

Response to Councillor Hammonds statement on Road Safety in Bishop Wilton along Garrowby Road. (Centre of the village to vicarage lane).

Councillor Hammond has raised this issue with East Yorkshire highways department and their response to him was that nothing could be done to physically change the road layout as they are bound by “design standards” for which there is not one for this circumstance.

My Response

In many cases, published design standards are not fully relevant to rural roads (especially minor ones). The Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB), for example, is only directly applicable to motorways and all-purpose trunk roads, although most local highway authorities adopt DMRB standards and advice notes (either wholly or in part) for their major rural roads.

In many cases, local authorities will have their own design guide (or similar document) which is used by developers and the like when planning new local distributor roads and housing / industrial estate road networks. However, these are not generally applicable to the rural road network.

Whilst some of the principles for low-speed roads contained in the Manual for Streets (MfS) can be applied to minor rural roads, but this document was primarily aimed at those designing for the estate road environment. The gap between this and the DMRB was partially addressed by the publication of the Manual for Streets 2 (MfS2), but that document is principally focussed on busier urban streets.

A set of design criteria can therefore be developed by the local authority for works on rural roads where no other design basis is suitable, and it is intended to improve safety. This procedure is covered under the **Department for Transport Design and maintenance Guidance for local authority roads, Departure from Standards Procedures for Local Authorities.**

In short, if a public risk has been identified, then the local authority has the power to design a suitable scheme to mitigate that risk. [Note: a road sign forest is not required in Bishop Wilton which will mirror that to be found on the A166 just outside the village]. I believe that the response of the highways department is an attempt to dismiss the issue so as not to place further pressure on their budget.

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