

Contents of an email exchange between a resident and the County Councillor re the safety of Freston Crossroads.

Dear Mr Harley,

I am contacting you regarding my concerns with the Freston/Holbrook water tower junction where the B1456 and B1480 meet.

I first reported this matter to Suffolk Highways on 12th September 2023. This junction is an absolute nightmare, especially when attempting to turn right from Ipswich, from the the B1456 onto the B1480. You cannot see what is coming from the Shotley direction until it is almost too late, and the filter for turning right is far too narrow.

The traffic has built up considerably over the last few years, particularly at peak times when parents and bus/coach traffic is transporting children to Ipswich High School and Holbrook Academy. With 300 additional houses currently being built at Shotley the situation is only going to get worse.

I believe strongly that something constructive needs to be done at this junction before there is a serious accident or fatality. My wife was involved in an accident at this junction several years ago when her car was written off. I know this issue is of major concern to Holbrook residents. I cannot believe that nothing has been done to improve this junction in the 30 years I have lived here.

Having heard nothing from Suffolk Highways I followed the matter up on the 24th October and again on 20th December. I have finally received a reply and I quote:-

"Thank you for your enquiry. Unfortunately, it is not possible to act on requests from members of the public as we need to know that the request is supported by the wider community and the local county councillor. I suggest that in the first instance, you raise this with the parish council and local county councillor to see if they support your request. If supported, the parish council and county councillor can then work with one of our Community Liaison Engineers and identify a suitable solution to the issue and the likely costs associated with implementing the changes. Unfortunately, we do not have a central budget for these types of issues and therefore a local funding source will be required either from the county councillor's Local Highway Budget or a funding source available to the parish council"

My enquiry, Report No.42081 has been closed!

This issue was raised in the Holbrook Neighbourhood Plan, Ref HNC04, Page 77. I did mention it in passing to Jo Hazelwood the Holbrook Parish Council clerk and was led to believe this would be brought up at a planned joint meeting of local Parish Councils. I do not know whether the meeting has taken place but clearly impacts in all those living and working on the Peninsular.

I would be grateful for your support, together with the District and Parish Council in prioritising this serious concern and pursuing it on behalf of the Holbrook and wider Peninsular community.

I would appreciate your comments.

And the Response from County Councillor Simon Harley:

Thanks very much,

I think the only realistic option for this junction would be the construction of a roundabout, which is obviously a major project, but I agree this is not a safe junction and this should be looked at again.

If the Parish Council want me to do this I am happy to highlight this to Highways again, so perhaps it could be put on the agenda for their next meeting (ccd)?

Regards,

Simon Harley (SCC Councillor)