

**ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –
6 JUNE 2019**

**RESPONSE TO PETITION: REQUEST FOR THE SPEED REDUCTION OF THE B581
STATION ROAD – COMMENTS FROM MRS. M. WRIGHT CC**

I begin by offering my sincere sympathy and condolences to family and friends of Leah Ryan who sadly lost her young life in a fatal car accident on this road in January 2019. I also commend Mr John Taylor for submitting the petition.

This stretch of road is a hot topic of concern within my Division. I have liaised with Highways Officers and contacted Customer Services regarding a number of issues (traffic accidents on the railway bridge in Elmesthorpe breaking the fence bordering the pedestrian walkway which drops to a steep embankment, narrowness of footways on a national speed limit road, the pedestrian crossing in Stoney Stanton, the fitting of VAS signs and traffic calming measures). The situation at the railway bridge for a second permanent barrier is currently being investigated (reference 729866 5/11/2018). However, funding is likely to be an issue. Other solutions such as refreshing road markings have been completed or are scheduled. I thank the Highways team for their help.

Very few villages within our County do not have a 30MPH speed limit. Elmesthorpe appears to be a forgotten village. This is puzzling considering the construction of the adjacent Clickers Way Ring Road and considerable housing developments in Stoney Stanton. The road has become a recognised “rat run” to join the B4114. These reasons dilute and should change the criteria used to say the village conforms to the “Speed limit guidance”. The analysis of accident data, states that “9 out of the 12 recorded accidents occurred **WITHIN** the 40MPH section in and around Elmesthorpe”. Whilst it is acknowledged that the majority of drivers are within the 40MPH speed limit, is an average speed of 36.2MPH acceptable to be travelling through the centre of a village? This is compounded by the presence of the railway bridge which is in effect a hump back bridge with a very narrow footpath and steep embankments. Currently only protected by wooden fencing on the footpath side. This is extremely dangerous to pedestrians.

The 30MPH speed limit into Stoney Stanton has been moved to accommodate a new housing development on the edge of the village but still does not give drivers adequate time to adjust speeds from the national limit as they approach the built-up area. At the very least this speed limit sign needs moving again towards Elmesthorpe and would contribute to traffic calming measures. Or as the petition request reduce the speed limit between the villages.

Whilst it is understood and recognised that our Highways are under immense budget pressures, I am of the opinion this long-standing issue and concern will not go away. It would be proactive to get this troublesome road sorted now. Officers time will continually be called upon. By working together with local proactive Parish Councils solutions can be found and serious consideration given to bringing the speed limits into line with other surrounding villages and A roads.

Maggie Wright – County Councillor for Stoney Stanton and Croft Division
3rd June 2019

This page is intentionally left blank