

PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL – 15 SEPTEMBER 2021

a) Question from Jennifer Raschbauer to Councillor K Athwal, Cabinet Member for Highways Assets and Transport (attending)

I am a member of the Holymoorside Somersall Link Action Group. In order to benefit the short and long term health and well-being of Holymoorside Walton Primary School pupils, would Highways consider using a Cycle Track Order to create an Active School Commute route between Greendale Avenue in Holymoorside and Somersall Lane Chesterfield, and if not, why not?

Response:

Where possible this Authority is committed to providing safe cycling and walking routes for people of all ages and for a number of years the County Council has been negotiating to upgrade the existing public footpath across the fields between Greendale Avenue and Somersall Lane to a shared surface walking and cycling route. This required the creation of a sufficiently wide footpath which could subsequently be converted into a cycle track by means of an order under the Cycle Tracks Act 1984, but disappointingly agreement could not be reached with all the landowners involved and without their consent it is not a course of action that we are able to pursue at this time.

Supplementary question:

Given the traffic congestion at school times in the village and along Chatsworth Road and the fact that the School Travel survey reports that 86.9% of parents feel it is important for children to walk or cycle to or from school, yet 81.6% of children usually travel by car, which senior manager is responsible for addressing these issues and when could I meet with them please?

Response:

A senior officer will be in touch with Ms Rauschbauer to have this conversation on behalf of the Holymoorside-Somersall Link Action Group as soon as possible.

b) Question from Anne Wake to Councillor K Athwal, Cabinet Member for Highways Assets and Transport (not attending)

In Matlock we have a problem with 'boy racers' which was highlighted recently in a BBC Radio 2 phone in and drew attention to the problem of speeding in the area. Could the Council consider this in light of the negative impact on

attracting family tourism to the area. Whilst other popular tourist destinations have clear extra signage on key routes, we do not in the Derbyshire Dales. Derbyshire is an attractive destination for 'staycations', could the Council devolve responsibility for extra signage to DDDC as they will know the key speeding hotspots?

There is precedence for these additional signs for various purposes. Recent examples are the 'pipe down' signs put up by the police, and there are plenty of signs around Derby city promoting local schemes. The Council might be mindful of the impact the problem is having on residents, particularly late at night and during holiday periods. The Derbyshire Dales prides itself as a destination for nature lovers to enjoy the peace and calm of the countryside. Unfortunately the issue of speeding and boy racers has seen this ideal diminish.

I would ask local authorities to collaborate in acting on speeding, to improve the experience for all?

Response:

Thank you for your question and let me assure you that Derbyshire County Council are **very keen** to promote Derbyshire as a “**Staycation destination**” along with keeping the area safe for residents.

DCC and Derbyshire Police are partners with the Derby and Derbyshire Road Safety Partnership, the Casualty Reduction Enforcement Support Team (CREST), based within Derbyshire Police, who are the enforcement arm of the partnership. Issues around speeding and unsuitable driving behaviours can be reported to the road safety partnership team who work jointly to reduce road death and injury through education, training, and enforcement.

Our road safety team will liaise with CREST, Derbyshire Police and Derbyshire Dales District Council to identify the key speeding hotspots and see if we can find a workable solution to this issue, Thank you again for your question.