project will bring.

I have closely followed all these issues, reported through the Town Council Minutes. The September minutes state the need for the road to be improved, with management of parking and speeding, as well as investigating the use of the A685 for HGV's. The dualling of the A66 Project was agreed to cause additional traffic and so improvements should qualify within the cost of the scheme.

In the November minutes, Highways, Section B, General, it states...

“a speed survey at South Road had identified that the speed limit was observed by 85% of road users with an overall average speed of 30.9mph. As a result, the Highways Authority will not be advancing traffic calming measures on this stretch of road.”

Is there an explanation of how this data was collected, as we noted some equipment – Vehicle Activated Speed Sign, appeared and then disappeared very quickly, apparently not working? With all the longstanding issues considered, I feel that 30.9mph as an average, is not acceptable, as it definitely proves that vehicles are speeding! The Speedwatch team, previously led I think by Mike Walker, collated evidence of road users speeding even when adequately warned!

These problems are only going to get worse!

I live on this road and see speeding every single day, at all times of the day! Very recently I felt compelled to call a Coach Company from the North East, to inform them of excessive speeding on South Road, which I felt was reckless! A close neighbour has photographic evidence of a wing mirror from someone's vehicle that somehow became wedged and embedded into the top of his roof rack on his vehicle! There are other incidents too!

And finally, the last straw which has led me to contact you! On the 15.11.21, our car, which was legally parked outside our house, was totally written off by reckless driving at considerable speed. The driver of the large van misjudged the width of the gap and oncoming traffic, and at speed smashed the whole side of our car! The Police would only give us an incident number as no one was involved and no injuries. So, the driver will have no repercussions, whereas we are without this car and will suffer financial consequences. I was just very relieved neither of us were in the car at the time.

I support a 20mph limit, as seen in many other areas, but if not possible, surely a Vehicle Activated Speed Sign would benefit everyone? They are used in many places throughout Cumbria and the UK, through villages with A roads running through, just like Kirkby Stephen and the A685.

I am extremely concerned that more and more incidents will occur and ultimately lives could be lost.

I await your comments and actions.

Yours faithfully

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