

**Subject:** PO331 - Notice and Plan for Rake Lane, Little Stanney (40MPH Speed Limit) Order 2018

Dear Kieran,

I am writing to formally object to the proposed Traffic Regulation Order (PO331 - Rake Lane) that has been advertised and wish to detail reasons for my objection below.

Firstly, I would argue that the Council's speed assessment of this road is flawed and should therefore not be used as a basis by which to make meaningful suggestions of an appropriate speed limit. Measurements of average vehicle speeds along this stretch of road were taken whilst signposted as national speed limit, therefore providing drivers with the impression that they are legally allowed to drive up to a speed of 60mph.

However, a FOI request revealed that the Council has no derestriction order on this road so the presence of street lighting means that such a road automatically has a speed limit of 30mph. I therefore believe the Council to be in contravention with the Traffic Regulation Act 1984 by signposting the speed of such a road incorrectly and refusing repeated requests from local representatives to make amendments. It is highly likely that a speed assessment would provide a different outcome if the technically correct speed limit of 30mph was signposted whilst the assessment was carried out. I therefore reject the notion that this was a fair assessment.

Furthermore, the Council have argued that this is merely a "technical error" as the speed limit of this road was supposed to be increased along with other roads. However, to my knowledge and to the knowledge of those long standing residents I have spoken to, there has never been a consultation to make this road derestricted. I therefore fail to understand the Council's refusal to signpost this stretch of road by what is technically the correct and legal limit currently: 30mph.

I would suggest that the Council takes steps to rectify their mistake by installing the correct 30mph signs and conducting a speed assessment to ascertain whether or not this is the appropriate & safe speed limit for the road.

I also do not accept any argument which suggests that a 40mph limit is "safer" than a 30mph speed limit.

Additionally, it is clear that there are many other factors that add to the complexity of this road which have been shared by representatives previously. This includes, but is not limited to, the caravan site and local pub which both enjoy heavy footfall all year around with no footpath for people to utilise. I believe the speed limit of the road should take into consideration those who will have to use the road to access amenities, especially those who may be less able to walk, those in wheelchairs or using other forms of support, parents/carers using pushchairs etc.

Finally, it is extremely clear that there is strong local support for the speed limit of this road to be maintained at the legal and technical speed limit of 30mph with correct and proper signage - this came through loud and clear to officers at a public meeting which was held as part of the ongoing consultation. I strongly believe that it is our duty as a Council to consult in a clear and transparent manner but also to listen to the views and feedback from those who we seek to represent.

To conclude, I believe this whole process has been an embarrassment for the Council and a complete waste of time, energy and resource for officers as well as local residents and representatives who have been battling over this issue for years. To ignore their calls for 30mph signs and to instead install a 40mph speed limit on this lane would quite frankly be an affront to the local residents of Rake Lane & a decision that I absolutely refuse to support.

Regards,

Councillor Stephen Smith

Proud representative of Elton Ward, including the residents of Little Stanney parish