

# CHIDEOCK PARISH COUNCIL

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**Chair: Cllr Vanessa Glenn, 6 Winniford Close, Chideock, DT6 6SA 01 297 480810**

**Clerk: Miss Sal Robinson, 60 North Allington, Bridport, DT6 5DY 01 308 426327**

**13 September 2020**

**Re: Stage 2 Complaint**

**Dear Mr Roberts**

Thank you for your letter of 20 August 2020 responding to concerns raised with you in Chideock Parish Council's letter dated 30 June 2020, and for answering some of our points. However, the Parish Council does not feel that Highways England is actually addressing the major complaints and ask that you please pass this letter onto Stage 2 of your Complaints Procedure.

The Parish Council's primary complaint is that whilst HE has been responsible for the A35 since 2015 (and as the Highways Agency prior to that) none of the problems arising from the A35 have improved for Chideock residents or visitors. We know that HE has commissioned several reports for aspects of these problems but there has been absolutely NO improvement in anything. In fact, every aspect of these problems including pollution; village severance and safety; noise and vibration has significantly deteriorated year on year for the last 25+ years.

The Parish Council is disappointed that you have failed to properly answer some of the concerns raised in the aforementioned letter, often appearing to repeat why HE will NOT be resolving the problems. Which frankly the Parish Council sees as HE excuses for failing to act on items which may be very small in the world of HE but are very important in the world of our village and its residents.

With specific regard to your last letter (20 August 2020) the Parish Council is not satisfied on several of your responses including:

**Village Flooding** - the Parish Council's complaint is that despite advising you on several occasions that specific gullies are blocked your response was that "once or twice a year is the norm" for drain cleaning. Unfortunately whether or not it is "the norm" the gullies at the east end of the village remain blocked and as a direct consequence of your ignoring our requests these gullies once again flooded during the heavy rains which lasted for approximately 3 hours on Thursday 27th August 2020.

**Current 30mph Speed Trial** - the Parish Council's request is very simple and you have still not answered it. So, the Parish Council repeats - how are the results of this trial going to be worth anything if the speed limit is not enforced and no-one on your study team actually knows whether the traffic is behaving any differently to its pre-trial habits? Especially since you have now imposed traffic management for the Chideock slip roadworks - works which, incidentally you originally told the Parish Council would NOT affect traffic flow.

**Outcomes of WSP Safety and Severance Report** - the Parish Council is aware that it has a copy of the report and that you explained why you will NOT be undertaking 11 of these recommendations. One complaint is that you have failed to explain how you can ignore the Equalities Acts for disadvantaged people by not addressing the illegal adverse pavement cambers and, in some places, total absence of any footway. Nor giving any firm commitment or timescale to implementing the 4 options that you are "exploring", whatever that actually means.

**Average Speed Cameras** - The Parish Council remains incredulous and complains that a recommendation made in January 2019 (for such a straightforward and uncontentious provision) seems likely to take until 2025 to actually install.

**Illegal levels of pollution** - You are right to point out that you have engaged with Dorset Council Environmental Health Department following Chideock's designation as an AQMA in 2007. The sad truth actually is that in the 13 years since then NO<sub>2</sub> pollution has increased continually to the point where Chideock Hill has now been recorded as having the highest level of NO<sub>2</sub> pollution anywhere in the UK and particulate pollution (PM<sub>2.5</sub>/PM<sub>10</sub>) is not even being monitored!!

The Parish Council's complaint is that everyone knows BUT no-one does anything about it. So, will you please explain what precisely HE will do to reduce these illegal levels of traffic related NO<sub>2</sub> pollution. Also, why HE as the polluter responsible, is not addressing and monitoring PM<sub>2.5</sub>/PM<sub>10</sub>.

**Withdrawal from quarterly Chideock liaison meetings** - the Parish Council remains very disappointed that the "constraints on your resources" continues to prevent you from attending 4 meetings per year each lasting just 2 hours with the Parish Council regarding the congestion nightmare on your South Coast Strategic Highway, with problems of severance, noise, vibration, safety, pollution etc. The complaint is that you are refusing to re-engage with the Parish Council on these extremely useful meetings. The Bridport A35 Working Group meetings are NOT an adequate substitute for meetings focused on Chideock's serious problems.

So please excuse this Parish Council for saying '**NO** we are **NOT** assured that you "continue to take the issues in Chideock seriously'. The Parish Council actually has the distinct feeling that it is being ignored. So, we hereby ask that you do now take our complaints onto Stage 2 of your procedure.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sal Robinson', written over a horizontal line.

Sal Robinson (Miss), Chideock Parish Clerk