

# Sutton upon Derwent Parish Council

Clerk: Yvonne Eggleston, Windrush, Main Street, Sutton upon Derwent, YORK, YO41 4BN  
Email: [theclerk@suttonuponderwent.org.uk](mailto:theclerk@suttonuponderwent.org.uk) Tel. No: 01904 608453

---

**Caroline Lacey**  
**Chief Executive**  
**East riding of Yorkshire Council**  
**County Hall**  
**BEVERLEY**  
**HU17 9BA**

30<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear Ms Lacey

**RE: Hagg Bridge, Hagg Lane, Storwood**

On behalf of both the parishioners and ourselves, the members of Sutton upon Derwent Parish Council wish to lodge a complaint and express their concerns over the longstanding issues and subsequent works at Hagg Bridge.

Over the past few years, the Parish Council has contacted ERYC several times about the condition of the road surface on Hagg Bridge. The development of a 'ramp' was not only seen as a potential hazard to vehicles' suspensions, but also an accident risk if approached at speed. After several incidents, a vehicle did overturn on the bridge. Fortunately, no one was seriously hurt but it could be seen that a tragedy had been narrowly avoided as the vehicle did not fall through the railings into the canal below. Residents were pleased that this did eventually prompt an examination of the bridge, even though ERYC Highways had dismissed the carriageway on the bridge as not being an issue in the past.

The villagers of Sutton upon Derwent were prepared to live with a short-term closure of the bridge, as it meant that something would eventually be done about its condition. It was then announced by ERYC that extensive works need to be carried out. After a false start with the commencement date, Sutton upon Derwent Parish Council were only made aware of a new date and duration by the Facebook page of a Parish Council outside East Yorkshire! Communication continued to be an issue, with the Parish Council and the residents of Sutton upon Derwent finding information on progress from surrounding villages. Considering that everyone who passes over Hagg Bridge must travel from or through Sutton upon Derwent, this was considered to be deplorable.

That said, works on Hagg Bridge finally commenced in late March for an estimated period of 6 months. Although this was very welcome, it did raise several concerns about the diversion route that had been set up and subsequent signage. The Parish Council have contacted ERYC Highways several times about this and although the placing of signage was improved, the concern about the diversion has not been dealt with.

# Sutton upon Derwent Parish Council

Clerk: Yvonne Eggleston, Windrush, Main Street, Sutton upon Derwent, YORK, YO41 4BN  
Email: [theclerk@suttonuponderwent.org.uk](mailto:theclerk@suttonuponderwent.org.uk) Tel. No: 01904 608453

---

The diversion sends vehicles coming over Sutton Bridge from Elvington onto the C18, known locally as Sandhill Lane, and back onto either the A1079, which is likely to be where they came from in the first place as there was inadequate signage at Grimston Bar and on the A1079, or along the winding road through Allerthorpe Woods and the small village of Thornton. Having been sent out of their way, the majority of drivers then saw it fit to travel at speeds in excess of the speed limit along Sandhill Lane. The Parish Council has received many complaints of speeding vehicles from residents, walkers and local drivers. In July a vehicle actually overturned within the village limit outside residences and near a public footpath. Fortunately, no walkers were in the vicinity, though the driver did require the services of the police, ambulance and air ambulance. The Parish Council have requested that the diversion be changed or at least have a Speed Camera Van in place. Neither of which have been done. This is despite the usual location of the Speed Camera Van being essentially closed due to the bridge work, so we weren't asking for more resource, simply the same allocation in a different location.

After 6 months we have now found ourselves in the position of Hagg Bridge being closed for a further 6 months. We should point out that yet again Sutton upon Derwent was missed out the loop of communication from ERYC and that initial communication on this was obtained from other parishes. Although Hagg Bridge does not wholly sit within the parish of Sutton upon Derwent, the parish residents are among those who are most affected.

Not surprisingly, this delay has raised a number of complaints and queries, not only from Sutton upon Derwent Parish Council, but from residents and neighbouring Parish Councils.

We have a number of questions we would like your assistance with so that we can respond to queries that our parishioners have raised.

The concrete used by the contractor has proved to be sub-standard and although we understand that a chemical strengthener can be applied, which part of the structure does this apply to?

Why wasn't testing of the concrete carried out during the whole process of the works and not when the works were nearing completion? The issue of the 'failed' concrete could have been addressed much sooner.

On what basis has the concrete 'failed'? Is it because it would not withstand the weight and durability required by the traffic passing over the bridge?

Why is the process of applying the strengthener going to take so long? Is it a surface coating for the concrete that is visible or is all the concrete having to be treated?

It has been noted by residents visiting the site that there is standing water on the carriageway after heavy rainfall. This was an issue before any works began. Will the level of the carriageway be raised to avoid any future flooding of the road?

# Sutton upon Derwent Parish Council

Clerk: Yvonne Eggleston, Windrush, Main Street, Sutton upon Derwent, YORK, YO41 4BN  
Email: [theclerk@suttonuponderwent.org.uk](mailto:theclerk@suttonuponderwent.org.uk) Tel. No: 01904 608453

---

As road safety is a concern, will ERYC put any measures in place on Sandhill Lane, especially as the volume of traffic will increase once the current national lockdown is removed?

There seems to be a one sided view that parishioners of Sutton upon Derwent are not affected by the bridge closure and are just enjoying the benefit of reduced traffic, particularly HGVs. Whilst this is a current benefit, the closure of Hagg Bridge has also been a huge disruption to the residents of Sutton upon Derwent, many of whom use that route for travelling to work, shopping and visiting friends/family. It is also impacting on local businesses. Instead of using the safe route via Melbourne and Allerthorpe, residents are having to travel up Sandhill Lane to the A1079 at Barmby Moor. The junction here is very dangerous as vehicles are having to cross and pull out into fast-moving traffic to go to Pocklington. It should be pointed out that this section of the road is a known accident blackspot.

In summary, could ERYC please explain why:

- a) communication with Sutton upon Derwent Parish Council has been totally inadequate?
- b) when questioned, ERYC deemed it more important to inform the Ward Councillors first of progress/non-progress, even though they don't actually live in any of the parishes?
- c) the parish was not consulted on the setting up of a suitable diversion route?
- d) suitable road safety measures were not considered let alone put in place when requested? Will this now be addressed?
- e) the standards of materials used were not regularly checked?
- f) on what basis has the concrete failed?
- g) how extensive will the application of the strengthener be?
- h) the application of the strengthener has been given such a long time-scale?
- i) carriageway flooding is occurring, and will the issue of the carriageway flooding be addressed?

The members of Sutton upon Derwent Parish Council would appreciate a speedy response to these questions in order that questions raised by the residents can be answered in a timely manner.

Yours sincerely

*M. D McCaffrey*  
(Chairman)

*A. D. Hardcastle*  
(Vice Chairman)

*T. Cox*  
(Parish Councillor)

*M. C. Lovatt*  
(Parish Councillor)

*S. D. Mowbray*  
(Parish Councillor)

*Y. C. Eggleston*  
(Clerk)