

Cambridgeshire County Council – Highways and Transport Committee

Public Questions

No.	Question from:	Question to:	Accepted / Rejected & Reason	Question
	Noel Byrne	Cllr Alex Beckett & Cllr Reynold	T&I	<p>Having lived on Needingworth Road for 30 years now it is evident that the level on traffic using the road as a "rat run ' is increasing evermore. Now we are seeing an upsurge in HGVs which is meaning that for many of us residents our houses are shaking, disturbing our sleep, causing us stress and worry.</p> <p>The road is home to two places of worship, a nursery and crossing it is a daily ordeal for young children partaking in active travel to schools and the elderly as not only do vehicles use our road extensively to avoid the bypass / ring road, they do so at inappropriate speeds making it dangerous to cross and park our cars.</p> <p>We believe the St Ives A141 Improvement Plan is proposing our road is reduced to 20 mph which would be very welcome and would in some way act as a deterrent for some using our road, but I can see little else that will help reduce its use.</p> <p>Does the Committee feel the counter intuitive measure of stopping a right turn onto St Audery's Lane would further deter drivers using our road as a rat run?</p>

			<p>As residents we feel this would actually make it more convenient for rat runners as they would rarely turn right as, in the evening, they enter the road coming into town from Meadow Lane and exit left onto St Audery's. We feel the main bulk of motorists turning right would be residents heading to the shops, as there would be no gain for rat runners to do so. Likewise, in the morning they turn right from St Audery's Lane and exit left at Meadow Lane. Often, here, the traffic is backed up to Fairfields with cars on busy mornings doing three point turns around children trying to get to schools.</p> <p>Would the Committee not feel it would be more appropriate to prevent cars turning right into our road from St Audery's Lane and turning left out of our road onto St Audery's? This could be done by using a simple islands like Elem Drive or Morrisons exit, to deter together with signage allowing a cycle lane. Also, as the road is clearly not coping with rat running 30 tonne HGVs which seem to be causing structural damage for our homes, should these be banned and allowed for access only? Buses, we accept, are an exception.</p> <p>Also, I have heard they may restrict parking in our road. This, again, will only encourage rat runners even more as, at present, they act as a speed break. Why should the vast majority of residents who do not enjoy off-street parking be inconvenienced to make the road quicker for rat runners?</p> <p>As residents of Needingworth we feel our elected councillors should be listening to our views. At present we seem to be being ignored and not consulted.</p>
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	Noel Byrne	Cllr Alex Beckett and Mayor Dr Nik Johnson	TO T&I	<p>As your key objectives list reducing rat running and promoting active travel, I feel our road is one of the worse rat runs in St Ives. Cars and now many HGV's use our road, rather than the ring road, and many of our houses now shake as a result of the increase in heavier traffic. We welcome the 20mph proposal as it may make some think twice about using our road.</p> <p>As most rat running traffic use our road as a quick way in or out of town in the morning they turn right into Needingworth Rd and then exit left out of town on Meadow Lane. In the evening they do the same in reverse right from Meadow Lane onto Needingworth Rd and then left onto St Auderys Lane at the top. This means the majority of vehicles turning right are residents heading to the shopping areas as it would be illogical to do this otherwise. As residents, we feel this would make it easier for the rat runners as they would no longer have to sit behind right turning cars and get through quicker. If you were to look at our road in rush hours you would see the issue with traffic often queueing back to Fairfields.</p> <p>Maybe imposing a weight limit or restricting access at one end of the other AM &amp; PM in line with the flow of traffic in respective rush hours would deter traffic and push them onto the ring road that was built for that purpose.</p> <p>Our road that has two places of worship and a nursery is not safe for speeding cars and HGVs. I have heard parking cars mentioned, but these actually help as a speedy break</p>

				<p>and as the vast percentage of residents do not have off street parking, this would cause issues for them and enable traffic to speed even faster.</p> <p>We hope you will implement the 20 mph limit and consider further measures to make our road safer.</p>
	Terry Fenwick	Chair Mayor Dr Nik Johnson	To T&I	<p>What are the reasons and justifications for the proposed no right turn at the T junction Needingworth Road and St Audrey Lane, please?</p> <p>We, and other residents along Needingworth Road and adjacent road/ closes, cannot fathom the plan at all. There are already several other issues that affect us, i.e vibration from heavy traffic (cracks in our front wall); the road being used as a rat run to/ from Harrison Way, long queues at peak times; general road safety as a result of parking on both sides of the road; particularly on the narrow bend.</p>
	Gennaro Coppolaro	Chair	To H&T	<p>What urgent improvements are you proposing to stop the rat run of traffic down Needingworth road? The speed bumps are a complete waste of time as do not stop anyone speeding causing safety concerns, plus there is a lot of noise and pollution from all the traffic.</p> <p>Can you please consider implementing my recommended solutions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Change speed bumps to sleeping policemen - much more effective.</li> </ol>

