

## *Howard & Judith Coase,*

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Cllr John Thomson,  
East Lodge,  
Pinkney,  
Malmesbury,  
Wiltshire.  
SN16 ON

Dear Cllr Thomson,

### **A429, Malmesbury - Burton Hill**

I have recently received a copy of John and Sara Wheatley's letter of 21 November 2001 to you concerning the proposed scheme for the A429 in this area.

I have for two years been letting people know my opinions and making it clear that John and Sara do not on this subject speak for us.

For the present proposals it is long past time that the pavements were dealt with however the 40mph speed limit is as I have previously stated at best a complete waste of time, money and resource.

Included in my letter of 8<sup>th</sup> September 2001 to Richard J.Lander, regarding the letter ref. JG/Malm dated 23 August that appears to have originated in his office were:

1. I would suggest that:
  - (i) Prior to further action regarding lowering the speed limit on this stretch of road that the Council actively seeks to obtain the opinions of each person living in the contiguous properties.
  - (ii) Some accurate data be obtained concerning the number, frequency and types of crashes and traffic incidents on this stretch of road followed by hazard/risk assessment to support whatever, if any, proposals are continued with.
  - (iii) Directly advises the residents of contiguous properties what is going on and what is proposed.
2. As the present national speed limit on this road is ignored by a large percentage of Drivers it should be obvious that those who form what hazards exist will ignore a 40mph speed limit.
3. My belief is that a 40mph speed limit will lead to frustration and a consequent increase in danger and/or crashes on this road and is at best a complete waste of time, money and resource.
4. If a 40mph speed limit is to be imposed please advise how it is to be enforced. Note that since the 30mph speed limit was introduced in Corston I have not yet seen or heard of Police action to enforce that very necessary speed limit.
5. A more useful alternative to a 40mph speed limit is in my opinion is the provision of double white lines on the road from Burton Hill school to the A429 junction with Grange Lane.

My opinions and comments remain unchanged and my suggestions (i) and (iii) appear not to have been taken up which I find odd when one considers that only 15 or so houses would have to be contacted.

I am not sure what particular problems have resulted in the 40mph proposal. If the object is to try and slow down traffic to improve egress from our properties then the proposed scheme has a basic flaw in that from the Corston direction it starts to close to our property.

Several times over the last two weeks I have driven my car through the area covered by the proposed 40mph scheme at 40mph and higher/lower speeds and offer my conclusions for consideration:

- (a) Coming from Malmesbury it is difficult to stay at 40mph or less.
- (b) The view ahead is quite more than adequate for driving and taking reasonable preventative action at the speed limit currently applicable.
- (c) Using 40mph on this stretch of road irritates a larger percentage of drivers.

From the notification in the local papers, the lack of useful response to my suggestions and correspondence I realise that the 40mph speed limit is "done deal" however I do hope that those responsible for it will at least reconsider the matter prior to implementation.

Yours sincerely

  
Howard Coase

24 November 2001

cc:

James Gray, House of Commons, London. SW1A 0AA.

Richard Lander, Director of Environmental Services, Wiltshire County Council, County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, Wiltshire. BA24 8JN.

A. Wyatt, Environmental Services Dept., County Hall, Trowbridge, Wiltshire. BA14 8JD.

Superintendent Martin Abbott, Divisional Commander, Police Divisional HQ, Wood lane, Chippenham, Wiltshire. SN15 3DH.

T Inspector Kate Brooks, C division Traffic Dept. North, Corsham Police Station, Priory Street, Corsham, Wiltshire. SN13 0AY.

J.P.Kadwell, Westgate, Corston, Malmesbury, Wiltshire, SN16 0HD.

John and Sara Wheatly, Ivy House, Burton Hill, Malmesbury, Wiltshire. SN16 0EW.