



304a Main Street, Blantyre, G72 0DH

South Lanarkshire Council
Roads and Lighting Department
Almada Street
Hamilton
South Lanarkshire
ML3 0AA

Wednesday 13 March, 2019

For the attention of Head of Roads and Lighting Dept

Dear Sirs,

A725 East Kilbride Expressway Sliproads
Important - Public Concerns

We write with a civic obligation to share the concerns of our readers regarding the lack of public safety on two of Blantyre's sliproads on to the A725 East Kilbride Expressway.

This follows a fatality last year due to vehicles traveling in the wrong direction, something which our readers have observed on multiple occasions since, despite Police not having record of these further incidents.

The root of the problem is at the sliproads themselves which lack due safety consideration and to the best of our knowledge, uniquely to Blantyre, it is not difficult for members of the public to make a simple mistake and travel on the oncoming direction of Traffic.

Our concerns were raised last year with a Blantyre Councillor and we note that several months on, a risk assessment has been undertaken by the council at the 2 problematic areas with the following actions now agreed:

Whistleberry Road - A725 off Slip

The lining at this location was refreshed last year to include a "turn right only" on Whistleberry Road. A "no right turn" sign was also erected on the lighting column to advise drivers exiting the access road. Your site observations have indicated that the existing signing and lining are currently sufficient to warn drivers of the no entry onto the slip road. However, you are arranging for the foliage to be trimmed back near the road signs to improve their visibility.

Our Comments: We would also recommend the no entry signage on the poles are upgraded to be larger and more apparent.

Hamilton Road, High Blantyre – A725 off Slip

This is a more dangerous location and the scene of where drivers have been observed heading in the wrong direction. Following your investigations you are arranging for the road markings to be refreshed and altered to provide a deflection island to discourage vehicles from making the right turn manoeuvre from Stonymeadow Road. This is welcome news. During your investigations it was noted that on approach to the junction from Hamilton Road (West Bound Direction) the lining could be refreshed just before the dual carriageway section, therefore you are including this in our works.

Our Comments: Trees need to be cut back on the curve to improve line of sight and ensure quicker reactionary times to any oncoming vehicle. We would also recommend directional oneway arrows to be painted on the slipway carriageway.

We understand the proposed works will be added to your programme to be undertaken in the new financial year. Whilst this would be preferred to happen immediately to reduce the risk of fatalities or injury, given your new financial year is just over a fortnight away, this seems acceptable and trust it will be given immediate priority.

Finally, to show the level of public concern about this matter, we have collected a petition of 814 signatures for this work to be done asap.
<http://chng.it/GdW77PHFGp>

It is hoped this letter will be duly considered and look to hear from you at your earliest convenience in order to update our concerned readership. Thanks.

For Blantyre Telegraph

Paul D Veverka
Owner Editor

Cc Clerk to the Public Petitions Committee, Cllr Maureen Chalmers, Cllr Bert Thomson, Cllr Mo Razzaq