				<p>2. Stop traffic heading down St Audres Lane towards BP garage from turning right into Needingworth Road.</p> <p>3. Change road to a 20 mph speed limit.</p> <p>Thank you, Gennaro.</p>
	Patrick Shevlin	Cllr Alex Beckett	H&T	<p>Is there a commitment from the Committee to fully fund the proposals in the 'A141 and St Ives Improvements Scheme' so the town offers an improved, 'car limited' environment for the growing population of St Ives to enjoy safely and the roads in and surrounding the town are made safer, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introducing an enforced 20 mph speed limit;- improving the infrastructure for pedestrians and cyclists;and,</li> <li>- Taking effective measures to limit 'rat running' by speeding, often anxious motorists and short cuts made by HGVs?</li> </ul> <p>Needingworth Road is part of a strong and vibrant community which includes a mosque, nursery, church and hotel and many houses - people, especially children, who attend and use these facilities, and who live in the road, deserve a safer road to live into access key facilities, which also includes part of providing safer routes to schools in the town.</p>

	Alex Kalebka	St Ives Rep	H&T	<p>I would like to support the concerns of residents of Needingworth road regarding the increased usage of the road and the subsequent effects this usage has on the residents. My particular concern is the high speeds that users travel with along the road, despite being:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A road with a nursery school whereby children and parents walk to and from the school along this road;</li> <li>2. There being other public buildings and gatherings in which adults and children aggregate such as a church, mosque, and local shop,</li> <li>3. There being blind bends in the road which prevents visibility of on-coming traffic and pedestrians, and</li> <li>4. Being used as parking for local residents who enter into the road to access and exit their vehicles.</li> </ol> <p>My question to the Committee is whether speed reducing mechanisms can be implemented along the whole length of the road to reduce the speeds that users travel with along Needingworth road, such as speed bumps?</p>
	David Denton	Cllr Alex Beckett	T&I	<p>Can residents of Needingworth road rely upon the Committee to fully fund the proposed A141 &amp; St.Ives traffic improvement scheme?</p>

				<p>In particular, the introduction of a 20mph reduced speed limit along Needingworth Road, to hopefully reduce the constant rat running and speeding we have to endure, along with improvements for pedestrians and cyclist in and around town.</p> <p>Farthings Closes are made up of mostly young families with children who have to cross Needingworth road for the daily walk to schools, it is an actively used route where children have to run the gauntlet of speeding drivers.</p> <p>We have two religious buildings an Hotel and a Nursery all of which agree that a reduction in the speed limit or any implementations to reduce traffic, including the twice daily rat running, on Needingworth Road would be welcome.</p> <p>I trust the Committee will do the right thing for residents in and around this area.</p>
	Kostas Naisidis	Alex Beckett	H&T	<p>I'd like to draw your attention to the speeding problems on Needingworth Rd.</p> <p>The general impression is that the cause of the problem is drivers cutting through Needingworth Road, as part of their journey, for saving 30 seconds or so. It's easily apparent that many of them violate the 30mph limit.</p> <p>There's NO excuse for the lack of a 20mph limit and the lack of traffic measures that would enforce that limit in highly residential streets.</p>
	Patrick Shevlin	Mayor Dr Nik Johnson	T&I	<p>Is there a commitment from the Committee to fully fund the proposals in the 'A141 and St Ives Improvements Scheme' so the town offers an improved, 'car limited',</p>

				<p>cleaner environment for the growing population of St Ives to enjoy safely and the roads in and surrounding the town are made safer, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introducing an enforced 20 mph speed limit;- improving the infrastructure for pedestrians and cyclists; and,</li> <li>- Taking effective measures to limit 'rat running' by speeding, often anxious motorists and short cuts made by HGVs?</li> </ul> <p>Needingworth Road and surrounding roads, are part of a strong and vibrant community which includes a mosque, nursery, church and hotel and many houses - people, especially children, who attend and use these facilities, and who live in the road, deserve a safer, cleaner road to live onto access key facilities, which also includes part of providing safer routes to schools in the town.</p>