

CAMBOURNE TOWN COUNCIL

District of South Cambridgeshire

Council Meeting 3rd October 2023

Traffic Matters and Road Safety

Correspondence

	FROM	SUBJECT
16.1	Resident	Email regarding busses in Cambourne Whippet Bus Service Responce
16.2	Resident	SPEED LIMIT SIGNS IN CAMBOURNE
16.3	Resident	Swansley lane danger to life!

16.1 Traffic in Villages

Thank you Dr. Johnson,

I really appreciate your drive to make the cambourne to cambridge transport link more reliable.

Please let us know if Cambourne Town council could partner with you or help you drive this forward faster. I have added Cambourne Town clerk and Chairs in CC for information.

Thank you!

Jey

On Wed, 4 Oct 2023 at 20:00, Mayor's Office <mayorsoffice@cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk> wrote:

Dear Jeyur

Thank you for getting in touch and for your patience awaiting a proper response. I was very sorry to read of the impacts these service disruptions have had and thought you should know that I have received dozens of very similar accounts.

One of my main ambitions as Mayor is the substantial improvement of our public transport system. As a result, given the particular significance of bus services to our region, ensuring the success of the network is a major focus for the Combined Authority. Along with officers, I have been attempting to get to the bottom of what has caused Whippet's recent decline in service reliability and have met with their management to raise our concerns, make them aware of residents' complaints, and explore potential solutions.

It appears that the main issue is a shortage of drivers. Regrettably, this is all-too common across the country and by no means unique to Whippet or indeed Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Nevertheless, we are taking steps to assist the bus operators within our region by providing additional training opportunities. To be clear though, this is not a quick fix as it will take time to properly train and deploy newly qualified drivers. To bridge that gap, we're also launching a range of recruitment campaigns to urgently attract those with the necessary skills and experience. As for Whippet, I am seeking assurances that they're taking steps to make services such as the school run and commute far more resilient, for example, with staffing at those times given highest priority. Another issue that Whippet have been contending with is the age-related quality of their vehicle fleet. Happily, they've just taken delivery of nine brand new electric buses. This will make eight existing 2016-built units available for country routes, in turn meaning that eight of their older, and less reliable vehicles can be at last withdrawn from service. Encouragingly, we're told that in the first week of this change no mileage has been lost to disrepair or breakdown.

Whilst I hope the above offers some reassurance, I recognise that it does not provide the immediate guarantees you might have hoped for. That said, I will continue to press Whippet to fix the things that are within their control, and work with them and other operators to solve the problems affecting the sector nationwide. And as Mayor of the Combined Authority, I will also continue my pursuit of an entirely reformed bus network, ultimately aiming for the far greater public control that franchising, as [recently implemented in Greater Manchester](#), affords.

Many thanks again for contacting me. I will keep you up to date on any progress here and would greatly appreciate any ongoing service quality feedback you're able and willing to share.

Best wishes

Mayor Dr Nik Johnson

Amanda Elliott
Executive Assistant to the Mayor

Amanda.Elliott@cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk

16.2 Speed limit Signs

Please pass this email to an appropriate person who is able to do something about it. Many thanks!

In the Cambourne Crier this month there is an article by Cambourne Town Council regarding the speed limit in Cambourne town. I would like to suggest that speed limit signs of 20 mph be placed in all roads in the town, as currently the only one (30 mph) is at the entrance to Cambourne.

I have noticed dangerous driving and speeding especially along Back Lane and Lancaster Gate because I live near there, but I am sure it happens elsewhere in Cambourne. Speed limit signs would help.

Regards

Anita
Upper Cambourne

From: John Vickery <clerk@CambourneTownCouncil.gov.uk>
Sent: Tuesday, October 10, 2023 3:15 PM
To: anitacameron436@gmail.com
Subject: RE: SPEED LIMIT SIGNS IN CAMBOURNE

Anita

Thank you for your email. I have forwarded your email to the County Council officers working with the Town Council on the speed limits.

From the design I have seen there will be more 20MPH signage around the town especially on the spine roads. However not all the side streets will have signage as areas are treated as zones.

I have removed your email address and signature for GDPR reasons when I forwarded it.

Kind regards

John

16.3 Swansley lane danger to life!

To whom it may concern in the councils

I am writing as I am becoming increasingly alarmed and concerned for the children making their way to Cambourne village college and Hardwick and Cambourne community primary along Swansley Lane in the mornings.

I am a resident on the road and in the last few weeks I have seen several near misses with children vs cars and one where the child on a bike was forced from the road by a range rover, reported separately to mp, police and CVC school.

this morning was no exception to the chaos caused by cars coming into the road and dropping kids, then turning in the road, on the bend before driving back along the road - it will lead to the serious injury or death of one of the children who bike or walk to school before long.

It is now becoming dangerous for the bikes on the road as cars pass close, stop suddenly, fling open doors into them to let kids out and then turn in the road before belting back to school lane. This in turn pushes the bikes onto the footpath as they quite rightly are scared on the road, and causes problems for those of us who walk on the footpaths to and from the school, as now bikes scooters and pedestrians in a small footway.

the verges are becoming a mud bath as they are ruined by bikes trying to stay safe from the cars, but out of the way of the pedestrians.

the access to the schools for car dropping off needs an urgent rethink, to allow the vast majority of students who walk or bike to school in an orderly fashion to do so safely.

I live on swansley lane and choose to do so, so i am not phased by the kids coming to or from the school, as the vast majority do on bikes or feet. I am however shocked at the number of vehicle drop offs and the poor quality of the driving of those who do choose to do this. it causes problems for all other users on the street including myself who needs to leave for work on some days of the week at the peak of school drop off. I have experienced several 'interesting' gestures from parents who feel blocking my drive or passage down the road is acceptable,

I have witnessed the following this week alone

1. road rage when trying to pass parked cars, directed at all other users
2. speeding
3. not leaving room for bikes
4. aggressive and sudden breaking
5. turning in the road in front of bikes causing them to have to take evasive action
6. mounting pavement near pedestrians to turn around or stop again requiring the pedestrian to take evasive action

several measures could be taken

1. remove the parked cars all houses have drives or carparks so none of my neighbors need to park on the road and this adds additional chaos to the situation. make it single yellow or clearway for the school drop off times
2. restrict the road to those who need to be here for business, resident or visitor to a home on the road - the signs last year were a joke and eyesore - but for a week or so reduced the traffic, but as no penalty the habits have come back
3. make the bridal path behind swansley lane into a hard surface so kids can walk or cycle along that - therefore removing the majority from the dangers caused by the minority
4. provide another place for drop offs by car - the main school entrance is not fit for this purpose.

I must commend the conduct of the pupils who walk and cycle to school as the vast majority do so with impeccable behavior and respect.

I am happy to meet to discuss or join any group needed to get this situation of roadside vehicle drop off under control, before a family are left with the loss of a child due to the lack of action to mitigate, this dangerous situation.

I have copied the schools for awareness not action, I expect action form the appropriate council body.

Kind regards

Cath