

County Councillor Rupert Swarbrick
Rupert.Swarbrick@lancashire.gov.uk

Phone: 0300 123 6780
Email: highways@lancashire.gov.uk
Our ref: 74772
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Dear County Councillor Swarbrick

Chorley Liaison

Thank you for your email of 6 July 2023 concerning issues raised by Adlington, Heath Charnock and Bretherton parish councils ahead of the Chorley Liaison Forum on 19 July 2023.

Adlington Parish Council

- 1) We will place Market Street on a four-week enforcement action plan. It is likely that most issues here are caused by vehicles visiting the shops for less than the five minutes observation time we are obliged to give before issuing penalties on "no waiting" restrictions. However, we will provide regular, high visibility patrols to hopefully help get a message out.
- 2) Following a previous assessment at Westhoughton Road, we installed temporary signs from April to June 2022 and again October to December 2022 to remind drivers to think about their speed. In addition, we placed our variable message sign (VMS) trailer there in April 2022, but complaints from a resident led its early removal. Railway Road has no clear speeding issue, with 85 percent of traffic travelling at 31.9mph or lower. As usual, we would draw the parish council's attention to our Community Toolkit, and advise that nuisance or dangerous driving needs to be reported to the police.

Heath Charnock Parish Council

- 3) With regard to the request for measures at the Westhoughton Road, Rawlinson Lane junction, having assessed the most recent collision data, we will be including this location for consideration in the 2024-25 local road safety scheme programme, however it is unfortunate that every year the number of requests we receive far exceeds what we can implement, so there is no guarantee that a scheme will be implemented. We prioritise the reduction of injury collisions, and so would not consider a location based on non-injury collisions, additionally this would rely on the availability of data and as far as we are aware there is currently no reliable, damage only collision data available.

Bretherton Parish Council

- 4) Bretherton Road has a good safety record and is not being considered for any road safety measures at this time, without diminishing the concerns for this location, we have other areas that have been prioritised for safety measures.
- 5) Bretherton Parish Council have requested a mirror here a number of times but it would not be appropriate. We do not typically support the use of highway mirrors because they create more hazards than they solve and have been contributing factors in several collisions. Hazards include the following:
 - They can give a distorted impression of vehicle movements; in particular, motorcyclists/cyclists who can appear vanishingly small in a mirror.
 - They can cause the driver to focus solely on the mirror and not their surroundings.
 - The headlights of emerging vehicles can reflect onto oncoming vehicles, resulting in a potential for misperception.
 - The emerging driver may come to rely on the mirror, even where this has become partially obscured by either surrounding foliage or weather conditions which affect the field of vision.
 - They can be subject to vandalism or other damage resulting in a reduction in efficacy.

As a result, the Department for Transport (DFT) strongly discouraged their use except for road junctions where visibility for emerging vehicles is severely restricted by natural layout and cannot be improved by other means e.g., removing hedges, walls, trees, or other obstacles. In line with this established process the county council are unable to consider such an installation at this location. Where they are seen dotted around the network, this is usually because a third party has installed them on private land adjacent to the highway for a limited and specific purpose like exiting a driveway with hampered visibility. It should also be noted that the location has an enviable, unblemished safety record.

I hope this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely



Peter Agland (he / him)
District Lead Officer
Highways and Transport
Lancashire County Council

