

KIRKBY MALZEARD, LAVERTON AND DALLOWGILL PARISH COUNCIL

12.09.2019

Dear

I am writing to local farmers on behalf of the Parish Council, following meetings about ongoing traffic issues in Kirkby Malzeard.

There is widespread appreciation for everything the farming community does to manage the beautiful countryside in this area and also an understanding of how important farming is for our local economy. Alongside this appreciation of how extremely hard farmers work, however, are increasing concerns about the speed at which some vehicles are travelling through the village. The vast majority of people who live in Kirkby Malzeard view the presence of tractors as a necessary and generally positive aspect of village life, but they would like to see them slow down.

The Parish Council has been seeking views on speed limits as part of a consultation with North Yorkshire County Council on local roads, particularly with regard to the area around the school and on most routes surrounding the village. The general opinion of people who attended the consultation meeting and who completed questionnaires is that they would like to see vehicle speeds reduced.

One concern that was not on the questionnaire, but which was raised by a significant number of people as an add-on, was the speed of farm vehicles through the village and the use of mobile phones by some drivers. The use of mobile phones by drivers has definitely reduced but speed is still being raised as a concern, particularly for extremely large vehicles. The size of vehicles, combined with the general issue of parking on the Main Street and the speed at which the vehicles travel is frequently cited as a terrible accident waiting to happen.

We do not want to pursue this matter formally. There will be data loggers at some point in the village, which will measure the average speed of vehicles, but these were arranged before this issue was raised and they are part of North Yorkshire County Council's monitoring of road use. They are not specifically directed at farm vehicles. But we would like to ask your assistance in persuading your drivers to slow down whilst travelling through the village. This would be appreciated by many residents who genuinely worry about dangers to children, the elderly and other drivers. Driving a bit more slowly could also reduce the noise and vibrations that accompany the particularly huge vehicles. This would be appreciated, especially on the odd occasion when the activity is taking place late at night when residents are sleeping.

I attach the government guidelines on speed limits for large vehicles. We consider this a guideline and hope that drivers will slow down further when there are more obstacles such as junctions and parked cars.

We'd all be very grateful if you could get your drivers on side with this, understanding that their work is very much appreciated but that residents would feel much less anxious if drivers could show that they can manage these huge vehicles responsibly and safely by slowing down. We'd also be grateful if you could remind the drivers that using a hand held mobile phone is absolutely illegal and can result in the loss of a licence. We're pleased that the use of mobile phones whilst driving has clearly been dealt with by some managers, and we're very grateful to them.

With best wishes,

Howard Mountain (Chair/Acting Clerk)

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