

Tickenham Parish Council

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Nailsea

North Somerset

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12th July 2024

Ms Jo Walker
Chief Executive Officer
North Somerset council
Town Hall
Walliscote Grove Road
Weston-super-Mare
BS23 1UJ

Dear Jo,

It is nearly five years since Cllr Sewell of Tickenham Parish Council (TPC) wrote in 2019 to Donald Davies of North Somerset Council (NSC) concerning the safety of our villagers and primary school children. I have been instructed to write to you today because, nearly 5 years on, we are still in desperate need of a solution to improve active travel safety for our villagers and primary school children, yet we have been left without any support from NSC to make improvements.

Due to the small size of the car park at Tickenham Primary School, the parents, carers and children of the school have no choice but to walk or wheel to and from the school, alongside the very busy B3130 in a 30mph zone, on narrow, sub-standard pavements. That is approximately four hundred unavoidable active travel journeys to and from school each day. At peak times, pedestrians regularly step off the narrow pavement and into the road to pass each other. Some have wide double-buggies and walk up to 4 children under the age of 11 to school. This makes for a very high-risk commute.

To make safety matters worse, the B3130 has become a very popular route for heavy transport. The development of the south Bristol link road and the introduction of the Bristol Clean Air Zone have directly contributed to increased volumes of traffic travelling through our village, further increasing the danger to pedestrians, without any improvements to safety. We have recently seen a number of road traffic accidents in the village and unless action is taken to improve safety for active travellers, it is only a matter of time before a serious incident occurs with an active traveller.

The obvious scheme to improve both the health and safety of anyone actively travelling in the area of Tickenham Primary School is a speed reduction from 30 to 20mph. In August 2021, TPC undertook a consultation for this scheme, the results of which were presented at a public meeting with the village in October 2021, during which a resounding decision of "Yes" was given to the scheme. However, due to various changes in personnel at NSC, two years passed without much progression for the scheme. In July / August 2023, NSC ran their own consultation, narrowly targeting just the residents of the village, completely missing the views of many frequent users of the pavements. In addition, the timing of the consultation meant that:

1. It was held for the most part, during the school holidays (the drop in event was held on Wednesday 26th July) when parents, carers, staff and children of the school were away.
2. It came after the results of the TPC consultation had been published, giving those in the village who were against the scheme, an opportunity to rally an opposing view, which they were successful in achieving.

Unsurprisingly, the results of NSC's consultation provided an opposing result, in that the village did not want the scheme.

In November 2023 TPC received the very disappointing news from NSC that they would not be taking the scheme forwards, for reasons given in the 20mph outcomes report. In February 2024, NSC visited TPC to discuss the report. From this meeting, NSC took actions to provide feedback on safety improvement ideas put forward by TPC, and to suggest alternative options for traffic speed deterrents on the B3130. In March 2024, TPC received a very disappointing response from NSC, with no options that could be progressed.

North Somerset Council

20mph Action Plan

Active Travel Action Plans 2023-30

One of our seven Active Travel Action Plans (ATAPs) for 2023-30 to help deliver our Active Travel Strategy's vision, to:

'Make walking and cycling the natural choice for a cleaner, healthier and more active North Somerset'

Plan statement: This 20mph Action Plan sets out North Somerset Council's more consistent, transparent and targeted approach to rolling out 20mphs in the appropriate locations where they are most needed and wanted.

Page one of NSC's 20mph Action Plan

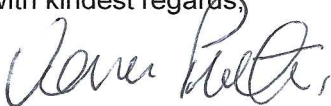
The "Plan statement" on page one of NSC's 20mph Action Plan makes reference to wants and needs, which is a helpful context to draw conclusions from. It seems that NSC have made their decision on the scheme based on the WANT of a minority of villagers who spoke up during the second consultation run by NSC and not the wider health and safety NEEDS of the active travellers in Tickenham. We were told by one of NSC representatives during the aforementioned February 2024 meeting, that NSC's experience of the Clevedon seafront scheme and the associated backlash has very likely placed a greater emphasis on the results of the second consultation to avoid any controversy, in the decision to abort the scheme.

"A child is 3 times more likely to die if hit by a car on a 30mph road than on a 20mph road" [source: 20splenty.org]. Ergo, a child slipping off the curb could be fatal if hit by a vehicle travelling at 30mph. Changing the speed limit from 30 to 20mph for the proposed section of road near Tickenham Primary School adds only 14 seconds to the journey of a road user, but would significantly increase the safety of active travellers.

For the safety of the villagers and the primary school children, we implore NSC to reconsider the decision on the Tickenham 20mph scheme and to honour their commitments as set out in their Active Travel policies, for Tickenham, as they have done so in other North Somerset villages, including those also along the B3130.

Kindly respond to this letter within 30 days, indicating how NSC will support TPC with this ongoing issue.

With kindest regards,



Vena Prater
Clerk