

Response from East Sussex County Council to our report on improving safety for pedestrians and cyclists on Nevill Road

8th July 2025

Dear Suzy

Thank you for your email of 16 May 2025 to Andrew Turner, on behalf of the Nevill Residents Association, regarding your concerns for pedestrians and cyclists on Nevill Road, Lewes, and the proposals suggested by your consultants. Andrew has asked me, as Team Manager responsible for road safety, to respond directly to you. Please accept my apologies for the delay in replying.

As you may be aware the County Council has a limited amount of funding, particularly at this present time. Therefore, we need to prioritise the local transport schemes which will be of greatest benefit to our local communities.

The fourth East Sussex Local Transport Plan (LTP4) was adopted on 8 October 2024. This has meant that the scheme prioritisation process we will use for assessing and to help prioritise requests for local transport schemes needs to be updated to reflect the priorities set out in LTP4. The new prioritisation process is still being developed and as a result we are unable to undertake an assessment of your scheme requests until this is approved.

We expect the new assessment approach to be available from autumn 2025, at which time our officers will complete a full assessment of your scheme requests. We will contact you at that point if your scheme request is taken forward for a detailed assessment and consideration for potential inclusion in a future year's capital programme of local transport improvements. Your scheme requests will also be kept on our list of potential schemes so that it can be reconsidered should other funding or delivery opportunity become available.

We are sorry for any inconvenience caused from the delay in assessing your scheme requests. I can assure you that whilst there is a wait in undertaking the assessment, it will not delay the timescales for the inclusion of scheme requests that are successful in being included on the capital programme of transport schemes.

We understand that whilst some schemes may meet our policies and criteria, they are not always classed as a priority for ESCC. These schemes are often important to the local community so the County Council may agree to authorise schemes carried out and funded by third parties via a Section 278 agreement. This involves the third party entering into a legal agreement with the County Council, agreeing that it will become the third parties sole responsibility to secure funding and oversee the project which can take several years to complete. It should be noted that for a scheme to be approved, it will need to be considered the Lead Member for Transport and Environment and be subject to a 3 stage Road Safety Audit procedure, which can result in additional costs even once the scheme has

been built. If you would like more details on how to potentially progress a scheme through a Section 278 agreement, please contact our Transport Development Planning team at the following email address: transportdevelopmentplanning@eastsussex.gov.uk

I note your request to review the uncontrolled existing parking arrangement within the southbound bus stop at Nevill Road/Highdown Road and consider converting the layby into a dedicated bus stop. This can be requested to our Parking Team via the following link: [How to request parking controls in Eastbourne, Hastings, Lewes and Rother | East Sussex County Council](#)

Regarding your request to reduce the speed limit on the A275 to 40mph between Lewes and Offham; you may be aware that Lead Member for Transport and Environment, Councillor Dowling approved an allocation of £500,000 to a three-year Speed Management programme to review the speed limits across the county's A and B-class road network, assess whether the existing speed limits were appropriate, and identify areas where they could be reduced or made more effective.

The Road Safety Team have completed their initial appraisal which assessed each road against a priority framework. This considered a range of factors such as the character and environment, the existing average speed of vehicles, the likely number of vulnerable road users, facilities such as schools, shops and medical facilities in the area and the existing crash record.

I can confirm that the A275 between Lewes and Offham was assessed as part of the review, but it did not score highly enough to be taken forward in the first two-years of the Speed Management Programme, as the assessment process identified sixteen other locations to be of higher priority.

I also wanted to assure you that we hold monthly meetings with Sussex Police to discuss areas of concerns across the County. Nevill Road was recently discussed, and Sussex Police are also aware of the issues relating to speeding within the 30mph section. They carried out enforcement using the camera van several weeks ago and plan to target this location as much as possible. As part of these discussions, we have agreed to put out some temporary road safety posters in Nevill Road to remind drivers of the speed limit and to slow down. These signs are displayed for approximately three months to raise awareness and highlight the need to drive in a responsible manner. They can be relocated from time to time, but we have found this period of display to be most effective. An order for these signs were placed at the beginning of this week.

Jo Reed, the Traffic and Safety Manager and I would be happy to attend a site meeting with you. Please can you contact Jo directly via email jo.reed@eastsussex.gov.uk to arrange a convenient time for us all.

Thank you for taking the time to write to us about this matter; I hope the information provided above will be of use to you when reporting back to the other members of the Residents Association.

Yours sincerely

Kelly Burr

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