

Reference (official use)



Petitions – submission form

If you wish to submit a petition for consideration by the Scrutiny & Petitions Committee, please complete the form below. You are advised to refer to the Guidance Questions and Answer sheet provided.

Details of Principal Petitioner

Please enter the name and contact details of the person raising the petition. The Principal Petitioner must be on the Register of Electors for the Scottish Borders Council area.

Name:	MRS NICOLA COLSE
Address:	[REDACTED] JEDBURGH ROXBURGHSHIRE
Postcode:	[REDACTED]
Telephone no:	[REDACTED]
Email:	[REDACTED]

Title of Petition and Petition Statement

Please enter the title of the Petition and a statement to cover the main subject of the Petition or the action you would like the Council to take.

Title: IMPROVE ROAD SAFETY ON THE A698 AT THE CRAILING JUNCTION (D153/4)

Statement (no more than 250 words): THIS PETITION, FROM EVERY RESIDENT, IS TESTAMENT TO THE FACT THAT WE ARE INCREASINGLY ANXIOUS + NOW FRIGHTENED FOR OUR LIVES + THOSE OF OUR PASSENGERS WHEN EXITING + ENTERING THE VILLAGE JUNCTION, DUE TO LACK OF VISIBILITY + SPEED OF VEHICLES ON A698. WE KINDLY REQUEST THAT SBC + POLICE SCOTLAND ADDRESS THESE ISSUES AS A MATTER OF URGENCY BEFORE SOMEONE IS INJURED OR KILLED. WE BELIEVE THESE MEASURES WOULD GREATLY IMPROVE THE SITUATION! - TREES FROM VILLAGE JUNCTION (DIS3H) TO TOLL HOUSE REMOVED / SPEED LIMIT REDUCED TO 40MPH WITH SIGNAGE AT EACH END / FIXED SPEED CAMERA A / TAPERED SLIP ROAD TYPE LANE INTO VILLAGE APPROACHING FROM J60 + EXITING VILLAGE TOWARDS KILSO - PLEASE FIND ATTACHED DETAILED LETTER TO SBC,

Further information.

Please enter below any measures already taken, or persons/organisations approached to attempt to resolve the issues. Attach additional sheets to this form if required but please note that this information must be limited to no more than 4 sides of A4 paper. POLICE SCOTLAND + COUNCILORS AS THERE IS NO JAM OF FITTING IN 250 WORDS HERE,

ON AT LEAST 4 SEPARATE OCCASSIONS THE ISSUE OF ROAD SAFETY HAS BEEN RAISED VIA THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL WITH SBC & POLICE SCOTLAND. (PLEASE SEE ATTACHED DOCUMENTS) WITH LITTLE TO NO RESULT.

MEETING WITH JOHN LAMONT + RACHAEL HAMILTON ON 25/07/2023 - WHO ARE IN SUPPORT OF OUR EFFORTS AND HAVE AGREED TO PURSUE FURTHER WITH SBC / POLICE SCOTLAND.

HAVE SPOKEN TO THE 4 HOUSEHOLDS WHO OWN THE BEECH HEDGE TO THE RIGHT OF THE JUNCTION AND ALL HAVE AGREED THAT THIS CAN BE CUT BACK TO TRY TO IMPROVE SIGHT LINES OF VEHICLES APPROACHING FROM J60 SOUTH DIRECTION; - THERE IS NOTHING ELSE WE CAN DO, AS A COMMUNITY.

Presentation of petition to the Committee.

Please indicate below if you would like the opportunity to make a statement at the meeting of the Scrutiny & Petitions Committee when your petition is considered. Whether or not you will be invited to do so will be at the discretion of the Chairman.

~~*I do/do not wish the opportunity to make a brief statement about the petition.~~

*I would like my deputy named below to make a statement on my behalf.

Name of deputy DINA H FAULDS.....

Contact details [REDACTED]

Signature of deputy..... [REDACTED].....

* please delete as appropriate

Signature of Principal Petitioner.
If you are satisfied your petition meets all the requirements as stated in the Guidance Questions and Answers please add your signature and date below.

Signature of Principal Petitioner. [REDACTED].....

Date... 28/07/2023.....

