

# Richard M Denton

To :  
Environment and Transport Business Unit,  
Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council,  
PO Box 634,  
Barnsley,  
South Yorkshire,  
S70 9GG

11<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Thank you for your letter of 20<sup>th</sup> May 2020 in response to the petition submitted regarding speeding concerns on Staincross Common.

While I appreciate the time you have taken to write and explain the position I do feel that there are a number of inaccuracies, in addition to areas requiring clarification.

1. You refer to my petition that was received on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2019. The only petition that I have submitted was delivered to Barnsley Town Hall on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020. Can you please confirm that we are referring to the same petition and that the date you mentioned was due to an oversight within your department ?
2. Can you please confirm that (a) members of your department have physically visited the location in question since receipt of the petition in order to observe the concern and (b) that there have been no speed surveys at this location in the past two years.
3. I am surprised and disappointed that your letter did not reference some of the specific concerns raised by residents in the petition. (e.g. Sackup Lane/Warren Lane junction, safety of residents, horses and riders around Windhill Gate Farm). Can you confirm that you have read the petition detail in full and respond with your thoughts on how road safety improvements could be made in these areas.
4. You make the argument that as the northern side of the road is predominately agricultural with houses on the southern side set back, the proposed change would "do little for road safety". However, you fail to reference that the car-parking lay-by provided for houses on the southern side of Windhill Lane is in fact over on the northern side the road, thereby necessitating the need for residents, often pensioners or young families with prams and shopping, to frequently cross the road and negotiate speeding traffic.
5. You state that to make the proposed change would "present an additional burden in terms of trying to secure compliance". Can you please be more specific about this? Can you please explain how this 'burden' would be any more onerous than enforcing the present speed limit or the enforcement of any other 30mph speed limit in the borough?
6. You mention the adjoining side roads and impacting the safety on these roads. Again can you please elaborate as to how this change would have a detrimental effect? I would suggest that the answer to this, consistent with the actions of many councils,

would be to introduce a 20mph speed limit on adjoining roads that you feel are detrimentally impacted.

7. Linked to point 6, you refer to the need to consult residents of the side streets. I agree with you and this is why they have been consulted. Close inspection of the petition and the addresses therein would have informed you that there is very strong support for this change from residents of the side streets. You state that "views from residents would need to be sought ...before making changes". This is a somewhat confusing message given what you have stated prior. Are we therefore to assume that if there were no objection from these residents you would reconsider the position ?

Thank you for your time and I am sure you can appreciate the need for clarity and correction on these points.

In the spirit of transparency I should advise you that your correspondence and this response will be shared with petitioners, as well as the members of the Staincross Alliance Facebook page and the Barnsley Chronicle who have taken an interest in this important matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard M Denton', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Richard M Denton