

Camblesforth Parish Council

Looking after your village, together

Parish Chairman: Neal Yates

Parish Deputy Chair: James Neale

(Correspondence Address)

27 Willowgarth
Eastrington Village
Nr Howden
DN14 7QP

24th September 2020

Nigel Adams (MP)
17 High Street
Tadcaster
North Yorkshire
LS24 9AP

Dear Mr Adams

Re: Concerns for safety on the A1041

I am writing on behalf of Camblesforth Parish Council to seek your support and assistance with regard to a serious concern the Parish Council and villagers have concerning road safety on the A1041 as it passes through our village.

We have raised several concerns with NYCC Highways which have been entirely discounted and frankly not taken seriously. This belief is aggravated by the fact it takes considerable periods of time and several chasing emails before we receive a response from Highways and whilst we of course realise we are in the midst of a pandemic, we would point out that this situation has been going on before Covid-19 hit the country. The concerns of the Parish Council are shared by villagers, especially those who live on or walk along the path on the A1041, and we would invite you to look at social media to see the strength of feeling in this matter. There is currently a discussion on raising a petition and the concerns have already featured in the Selby Times.

The issues of concern are best detailed by referring you to the minutes of our August and September meetings, as detailed below:

(August Meeting)

6.1 Update and discussion on issues of concern with the A1041 – speeding, diversions and blind spots

Chair advised Cllrs that all the current concerns with regard to the A1041 remained unresolved and that he was bitterly disappointed at the response from NYCC / Highways on the matters. To remind Cllrs, the issues were:

- A blind spot at the junction from Mill Lane onto the A1041, with cars coming around the bend on the 1041 risking collision with cars leaving Mill Lane.
- A loose manhole cover on the 1041 causing a considerable noise nuisance for residents living alongside the road 24/7
- Concerns for speeding vehicles, especially lorries, which are even mounting pavements on occasion
- Related to the above, the increase of traffic due to the closure of the A19 and the A1041 being a designated alternative route by Highways.

Chair noted the Clerk's recent correspondence in which Highways had declared they did not feel there was sufficient evidence for a reduction in speed, or that the blind spot was an issue. The issue with the pot hole was still being looked at by Highways who advised the difficulty would be in closing the road for repairs

Clerk confirmed he had emailed the SDC Cllr responsible for Highways (Cllr Metcalfe) and had received no response and that he felt frustrated with the response of all parties involved – no one seemed interested in resolving the concerns of the Parish Council and he had a view that it wasn't until someone was seriously injured or killed before they actioned anything.

Cllrs discussed how to get Camblesforth residents involved and ensure that they understood the Parish Council was doing everything it could – Cllrs agreed that that it would be a good idea to use social media as a vehicle for informing residents of issues and concerns and what the Parish Council was doing.

Chair continued that in light of Highways comments that the Parish Council's request for a concave mirror opposite Mill Lane had been refused due to the fact the road did not meet the criteria required, he proposed to speak to the landowner opposite the junction and ask for his permission to put up a mirror on private land. Cllrs agreed with this proposal which they felt reflected they had residents' interests at heart more than Highways.

(September Meeting)

Chair invited residents in attendance to comment on the situation with concerns for the A1041..... residents stated that they were frustrated at the reaction of NYCC and their obvious disregard for the safety of the community of Camblesforth..... a resident explained that they had recently moved into the village and had already witnessed a number of concerns relating to speeding and lorries mounting the pavements. The resident advised that she had written to Highways on this matter and Cllrs noted that a number of other residents were also doing this. Clerk advised that this was the way forward as at the moment Highways were stating they had no record of incidents or concerns with regard to the road.

Cllrs discussed and agreed that it would be appropriate at this point to contact Nigel Adams with residents' concerns and the Clerk was asked to action this.

In terms of expectations, the Parish Council and residents feel that the speed on the A1041 should be reduced to at least 30 miles per hour due to the particular circumstances of the road in so far as it is frequently used by heavy good vehicles and has a number of bends as it snakes through the village. This has resulted in both lorries and cars mounting the pavement(s) which are used by villagers taking their children to school in the village and also at Carlton. A particular bend in the road used to have plastic bollards mounted on the pavement which were constantly being destroyed by the lorries and eventually were no longer replaced by Highways. The Parish Council would ask if the life of villager is equally as disposable.

Highways have advised the Parish Council that there is no evidence for any changes to be made to current traffic management on the A1041, however we dispute this, and are aware of a number of accidents and that a car ended up in the garden of one the properties along the road. The Parish Council does not shy away from making the statement, will it take the death of a child or resident to make Highways do something about the road.

The recent closure of the A19 has worsened the historical issues with the A1041, and residents are telling the Parish Council they no longer exit the village using the two junctions of Brigg Lane and Mill Lane as these are so dangerous and instead go through the village to the Drax Road exit of Brigg Lane.

In summary then, the Parish Council is now completely frustrated at the lack of commitment to the safety of our villagers and we now feel it is appropriate to ask for your help in this matter as efforts to resolve the concerns at a local level have failed. Although District Cllr Jordan has been supportive of our concerns, the same cannot be said of others such as NYCC Officers (at operational and senior level) and even Cllr Don Mackenzie who we understand has Highways responsibilities on the NYCC Executive and we have copied into emails but not received any reply.

On behalf of Parish Cllrs and the residents of Camblesforth, could we ask you to look into this matter on our behalf and in this regard, we look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you for taking the time to read this long letter and for your attention in this matter.

Best Regards

Yours sincerely
for and upon behalf of
Camblesforth Parish Council



Andrew Crabbe
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