Accompanying signatures.
Your petition must be accompanied by at least 10 signatures in total, from persons aged 16 and over, resident in the Scottish Borders. The signatures must be from a minimum of 3 separate addresses.
Please be aware that if the petition is on the agenda for a meeting of the Scrutiny & Petitions Committee the names and addresses, but not signatures, of all signatories will be published on the Council website.

	Name	Address	Signature
1	ANISON M FRAD	[REDACTED] Craighero	[REDACTED]
2	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] Craighero	[REDACTED]
3	Nicola Gove	[REDACTED] Jedburgh,	[REDACTED]
4	Sylvia Shiel	[REDACTED] Craighero	[REDACTED]

5	Natasha Stockman	[REDACTED] Crailing [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
6	Darren Foster	[REDACTED] Crailing [REDACTED]	
7	Fanet Hope	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] CRAILING	
8	Robert Hope	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] CRAILING	
9	Jennifer Graham	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] Goddigh	
10	RACHAEL KERR	[REDACTED] CRAILING [REDACTED]	

Attach additional sheets of signatures if you wish.

Please submit this form and any additional sheets to:-

Clerk to the Council, Scottish Borders Council, Council Headquarters, Newtown St Boswells, Melrose, TD6 0SA,
or email to:
committeepapers@scotborders.gov.uk

	Name	Address	Signature
11	MICK WALI	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
12	Araeme Lowe	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
13	N. SALVESEU	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
14	N.A Salvesen	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

15	CAROLINE COOK
16	JOHN COOK
17	Jenni BOLTON
18	CHRISTINE SHAW
19	Margaret LINDAY
18 20	Jack Mackie

Attach additional sheets of signatures if you wish.

Please submit this form and any additional sheets to:-

Clerk to the Council, Scottish Borders Council, Council Headquarters, Newtown
St Boswells, Melrose, TD6 0SA,
or email to:
committeepapers@scotborders.gov.uk

21. BILL SEATON

22. Marguerite Linday

23. JACK LINDAY

24. CR. MACKIE

25. LORNA MACKIE

26. LINDA COLES

27. LYNZAM HOWDEN

28. CHRIS HOWDEN

29. ANNIE HOGG

30. DINAH FAULDS

To whom it may concern,

As a result of a recent residential questionnaire (Nov 2022) circulated by Crailing, Eckford and Nisbet Community Council (CENCC) it was brought to our attention that all residents in the Crailing settlement feel very strongly about the issue of speed and the lack of visibility of the traffic travelling past the village on the A698 between Kelso and Jedburgh and as a result this has been identified as a short term project within the CENCC plan.

This has been an ongoing concern, which has been referred to Scottish Borders Council, many times over the years (most recently in 2019 & 2020) with no result.

Unfortunately, the village is situated in the middle of a 3.5 mile stretch of "racetrack" with vehicles travelling at great speed from the Bonjedward junction adjoining the A68 to the Eckford junction on the A698. Villagers have noted that this has become even worse over the last few years.

The road is dangerous and most residents we spoke to will no longer attempt to cross it, meaning they cannot access the bus stop on the other side of the road or go for walks. They will no longer walk along the pavement on the A698 from the village to the Crailing Bahn junction (D147/4), especially those with pets, children or mobility scooters, due to the close proximity of speeding vehicles.

All residents expressed how they have become increasingly anxious at attempting to exit and enter the junction at the village, as well as other junctions within the same area (D152/4 and D147/4) due to the lack of visibility and the speed of vehicles.

We are intimidated on a daily basis by drivers tailgating us, blasting horns, flashing lights or making hand gestures, due to the fact that they have been unable to slow down as we have exited/entered the village junction (D153/4). At times, these drivers swerve to avoid us and overtake on the blind bends, causing a danger to themselves, us and other road users. It has to be noted that none of us would intentionally put ourselves, our passengers or other road users, in danger and pull out in front of a timber lorry, a motor bike or car, travelling at excessive speed....but unfortunately, this has become the norm and it is extremely frightening. There is no other way for us to enter or exit the village.

There have been a number of collisions over the last few years and EVERY resident has discussed how they must "commit on a daily basis" to pulling out of the junction only to find that a vehicle or vehicles from either or both directions, have appeared, at speed, causing great distress.

Statistically, we are aware that there is little evidence of accidents happening in Crailing but this does not mean that there have not been any. Furthermore, we believe that this should not be the deciding factor and only reason not to look at additional road safety measures-it is a sorry state of affairs if there has to be an individual injured or killed before something will be done.

