

Matters Introduced by Members of the Public

Haigh Parish Council Meeting - 18 March 2019

A resident had written to the Council in January to raise the following two issues:

"I would like to bring to the councils attention 2 items of concern within the parish.

1. The increasing amount of road accidents along the B5239, in particular the Haigh Hall entrance on the bend of school lane/meadow pit lane. The road speed sign and fence to Colliers farm has been completely demolished, the same bend had a closure approx 6 months ago due to a HGV going too fast and shed its load, a vehicle was removed from the hedge 3 weeks ago on the bend towards Hampson Green and another HGV on the same stretch 12 months ago was hauled from the hedge closing the road yet again. My wife and I recently walking along the road witnessed a vehicle spinning 360 deg. and only missed ourselves by 10 metres.

The road clearly has a "black spot" on that bend and I have wrote to Wigan council expressing my concern (yet to receive a reply). Cars, vans and HGV from the canal bridge see the red light signal as a test to see how fast they can go and disregard speed and road markings signs. I have lived at xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx for 19 years and have noticed the number of accidents and near misses is increasing along this stretch. For the safety of Haigh residents, walkers cyclists and law abiding motorists, action must be taken before more incidents occur. I suggest a 30 mph speed limit and no overtaking central signs be implemented from the Balcarres Inn to the canal at Red Rock.

2. Rubbish along the same stretch of road discarded from vehicles is also increasing and does not show the Haigh Hall park, parish or borough at its best with this road being the main entrance to the surrounding area. I have written to the Wigan council 12 months ago and paths were cleared on one side only ,health and safety presumably determined why the hedgerow was not? The paths are again strewn with rubbish and I have written recently again to the council.

Motorists are educated enough to understand that throwing rubbish out of there cars on a motorway could potentially kill someone but yet do not understand they are causing danger on country roads and killing the countryside.I have suggested litter signs at the lights at RedRock and Balcarres Inn ends with signs between and at all entrances to Haigh Hall."

The resident was present at the meeting and introduced the issues, which were discussed.

Increase in Accidents Along the B5239

The resident informed the Council that he had noticed an increase in accidents in Haigh, particularly in the Little Scotland area, where a fence on a bend had been demolished as a result of a collision. The speed signs along the B5239 indicated limits ranging from 40mph to 60mph, but many drivers were ignoring the limits and were driving at greater speeds.

It was observed that the introduction of Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) along this stretch of road might be helpful. The view was expressed that a speed limit of 40mph along the full stretch of road would be desirable, as 60mph was too high. Because the footpath was not very wide and cars often parked on it, walking along it could be a dangerous occupation.

The volume of traffic had increased in recent years, particularly since the development of Haigh Woodland Park. People who knew the area knew where the bends were and slowed down accordingly, but outsiders were in a different situation. The recent replacement of a

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lamp standard in Red Rock Lane after it had once again been the subject of a collision provided additional evidence for the need of greater control of traffic along the B5239.

Driving along this stretch of road was particularly hazardous at night: it was suggested that the introduction of suitable new lighting would be desirable.

The Council were open to any solutions, as long as they addressed the issues, and agreed that they would be raised with Network Management.

Litter Discarded from Vehicles Along the B5239

The volume of discarded litter and possible solutions to the problem were discussed. Suggestions included:

- Having a campaign which would include displaying signs along the roads approaching the Haigh Estate asking people to take their litter home and not throw it out of cars.
- Asking the District Councillors to arrange for the 'Beat It Team' to collect it from time to time.
- Holding volunteer litter collecting sessions.