

Copy of Information forward to Cllr Matthews.

In relation to our recent conversation in regards to traffic and general danger in Gatesheath, Tattenhall. I've found an email trail from 2012 which highlighted very similar issues, many of which have not been rectified. I am aware that there is potential speed restrictions coming for the area but I am not aware of any dates for them to happen? but I also feel that the area's general road design needs to be assessed and reengineered to cope with the issues it now faces.

Chester Road Junction Gatesheath Lane (Newton Lane)

This junction is poor in a number of ways;

1- Vehicles turn left into the road (towards Newton)

They do not have to reduce speed because of the wide nature of the turn. Effectively it is continuation of the national speed limited Chester Road. This means that they enter Gatesheath Lane too fast, given that there are dwellings present as well as another junction.

Because of this, residents of Gatesheath particularly those on Gatesheath Lane/ Newton Lane struggle to leave their homes/drives safely. There are a number of elderly residents and children along the route who are particularly vulnerable.

2 -Vehicles leaving Gatesheath Lane and entering Chester Road

These vehicles face a dangerous decision also, as traffic coming from Tattenhall often does not reduce its speed entering Gatesheath and the view from the junction is short. This could be improved with a reduction on speed and lowering of the overgrown hedges of The Smithy on the corner which are often allowed to grow towards the road and up to unacceptable heights for the view of vehicles.

The nature of the traffic in the area exasperates an already dangerous situation. Many drivers are unfamiliar with the area following Satnavs for the Ice Cream Farm as well as the refuse and recycling wagons, HGV's and tankers using the road.

It seems ridiculous that the residents of Gatesheath are not protected by limiting the speeds. The area has many houses and businesses including a public house, a camp site and a spa, but it remains a national speed limit when similar roads such as Brown Heath Lane in Christleton are 20 MPH.

I am aware that the local authority will probably not act without accident data but the constant near misses should serve as a warning and enable them to act and change the speed and engineering of the roads locally before someone is injured or killed. A pet dog has been killed along this stretch.

Further there is a distinct lack of footpath provision locally, there are at least 4 school Children who have to face an unlit and unprotected walk to the bus stop, which is ridiculous in the winter. There are no refuges for pedestrians to move out of the way

of oncoming traffic. I am aware of at least 1 collision between a school child and a vehicle, which led to an injury and a report to Christleton High School.

Suggested improvements could include;
speed reduction,
hedge reduction to the appropriate height,
better signage for the Ice Cream Farm etc.
footpath provision & street lighting.

I did raise some of these concerns to the PC in 2012, this led to a reduction on waste wagons operating before 7am but interestingly no other improvements have been made since which is incredible given that the expansion of Ice Cream Farm and its traffic have had such a profound effect.

I hope that you concur with my concerns and the support from the PC can be sought to improve the matter before anyone is hurt.