Due to your recent work in reducing speed limits across the Scottish Borders, we feel that now would be an appropriate time to ask your traffic and road safety section, once again, if we could please have additional measures put in place;-

- The trees from the village junction (D153/4) to the Toll House removed-we feel this would have a very positive impact on the visibility situation (we believe the current sight line to be illegal) as it would allow the traffic at the junction to see approaching traffic from Kelso and vice versa.
- The speed limit reduced to 40mph, with signage at each end of the village (from layby/junction with the D150 south west of Crailing leading to Baittens and Ulston and at the Brownrigg junction with the A698 leading to C62)
- Fixed speed camera installed in Crailing to monitor the above.
- Use of a speed compliance tool to gather additional information on the speed and volume of traffic using this 3.5 mile section of road.
- A tapered, slip road type lane into the village, approaching from Jedburgh and exiting the village towards Kelso.
- A meeting with John Currie and Phillipa Gilhooly of SBC and a representative from Police Scotland to observe the road-John Lamont & Rachael Hamilton have agreed to pursue this on our behalf.

All village residents have signed a petition to reduce speed and improve visibility, which has been submitted on 28/07/2023 for consideration by the Scrutiny & Petitions Committee at SBC.

At a recent summer surgery on 25/07/2023 with MP (John Lamont) and MSP (Rachael Hamilton) the villagers unanimously emphasised their ongoing concerns. Both representatives were in support of our efforts to improving the situation and as noted above, Mr Lamont would approach SBC and Mrs Hamilton would contact Police Scotland.

In conclusion to the above, we very much look forward to discussing the potential measures which could be put in place, to improve the safety of all road users, in a community that is becoming increasingly distraught when trying to negotiate the junction.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Nicola Cowe
(On behalf of all residents of Crailing)

Endorsed by Dinah Faulds
Chair, Crailing, Eckford and Nisbet Community Council

Jedburgh
Roxburghshire

12 June 2019

Dear Sir or Madam

Motor Vehicles travelling on the A698 in excess of legal speed limits

I wish to complain about motor vehicles travelling on the A698 in excess of legal speed limits. This applies to the national speed limit and also to speed limits applicable to specific types of motor vehicle.

The problem exists on the A698 between the junction with the A68 at Bonjedward and the minor road junction leading to Eckford (GR NT704257).

The part of the A698 in question consists of long straight sections which are not subject to enforcement by fixed safety cameras, unlike the A68, or regular mobile camera enforcement checks, or police checks.

Motor vehicles regularly travel at speeds in excess of legal speed limits. Not surprisingly, the problem can be at its worst during those periods when drivers are travelling to and from work. However, the situation exists on a 24hr basis with some motor vehicles travelling at very high speeds during the night and at weekends. A large number of motor cycles travel along the A698 on fine weather weekends, when the road resembles a race track. Local drivers with modified cars can appear in the evening and race against themselves to test their own car's performance or to race against each other.

It would be difficult to prove, but some drivers, when travelling onto the A698 after leaving the A68, appear to relish the freedom from fixed safety cameras and immediately increase speed to take advantage of their ability to travel unfettered along the A698 at much higher speeds.

A consequence of the above situation, for local drivers, is the risk and difficulty in gaining access and egress from minor road junctions along the A698. It is perfectly possible to enter the A698 whilst it is completely clear of traffic in both directions, only to find motor vehicles appearing at high speed in the rear view mirror or, alternatively, ahead, possibly attempting an overtake, therefore moving forwards at speed on the same side of the carriageway. Drivers entering the A698 can have the choice of waiting inordinately long periods to enter the A698 or taking a chance and hoping drivers on the A698 will slow down.

The A698 also has significant movements of agricultural vehicles and LGV's which may be travelling at slow speeds. These induce some drivers to attempt lengthy, unplanned and dangerous overtakes at high speed, which take no account of road junctions or opposing traffic. Such an approach to overtaking of course also prevails with regard to normal vehicular traffic, which may be travelling at normal speeds or, in some cases, at excess speed. Near misses are common.

I would like to request that covert speed monitoring equipment is deployed on the A698 at suitable locations, as outlined above, with the objective of identifying the extent of driving motor vehicles in excess of the national speed limit or specific vehicle type speed limits. I would recommend Mounthooly as an obvious location.

