



Mr M Clark  
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Please ask for:  
Mrs Bev Norman  
Service Manager  
Traffic Management

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My reference:  
DM819071/BN/TMM

Your reference:  
Date: 08 November 2017

Dear Mr Clark

### **Removal Of 40mph Limit On Staplegrove Road**

Thank you for your email dated the 1<sup>st</sup> October to Jo Sharp. Jo has forwarded this to me for consideration and response as the Service Manager for Traffic Management.

Whilst I understand and appreciate your concerns and request for additional measures, the advice that Jo has given you is correct.

Unfortunately, we are specifically prevented by the Department for Transport from erecting 30mph repeater signs or roundels within an urban street lit area. In addition, if we were to allow this it would render the speed limit illegal and not enforceable as the Highway Authority would not have complied with government legislation. The redundant posts will therefore be removed.

With regards to your request for 'SLOW' markings, in the new Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions there is a real drive to reduce 'on street' clutter. The over-provision of signs and lines can have a detrimental impact on the environment and can dilute more important messages if they result in information overload for drivers. For this reason there is an assumption against using these markings in an urban environment as speeds are generally already slow. Therefore only in exceptional circumstances would they be considered and only then where there is clear evidence of significant problems or incidents.

Although there have been 4 slight personal injury collisions, recorded by the police, in the last 5 years between the Manor Road and Greenway Road junction none of them appear to be speed related. In addition, speed readings taken in 2016 show that the mean speeds along this stretch are 28.4mph, which does not indicate a speeding issue.

As I am sure you are also aware, councils have had their budgets significantly reduced over the last few years and this trend is set to continue. Somerset Highways looks after some 6,600 km of roads in the County, and therefore has to very carefully prioritise works in line with the available budgets. This involves making some difficult decisions to ensure that our resources are directed where there is clear evidence of significant problems or incidents. We cannot therefore support any additional measures at this location at this time.

With regards to your request for the safety audit team to examine this length of road, I believe that you may have misunderstood their purpose. A Road Safety Audit is an evaluation of a highway improvement scheme during design, at the end of construction and post-construction, to identify road safety problems and to suggest measures to eliminate or mitigate any concerns. These audits are only therefore carried out when a new highway scheme is being implemented. Somerset County Council does however carry out regular highway inspections as per the Highway Safety Inspection Manual and any highway defects are dealt with through this process. Also the road safety team do monitor the collision records on roads within the County, to see if they should be prioritised for remedial treatment, based on their injury collision records.

The very sad incident involving the Taunton School pupils at the pedestrian crossing was along the Greenway Road section and there is a detailed investigation still continuing into this incident. At this stage we are not aware of any issues being identified with the highway infrastructure or layout, by the investigation, and I understand that the driver is being prosecuted due to the manner of his driving in relation to that collision.

I appreciate this may not be the answer you were hoping for but I believe the above has explained our current position.

If you are still dissatisfied with my response then you can contact the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman via the link below

<http://www.lgo.org.uk/make-a-complaint> or by calling 0300 061 0614 (Lines are open Monday to Friday from 8.30am to 5.00pm except public holidays)

Yours sincerely,

T.M. M~~OO~~

P.P. Bev Norman (Mrs)  
Service Manager  
Traffic Management