

Dear Norman,

Attached are the issues on roads and transport which we would like to be the basis of a meeting in the village with County Councillor Malcolm Byrom , Richard Flood and yourself. I have put them in order of risk but it would be helpful to know what work is already planned for Little Leigh and the timescale for any such work.

Priority 1 The need to reduce the speed of some drivers on many of the roads in Little Leigh.

While the extension of the 30 mile an hour limit on the A533 at the boundary with Barnton is appreciated there is a need to reduce the limit for the rest of the road up to the A49 junction. The increased level of heavy traffic since the decision to prevent lorries going through Weaverham and Hartford increases the risk of traffic accidents and this will further increase during the building of the Urban Village and after it is completed. The road is also currently unsafe for pedestrians, even where there is a footpath because of heavy vehicles travelling at speed.

However, to reduce the speed on this main road without addressing the consequences for the minor roads in the village would simply transfer the risks of accidents and injuries onto them. There is no clarity on what the limits are in the majority of the roads in the village Local people have noticed an increase both in the volume and speed of the traffic in these lanes. Some of this is due to the local school having more children from out of the village but may also be due to satellite navigation systems diverting traffic through the village lanes. This latter would increase if the speed limit on the A533 were decreased without finding ways to limit the speed on minor roads. There has also been an increase in large lorries using the narrow roads in the village. Signposting can also be a problem. When the swing bridge on the A49 was repaired a new sign was put up directing traffic for Little Leigh through the minor roads past the Leigh Arms. It would have been more helpful to direct traffic up the A49 to the A533 junction. We recognise that speed limits on their own would not be sufficient to deter some drivers and would want to explore what other measures are likely to help from experience elsewhere.

Particular areas of concern are:-

- Church Road which has a blind corner and has both a lot of farm and car traffic and high pedestrian usage and needs an effective means of slowing down traffic
- Leigh Lane, a single track road with no designated passing places with another blind corner where some out of village traffic travels too fast. Here there have been several accidents but as yet none that were serious. The effect of increased traffic makes it unsafe for pedestrians. As the only access is for farmers to get to their fields could it become a green lane?

- Willow Green Lane around the bridge across the canal is a high risk area which has recently been made worse by British Waterways allocating permanent moorings near this access point to the canal. As a result more cars are parked for longer at the blind corner after the bridge. A local farmer has complained to the Parish Council that cars are parked well into the road for days at a time with significant increase in risk particularly at busy times.
- There is a concern that the fatal accident on the A49 near the Smithy Lane exit could be repeated. One solution would be to prevent traffic travelling towards Warrington turning right into Smithy Lane.

Priority 2 Slippery road surfaces

The surfaces of Ash House Lane, Smithy Lane, Cogshall Lane and Hall Lane have become slippery which makes them hazardous for horses and as a result for other road users.

Priority 3 Pedestrian safety

Due to the increase in school traffic there is greater use of Brakeley Lane which has highlighted how narrow this lane is for the 50 yards from the junction with the A533. There is a risk of accidents between larger cars but the greatest risk is to pedestrians. Building in a footpath and as well as widening the road would reduce these risks. A footpath on Church Road would reduce risks to pedestrians. Increasing the height of the existing footpath on the A533 and creating a footpath up to the traffic lights would also increase pedestrian safety particularly if combined with a reduction in the speed limit

Priority 4 Lack of Public Transport

The only bus stopping in Little Leigh on the Warrington to Northwich route has recently been discontinued. This seems to be an unintended consequence of an improved frequency of buses through Comberbach and Anderton. While there is now availability of Dial a Ride for older and disabled people, the lack of any other public transport does limit choice compared with other small communities. Can we explore ways in which public transport can be developed so everyone in the village can have access?

Priority 5 Traffic difficulties

There is a particular issue with cars bringing children to and from the village school. While the school has helpfully promoted a voluntary solution of traffic going one way along Shutley Lane and Brakeley Lane, a wide ranging discussion on ways to reduce the difficulties for both residents and parents would be beneficial.

Priority 6 Road surfacing

The increased heavy traffic on the A533 through the village as a result of lorries being barred from Hartford and Weaverham is causing vibration in houses

bordering the road. Even if there were to be a decrease in the speed limit to safeguard these properties there may still need to be a change in the structure of the road to that of a trunk road particularly with the increase in volume as the Urban Village is developed.

The effect of increased traffic on Leigh Lane and Willow Green Lane has resulted in the edges of the road being undermined and resurfacing/creating proper passing places is now an urgent requirement.

Church Meadows has not been resurfaced since it was built in 1980 and 50% of the top surface has eroded away. Brakeley Lane and Hole House Lane's road surfaces are deteriorating.

Priority 7 Footpaths and traffic flow

There is a need to repair the existing footpath in Shutley Lane.

At the traffic lights at the junction of the A49 and the A533 creating left hand lanes for traffic from Warrington to Northwich would increase traffic flow

Priority 8 Railings and Fingerposts

Maintaining Cheshire railings with the correct colour sequence

Resetting the fingerpost in Cogshall Lane and refurbishing the one in Shutley Lane

Can you let me know some dates when the three of you can attend a meeting in Little Leigh. To give notice to residents and ensure a venue is available it would need to be in September

Thanks

Ross Cormick

Little Leigh Parish Councillor- Chair of the Environment Sub Group