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House of Commons
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Date: 4th August 2021
Your reference: ET8179

Our Reference: 12310469

Dear Mr Timpson

RE: Spurstow Safety Camera

Thank you for your email dated 12th July 2021 with request to be kept updated concerning Spurstow Safety Camera. Please find below copy of email that was sent to Spurstow Parish Council by the Cheshire East Traffic team on 2nd August 2021.

“We note that you feel that we are not considering your views in the repositioning of the speed camera at Spurstow.

We feel it is important to outline the background again on why the camera was originally installed and why it is to be moved for you to appreciate that the new position chosen has been assessed and selected to address a number of safety issues.

Speed cameras are only ever installed as a measure of last resort and are placed as close to the location where serious collisions have been occurring as practicable – rather than locations where collisions may occur. Cameras are therefore a reactive measure which are installed to help prevent future serious collisions in a specific location.

The camera was originally installed at Spurstow as a measure to help address a poor road safety record where people were being killed or seriously injured through speed along this section of highway. Unfortunately the camera has been subject to vandalism over many years with costly repairs going into thousands of pounds and a decision was finally taken to relocate the camera. We can advise that since the camera was installed in the original location it was effective and improved driver behaviours and thereby improving the safety record for this location.

In considering alternative suitable locations we have consulted with the police and the camera installation experts. The location chosen addresses the following important considerations

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- *Forward visibility for field of view of the equipment (and therefore enforcement capabilities)*
- *Clear of obstacles such as vegetation or other structures which may adversely impact enforcement capabilities*
- *Installation and maintenance accessibility*
- *Power source for the equipment*
- *Proximity to the original location*
- *Equipment clearly visible for driver awareness on the A49*
- *Provides further enforcement around two junctions following complaints of vehicles overtaking other vehicles turning off into side roads*
- *Equipment is more conspicuous at the junctions which helps future proof it from further extensive vandalism*

We are aware that you would like the camera to be installed about 100-200m north of its current location towards the junction with Long Lane, somewhere near Panama Hatty's as this is where you believe it would be most effective in controlling speed.

We can advise this location does not provide for:

- *Forward visibility for field of view for the equipment (and therefore enforcement capabilities)*
- *Clear of obstacles such as vegetation or other structures which may adversely impact enforcement capabilities*
- *Installation and maintenance accessibility*
- *Power source for the equipment*
- *Equipment clearly visible for driver awareness on the A49*

Unfortunately, entering into debate with third parties on camera location is of limited value as equipment and maintenance requirements dictate the location. We respect that you have a view on the location of the camera but the location you have chosen is not suitable.

We can confirm that the work has been ordered. The existing fixed camera will be removed when the new one is installed but the hard standing of the old site will be left for periodic use by the police mobile camera van and will also provide speed enforcement for both north and south travelling vehicles.

We trust the above is of assistance to you”

We hope the above information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

The Cheshire East Highways Team

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