

Councillor Responses

Cllr Fisher:

Having consulted a number of affected agencies, I am very happy to support making the 40mph speed limit on Strensall Rd permanent.

It makes the road much safer for drivers, cyclists and local residents who find it much easier to enter and leave their drives.

Cllr Doughty:

Residents along Strensall Road and in Earswick village itself, through the petition that I was pleased to present at Council, called for the speed limit to be reduced to help make it a safer road for them and all users. I am pleased that the Executive Member for Transport at the time granted an experimental period of 18 months to test the reduction of the 60mph section to 40mph. Now that the trial period is coming to an end, I give my total 100% backing to making this switch permanent and call on the Executive Member to make this decision accordingly.

In discussions with residents since the trial began, I am told they believe the road is much improved in terms of safety and ability to exit driveways more safely. This will be considered anecdotal but I am also told that vehicle noise has also been greatly reduced which is an ancillary benefit to them. While I am also sure there will always be a small minority who flout speed limits, I am pleased to say I haven't had a single complaint about speeding since the trial introduction, on a road where I used to receive them frequently.

The main arguments to make this permanent are the same as previously outlined at the time of petition. It is a busy road. There are a couple of guest houses and a small caravan site as well as homes running down much of the way on one side with caravans, motorhomes and agricultural vehicles all requiring to merge into the highway. Residents who previously told me it was extremely difficult to exit their driveways for an appropriate gap in traffic due to speed, now tell me it is easier and the the slower traffic also seems to have increased courtesy amongst road users. Since the trial began, an equestrian centre is now also operating which makes the speed reduction all the more imperative.

One of the strongest arguments remains vulnerable road users – notably those that cycle. The route has always been extremely dangerous for cyclists and with no cycle path, returning to 60mph should not be contemplated. Ward Councillors and both Parish Councils affected have previously pressed for a safe cycle route linking Strensall with Huntington through Earswick but this has not yet been forthcoming due to financial costs involved. I take this opportunity to remind Officers and the new Executive Member for Transport that several hundred schoolchildren attend Huntington Secondary School from Strensall and Earswick and a cycle path remains high on the list of priorities of residents in the ward.

In summary, I urge the Executive Member and will thank him to support making the trial 40mph speed limit permanent along the specified section of Strensall Road.