



## Skelmanthorpe Community Action Group

**To; Elizabeth Twitchell at Kirklees Metropolitan Council Highways Department**

09 December 2006

Dear Ms Twitchell

### **Station Road and Cumberworth Road Junctions with Huddersfield Road, Skelmanthorpe.**

We are concerned about the increasing levels of traffic and the regular minor accidents and 'near-misses' around the junctions of both Cumberworth Road and Station Road with the B6116 Huddersfield Road/Commercial Road, Skelmanthorpe. The activity at each junction has an effect on the other and this is further complicated by the existence of two other junctions, Radcliffe Street, directly across from Station Road, and Elm Street, immediately to the east of Station Road.

This is a complex staggered junction and, at particular times of the day, both minor roads are simultaneously busy with vehicles waiting to make an exit on to the major road. Traffic out of both Elm Street and Radcliffe Street, alongside and opposite Station Road, aggravate the situation.

Put another way, six roads enter this 'conflict zone' within a distance of less than 50 metres. Further complicating the immediate area are two bus stops on the major road, one westbound opposite Elm Street and one eastbound opposite Cumberworth Road. Another bus stop on Cumberworth Road, less than 20 metres from its junction with the B6116 does not help. The butchers/abattoir and the pub at either side of the Station Road junction are also contributing factors, for different reasons. At none of the junctions are drivers required to stop before joining the major road.

One of the major problems is caused by the extremely poor sight lines and visual obstructions when leaving Station Road, particularly when looking west towards Huddersfield.

The obstruction is due to cars parking in the bay immediately in front of the shops. This bay was added in the last changes to the road through the village and, rather than improving the situation, it has created 'blind spots' for both drivers and pedestrians and moved any conflict nearer the centre of the road (see photos 1 & 2). The sighting problem is further aggravated by the location of the bus stop opposite the Cumberworth Road junction. This bus stop and its kerb currently stand off from the pavement some 2 metres which results in buses stopped at this point further obscuring any traffic coming down the hill from the west to any vehicle wishing to exit Station Road (see photo 3). Sight lines eastward are often compromised by vehicles parking on the pavement between Station Road and Elm Street, often blocking the latter (see photos 4, 5 & 6). So far as Cumberworth Road is concerned, vehicles parked opposite the fish and chip shop and the sandwich shop create sighting obstructions to drivers looking west up the hill toward Huddersfield (see photo 7).

The solution, we believe, is to implement the following measures and in the order listed:

- Pave the bay in front of the shops, thus preventing vehicles from parking in this area and causing much of the obstruction in the first place. To complement this and prohibit vehicle parking elsewhere within this area, extend and/or re-mark the double yellow lining around the exits of all four roads entering Huddersfield/Commercial Road at this point. In short, double yellow line all exits within the area.
- Make both Elm Street and Radcliffe Street 'one-way streets' away from the junction such that traffic from these streets cannot exit into the area and add to potential conflict situations. Radcliffe Street is single track and has become a 'rat run' for drivers wanting to avoid queuing at the Cumberworth Road junction with the B6116 and enter the area opposite Station Road.
- In an effort to reduce the speed of vehicles coming down the hill into the village on Huddersfield Road, erect an illuminated speed sign such as the one at Upper Cumberworth before the pedestrian crossing. This should be positioned before Wood Street's junction with Huddersfield Road.
- Re-mark any exits to Huddersfield/Commercial Road such that drivers are instructed to 'Stop' rather than 'Give Way'. This may mean additional signage.
- Consider moving the bus tops away from this area.

The recent Station Road developments and that to be built by Bovis Homes Ltd on Cumberworth Road will only add to the traffic using the junctions involved. The roads in this village were never designed to take the density or type of traffic currently using them. In particular, heavy vehicles parked on the pavement at the Station Road junction while 40' articulated container vehicles negotiate this bottleneck to reach the new industrial area down Station Road with its unsuitable access. This is a major concern (see photo 8).

Much could be done to improve the situation and, having highlighted the problems and provided possible solutions, we would ask for your considered response at an early date.

Yours faithfully  
On behalf of **Skelmanthorpe Community Action Group**

**Wilf Ryden**

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