

**Petition Ref: Petition 86 to Cheshire East Council
Proposed Speed Limit A49 Spurstow
Submission – 20/10/16 Sandbach Town Hall (Mrs Griffiths)**



Accident A49 Spurstow Crossroads

Department for Transport Circular on Setting Speed Limits – January 2013

7.3 131 **Fear of traffic can affect people's quality of life in villages** and it is self evident that villages should have comparable speed limits to similar roads in urban areas. **It is therefore government policy that a 30 mph speed limit should be the norm through villages.**

7.3. 134.. Where the character of a village falls outside this definition, local authorities are encouraged to **use their discretion** in deciding whether a lower speed limit is appropriate

“Local residents may also express their concerns or desire for a **lower speed limit** and these **comments should be considered.**”

Extract

Taken from Minutes of Spurstow Parish Council Meeting March 2013

Cheshire East Council Propose a 30 MPH speed limit for A49 Spurstow.

(a) Whitchurch Road – Reduction of Speed Limit. An email from Cheshire East Highways indicated that it was proposing to reduce the existing 50 mph speed limit on Whitchurch Road through Bunbury and Spurstow to 30 mph. The triangle comprising Badcocks Lane at the Whitchurch Road end and School Lane, Bunbury were also included in the proposal.

Resolved: That Cheshire East Highways be informed that, whilst the Parish Council supports a reduction of the speed limit, it is of the opinion that 40 mph all the way through from the Red Fox Inn, Tarporley, to the end of the existing speed limit to the south of Spurstow would be more appropriate, as it is felt that more drivers would be inclined to keep to a 40 mph limit rather than a 30 mph limit.

The Current Petition therefore represents a position originally proposed by Cheshire East Council

Re: – Petition Ref: Petition 86 to Cheshire East Council A49 Spurstow Speed Limit 30 MPH

Summary Points

To be read in conjunction with Correspondence with Mr Frank Jordon (Executive Director –Place)

Further points in support of a 30 MPH limit and with reference to:

- **Department for Transport Circular on Setting Speed Limits – January 2013**
- **Cheshire East Council’s “Speed Management Strategy – September 2016**
 - Guidance states that 30mph is generally the norm in villages;
 - The road geometry demands a 30 mph limit. (Photographs 1 – 3)
 - Residential properties drives that access directly onto the main A49 suffer from poor visibility due to the road geometry. (Photo 2)
 - The Spurstow crossroads are route to school; used by a very popular and highly attended day nursery and used as a through route for Bunbury and Nantwich
 - Quality of life of some residents in the stretch is seriously affected due to speeding vehicle and the condition of the road.
 - The road is regularly used by vulnerable road users such as elderly residents
 - Accidents are common at the Spurstow A49 Crossroads – it has a poor History of Collisions as referenced by some of the attached photographs.
 - There would be Potential collision and casualty savings with the implementation of a lower 30 MPH limit; a reduction in public anxiety and reduction of the negative environmental impact.
 - Local needs demand a 30 mph limit on the basis of t he potential dangers due to speeding traffic that often ignore the current 40 MPH limit.
 - In terms of usage the existence of the Children’s Day Nursery and Restaurant at Spurstow A49 creates a greater volume traffic than Bunbury Heath where a 30 MPH limit is implemented



A49 Spurstow View Towards Tarporley
Photo 1



A49 Spurstow View Towards Whitchurch.
Residents of Sandymount require a Mirror to
provide visibility on exit from their driveway.
(Photo 2)



Photo 3

Spurstow Crossroads

There is an obvious Visibility Issue at A49 Spurstow crossroads looking towards Tarporley. Note how the bend in the road and position of fencing and signage obscures the view of oncoming traffic – the cause of numerous accidents.

Road Geometry is clearly an issue at this location.

In Petitioning for 30 MPH residents are simply endorsing:
Cheshire East’s own Policy Key Vision (Page 4) to:

- Reduce the number and severity of road traffic collisions and casualties
- Create a safer highway environment by reducing incidents of excessive and inappropriate speed
- Create environments that are more sympathetic to vulnerable road users
- Empower local communities to play a proactive role in reducing incidents of excessive and inappropriate speed

Whilst we appreciate the need for “Yard-stick” criteria used in Cheshire East Council’s “Speed Management Strategy – September 2016 – Page 6 (Below)

Speed limit (mph)	Where limit should apply:
30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Settlement has a clearly defined core –shopping area, town\illage green, etc. • Numerous facilities generating pedestrian/cycle activity - schools, shops, public house, play areas, etc. • Almost continuous frontage development exceeding 600m in length • Significant development in depth • Significant pedestrian activity throughout the day with provision of footways and or crossings

We also hold the view that requests for a 30 MPH need to be balanced on levels of usage, road geometry and history of collisions rather than an arbitrary 600 M frontage.

In this respect we note:

Department for Transport Circular on Setting Speed Limits – January 2013

7.3. 134. Where the character of a village falls outside this definition, **local authorities are encouraged to use their discretion** in deciding whether a lower speed limit is appropriate.

Petition to Cheshire East Council Highways Department 19th September 2016

Petition to replace the current 40 MPH limit on the A49 Spurstow with a 30 MPH limit.

Number of Petitioners: 135

We ,the undersigned, request Cheshire East Council , in consideration of our concerns, implement a 30 MPH speed limit on the A49 Spurstow. We consider that Spurstow meets the village criteria of the Department for Transport Circular 01/2013 to warrant a 30 MPH limit as detailed in our covering letter.

