

## **Orston residents' petition calling for actions to make our roads safer**

The following detail is in support of the attached Orston residents' petition to make our roads safer. The petition has received the endorsement of 180 residents who have had chance to sign the petition having read and contributed to the information and recommendations in this covering note.

Following a number of serious accidents and near misses on roads leading into Orston the residents are calling for urgent action to significantly improve road safety. Representatives of the Orston Parish Council seek to achieve this through site meetings with the relevant agencies to explain, discuss and to effectuate additional signage, road markings and reductions in speed limits at key junctions and approaches to Orston.

Specifically attention is focused on the:

- a. Approaches to the village on Station Road from Elton-on-the-Hill, Spa Lane leading to Lordship Lane, Smite Lane and Mill Lane.
- b. Cross roads at the junction of Hill Road and Bottesford Lane
- c. Blind bend at the bottom of Hill Road
- d. Blind bend by Orston Hall on Smite Lane causing danger to motorists emerging from High Street.
- e. Also included are concerns relating to road safety "hot-spots" just outside the main residential area of Orston.

In making these proposals a holistic approach has been taken. The views of a wide cross-section of residents have been included from their personal experiences and local knowledge of driving on these roads regularly. Regrettably, feedback from residents who have raised individual concerns with Nottinghamshire County Council is that these have not been given due consideration and have been too easily dismissed.

Residents believe that we need for all parties to adopt a proactive response to make safe the dangerous areas highlighted below rather than react on a knee-jerk and ad hoc basis after a serious accident. In other words to initiate solutions based on "prevention rather than cure".

1. **Station Road** – There have been a number of serious accidents along this stretch, particularly by the entrance to Orston Railway Station. The most recent incident was caught on CCTV and resulted in serious injuries to drivers in both cars.

From Elton the speed limit is 60mph even though this is a relatively narrow "C" road with numerous potholes on both sides and with private houses and no footpaths. Parents walk young children to Orston School along this stretch and dog walkers are often seen walking on the road due to lack of footpaths. Drivers reach excessive speeds on this relatively straight stretch unaware of the likelihood of pedestrians and also unsuspecting of the blind entrances at the bridge by the station due to lack of signage. These entrances serve the station, the Girl Guide camp, a private house and bridleway.

### Our recommendations:

- a. A reduced speed limit between Elton and Orston
  - b. Signage to warn drivers of concealed entrances on both sides of the station bridge
2. **Spa Lane/Lordship Lane** – Over the last few years farms buildings on Lordship Lane have been converted to houses but there are no pavements. A speed survey was carried out in 2019 near to the junction of Bottesford Lane, Lordship Lane, Hilltop, and Station Road. The speed data showed that, in both directions, out of 163 speed readings of through traffic only 33 adhered to the 30mph speed limit, with the highest recording being 53mph. This was a snapshot taken between 10am and 1pm which could be argued is not the busiest time.

This study was carried out as part of a proposed development at Brefnie Stables on Lordship Lane. The proposed development plans had to be greatly reduced before planning permission could be given. Existing access and traffic issues on Lordship Lane are listed on the planning portal as significant issues for residents.

A number of vehicles have run off the road approaching, in both directions, the Junction of Spa Lane and Lordship Lane as a result of excessive speed, the sharp bend and the increasing numbers of HGVs making the road narrower for passing vehicles.

Our Recommendation: That the 30mph restriction be extended further out from these dwellings and on to Spa Lane. It is recommended this be extended beyond the Orston Recreation Ground, allotments and Spa on Spa Lane.

3. **Smite Lane** – There have been a number of serious incidents at the Smite Bridge. Drivers approach the bridge at speed and are blind to traffic approaching on the other side. With the creation of The Millennium Green the amount of foot traffic between the village and The Millennium Green has increased considerably but without footpaths along large sections, including over the Smite Bridge. Also, with this being part of a major cycle route for events many cyclists use this road.

Recommendation:

- a. The 30mph speed limit to be extended to beyond the bridge and The Millennium Green.
  - b. Whilst welcoming the relatively recent new signage at the bridge it is recommended that “Traffic Priority signs” be placed both sides of the bridge.
  - c. A crash barrier be installed to cover the gap to the left of the bridge on approach to the village.
  - d. All sections between The Green and The Millennium Green to have footpaths.
4. **Junction (cross roads) of Hill Road, Lordship Lane and Bottesford Lane** – This junction has dangerous blind spots for drivers. An extension of the 30mph speed limit recommended under 2. above would help but other solutions need investigation

Recommendations:

- a. Discussion between the appropriate agencies to achieve the best fit solution(s), e.g.:
    - i. Better signage
    - ii. Changing the configuration of the roads at the junction
    - iii. On the approach from Lordship Lane a “Vehicle Activated Warning Sign” – “Slow Down” and showing a bend and cross roads
5. **Mill Lane** – Since the 30mph speed limit boundary was established the Dovecote Equestrian Centre on the edge of Orston is now a very busy enterprise. Many horses and riders exit onto Mill Lane and also need to cross Mill Lane to access the grazing in the fields opposite.

Recommendation: That the 30mph speed limit be extended further out and away from the stables main entrance.

6. **Bottom of Hill Road** – Motor vehicles and cyclists tend to pick up speed down Hill Road with the danger of colliding with vehicles emerging from private driveways and those crossing from Mill Lane into Lombard Street. There was a bad accident involving a cyclist travelling down Hill Road and colliding with a car entering Lombard Street. The cyclist suffered serious injuries.

Recommendation: A sign be situated towards the bottom of Hill Road warning drivers/cyclists to slow down because of blind entrances and vehicles crossing

7. **Blind bend by The Hall on Smite Lane approaching High Street** – Vehicles exiting from High Street are blind to traffic emerging from the tight bend on the right.

Recommendation: A sign on smite Lane warning of the blind exit from High Street.

8. **Sharp, right angle bend where Spa Lane meets Longhedge Lane** – Although there are chevron signs here vehicles still regularly miss the bend and are end up in the ditch/hedge.

Recommendation: Heavy white lines to be painted on both sides of the road to clearly show the curvature of the bend. Also the central white line needs repainting.

9. **Sharp, right angle bend where Longhedge Lane meets the main road into Alverton (adjacent to Lodge Farm NG13 9PL)** - Although chevrons signs where installed after a fatality on this bend vehicles continue to miss the turn. They either shoot down the extension road to Longhedge Lane or end up in the hedge. Further action required in order to avoid another serious accident/fatality.

Recommendations:

- a. Heavy white lines to be painted on the both sides of the road to clearly show the curvature of the bend. Also the central white line needs repainting.
  - b. Improvement to the style and/or positioning of the chevron signs
10. **Within the village** – With the amount of vehicles parked on the road sides within the main thoroughfares through Orston, particularly at school drop-off and pick-up times, and the increasing numbers of heavy vehicles passing through, a significant number of residents have requested a 20 MPH within the village.

Recommendation: A general 20 mph speed limit to be implemented within the village

**30<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

**End of note**