

*Ballaglass Cottage
Coggeshall Road
Stisted
BRAINTREE
Essex CM77 8AB*

11 September 2024

PROPOSED SPEED LIMIT REDUCTION ON THE A120 BRAINTREE TO MARKS TEY

I have delegated authority from Bradwell with Pattiswick Parish Council to respond to your letter of 2 September (Minute ref: 24-5/139)

We understand the proposed scheme will be used to reduce the KSI¹ statistics for this road, so the figures do not look so bad for National Highways. Potentially, this then reduces the need for a new A120. While the Parish Council supports improvement to road safety, this should not be at the expense of reducing pressure on government to fund the new A120.

We note the proposed scheme does nothing to improve the safety of pedestrians or cyclists.

In addition to the proposed speed limit restrictions, we would like to see two further speed limit restrictions.

Reduction of the speed limit from 40mph to 30mph through Bradwell Village, in order to protect local children who have to cross the road daily on their way to school and to protect residents of Mill View, who only have a traffic island to use when crossing the road to go shopping at the BP garage – our only local shop. Also to reduce the reported damage to residential property along the A120 caused by vibration as HGVs pass. We attach our case for this speed limit reduction.

The proposal fails to address the notorious Kings Lane junction. We would ask for an extension of the 40mph speed limit from Bradwell to the Marks Farm roundabout - this was a planning condition when the Twin Oaks site was originally given planning permission. This stretch includes the access to a Saturday Boot Sale, a Garden Centre (outside which there has been at least one fatality), the access to Twin Oaks (itself a site of multiple accidents) and the notorious Kings Lane junction itself the location of yet another serious accident in the past four weeks. The current speed limit is 50mph, yet in this short stretch of road there are ten SLOW signs in each direction, some of which are “mandatory” ie white letters on a red background. We believe it would be better to reduce the speed limit to 40mph rather than rely on motorists taking notice of the SLOW signs, which they currently ignore.

Seven years ago the Parish Council agreed with Highways England that the 40mph signs at the entry to the village should be replaced by White Gates and a design specification was drawn up and

¹ Killed or Seriously Injured

agreed. The Parish Council indicated that it would fund the gates. After four year's delay, National Highways agreed to incorporate the provision of the White Gates into a Safety Scheme which was due for completion this year, but , we understand, it is on hold due to lack of funding. We ask that the White Gates scheme should be included in this exercise.

Tony Dunn
Chair
Bradwell with Pattiswick Parish Council