Our Concerns: (In relation to both increased Traffic Volume and the weight and size of HGV using the A49)

- 1 Pedestrian Safety** - Elderly residents are increasingly concerned about their ability to cross the A49 as are parents using pushchairs .
- 2 Driver Safety** – Residents concerns at crossing the A49 on a regular basis. Recorded Accidents statistics show that Spurstow crossroads and Badcock’s lane have been particular “black-spots” This is a busy crossroads used by residents of Spurstow and Bunbury as well as through traffic to Nantwich and appears much busier than Bunbury Heath School Lane crossroad.
- 3 Dangers caused by Stationary Vehicles** – Delivery Vehicles notably regular Supermarket , Post –Office Van and Refuse Collection
- 4 Environmental Impact** – Noise, Vibration issues and structural damage to property notably drain collapse at Spurstow Caravan Park.

Proposed Actions By East Cheshire Council Coupled with Appropriate Liaison with Cheshire Police.

- 1 All 40 MPH Signage** to be replaced with **30 MPH signage.**
- 2 Speed Camera to be calibrated** to detect vehicles travelling in excess of 30 MPH
- 3 Placement of No Overtaking white lines** at the Long Lane / Peckforton Hall Lane Crossroads and adjacent to appropriate residential properties including Panama Hatty’s Restaurant.
- 4 Signage** to indicate the absence footpaths as appropriate to residential dwellings.

Yours

The Residents of Spurstow

Petitions Officer East Cheshire Council
Legal and Democratic Services
Westfields
Middlewich Road
Sandbach
Cheshire
CW11 1HZ

Covering Letter

**Ref: Petition to replace the current 40 MPH limit on the A49 Spurstow with a 30 MPH limit.
Number of Petitioners: 135**

Dear Sir/Madam

Other Resident Feedback

Whilst collecting the enclosed signatures we received other comments which it is appropriate to mention here;

1 Residents of Spurstow Residential Caravan park regard that exiting on to the A49 from either of the two Badcock's Lane junctions as being far too dangerous and are consequently forced to detour to safer access points.

2 Residents whose driveways face the A49 constantly face the danger of vehicles overtaking slow-moving agricultural vehicles.

**** We would Request that you address the following specific issue(s) In Any Reply ****

Please clarify with reference to **Department for Transport Circular 01/2013 (Page 11 – Key Points and Point 30)** how this rationale was applied such that original 30 MPH limit proposed for Spurstow in 2013 was not implemented in contrast to Bunbury Heath where it was implemented. **Having studied this document we feel that Spurstow meets the criteria on villages to warrant a 30 MPH limit.**

With reference to the Department for Transport Circular 01/2013 we would make the following observations in comparing the Bunbury Heath section of the A49 Road with that of Spurstow.

History of collisions : Reported Serious Accidents to Police Statistics up to 2013 obtained via the Freedom of Information Act (from the then Police Commissioner John Dwyer) showed Badcock's Lane and Spurstow crossroads have the higher frequency of accidents.

In terms of **Road Function** and **Composition of Road Users**: There is a need for both residential and Business use (Panama Hatty's Restaurant) access. The crossroads has to be crossed by both drivers and pedestrians using the Nursery on Peckforton Hall Lane as well as school students using the Tarporley school bus service. The general elderly nature of the Spurstow population is also a factor.

Road Geometry – The Spurstow section of the A49 has more side- road access points. (5 in total compared with 2 at Bunbury Heath.) Spurstow crossroad is similarly staggered as at Bunbury Heath. Line of sight is poorer at Spurstow due to the number of bends and "closed nature" of the crossroad. In contrast Bunbury Heath is a comparatively straight section.

In consideration of this petition we would also ask your response to refer to:

Page 10 23 of the **Department for Transport Circular 01/2013** - "Local residents may also express their concerns or desire for a lower speed limit and these comments should be considered."

Please note that in 2013 a petition, requesting a 30 MPH limit, signed by 51 residents of Spurstow was made to both Spurstow Parish Council (C/O Chairman Mr David Cox) and Councilor Mr Stan Davies.(Wrenbury District)

Additionally we would like to know how the Department of Transport's Speed Limit Appraisal Tool Software was used to establish a 30 MPH limit for Bunbury Heath but not Spurstow.

Please also note that the original objection in 2013, by then Chief Inspector of Traffic Police, that he felt unable to police a 30 MPH effectively through Spurstow has been made redundant since the current Spurstow speed camera could easily be re-calibrated.

Other Resident Feedback

Whilst collecting the enclosed signatures we received other comments which it is appropriate to mention here;

1 Residents of Spurstow Residential Caravan park regard that exiting on to the A49 from either of the two Badcock's Lane junctions as being far too dangerous and are consequently forced to detour to safer access points.

2 Residents whose driveways face the A49 constantly face the danger of vehicles overtaking slow-moving agricultural vehicles.

To emphasise our major concerns we include photographs of yet another accident at the Spurstow crossroads that occurred yesterday on 18/09/16 that clearly incurred both injury and distress to those involved as well as the attendance of both Police, Ambulance and Air Ambulance at much cost to the Public Purse.



Accident Spurstow Crossroads (Junction of A49 with Long Lane and Peckforton Hall Lane)

Date of Accident 18/09/16 Time 1:15 PM