If such a problem is confirmed, I further request that consideration is given to appropriate enforcement action and/or road safety improvements to remove or reduce the problem, including the risk to life.

Ultimately, the installation of fixed road safety cameras on the A698 would ensure synchronisation and uniformity with the A68 in terms of speed enforcement and present an opportunity to change driver behaviour.

In due course, I ask that you update me with regard to any action taken and the outcomes.

Best wishes

Steve Turnbull

On Friday 28th June 2019, I met with John Lamont (MP), Ms Philippa Gilhooly (SBC), Mr Gary Haldane (SBC) and a representative of Police Scotland to discuss issues relating to the dangers presented by the layout of the A698 in the vicinity of Crailing village.

The concerns that I identified were:

- The danger presented to vehicles emerging from, and entering, the village entrance road, due to the excessive speed of many vehicles travelling on the A698 and the poor visibility in either direction. The distance over which approaching vehicles from the west can be seen has been reduced due to the roadside hedge which has grown wider and higher over the past few years. From the east, approaching vehicles are unseen due to a bend in the road.
- The danger presented to pedestrians, livestock movements, equestrians and cyclists crossing the A698, where encouraged to do so by dropped kerbs, again due to the speed of vehicles and poor visibility. It is necessary for potential westbound bus passengers, to cross the road to access the bus stop. Livestock movements are regularly made from the fields on the south side of the A698 to those on the north side and vice versa. Horses are regularly exercised in the area. A section of the National Cycle Network crosses the A698 at Crailing.

Historically, to address concerns expressed by local people, relating to road safety, a camera van has been occasionally located near Crailing Tofts, approximately one mile east of Crailing village. In addition to this, a marked police car has been positioned at the entrance to Crailing House for short periods of time. Neither of these moves address the Crailing problem satisfactorily. Although the camera van has been successful in convicting some errant drivers it does not encourage safer driving at the village entrance and, although the presence of a marked police car encourages drivers to drive slowly while in sight of the car, it is positioned there too rarely to be of any practical help.

My suggested solutions were:

- Carriageway banding, such as used at the A699 junction with the B6359, near Bowden. This was refused by Ms Gilhooly because similar markings have led to complaints of increased vehicle noise from residents living adjacent to such banding.
- Imposition of a 40mph speed limit for all vehicles. This was refused by Ms Gilhooly because the average speed of traffic at Crailing is generally too slow to make a reduced speed limit practical.
- Solar powered signs warning of turning traffic, as used at Bonjedward junction, on the A68. These were refused by Ms Gilhooly as only being permissible on trunk roads.
- Fixed Speed Cameras as a part solution but these were refused by Ms Gilhooly as only being appropriate where a speed limit, lower than the national speed limit, was already in place. The same refusal was received at the suggestion of Traffic Activated Speed Information signs

Previous suggestions have included a filter lane to allow traffic leaving the A698 from the west to slow and enter the village access road without the risk of being hit by a faster vehicle and another filter lane to allow eastbound traffic entering the A698 from the village access road to join the road safely. I have witnessed vehicles emerging from the village access road being overtaken into the blind corner, by approaching vehicles, their drivers unwilling to slow down.

I have personally experienced emerging from the village junction and being tailgated by an articulated timber lorry at speeds approaching 60mph. Their permissible legal maximum on the A698 is 40mph but they regularly travel along this road at speeds far in excess of that. A filter lane would address these situations and would be a relatively inexpensive way of avoiding the inevitable road traffic accident. However, the council have shown themselves unwilling to consider any expense to reduce the risk at Crailing.

The suggestion conveyed to me following our meeting, by Ms Gilhooly, is that the community should fund new signs at the approach to Crailing from both directions on the A698 (Copy attached). These signs have been costed by Mr Gary Haldane at £400 each, plus £100 to erect them on the existing poles. If new poles are required that would cost another £400 each. This, it is suggested, would serve to calm traffic and reduce speeds. Mr Lamont has, in subsequent conversation, stated that he is keen for us as a community to adopt this suggestion. He considers that it would be very effective.

Following a further suggestion by the representative of Police Scotland who was present at the meeting, my wife and I have located tubs with perennial plants at each approach to the village on the A698 and will maintain these for as long as we are able to do so.

I present this issue to the Community Council as I am unable to progress without their co-operation and support.

