

Response 1:

Dear Ms Roxborough

I am emailing in reference to the attached notice detailing proposed changes and the introduction of traffic calming measures to Livesey Branch Road.

My first observation is that this states that it is in accordance with the provisions of Section 90A of the Highways Act 1980; the Highways (Road Humps) Regulation 1990 and all other enabling powers to establish these measures. Could I ask if these Acts, Regulations etc contain a provision for this work to be undertaken and completed before any such notices have been posted? I only ask this as work commenced on these traffic calming measures on 28th November 2018 and the date of the notice for the proposal posted on a nearby lamp post is dated 20th December 2018 a day or so after this work had been completed. Since no notice had been posted prior to the commencement of this work and the affected residents had neither been notified, nor given any opportunity to register any opposition to these measures then my assumption is that this work has not been carried out in accordance with the aforementioned Highways Act (1980) nor the Highways Regulation (1990). Therefore, this work should not have been carried out as it had not been approved and as a consequence I ask that the application be refused and the traffic calming measures be removed since there appears to be a serious breach in policy which needs addressing as a matter of urgency.

I am also calling into question the professional ethics of those who have been involved and allowing the work to commence overriding the correct and proper procedure. I was under the impression the Council staff had moral responsibilities to ensure that principles, regulations and procedures are followed and required standards adhered to on behalf of Council Tax payers. These it appears, have not been followed. I cannot help thinking that this retrospective notice has only been posted following the complaints that myself and my neighbours have made to our ward Councillors who have been dealing with the matter on our behalf and who incidentally were unaware of this work going ahead. Effectively by allowing the work to be undertaken before the posting of the notice means that my neighbours and myself have no voice in these matters nor a way of making known our opposition beforehand or having the opportunity to object in a rationale and reasoned way. All this notice appears to be is a box-ticking exercise and can I just also say that this is not the first time that notice for retrospective planning permission has been posted concerning the Green Hills Site. However, having the ability to express our opinions and objections in such matters before any work of this type is started is a fundamental right and what has been allowed to happen is a total contravention of these rights.

As to my objections to the work involved in traffic calming measures whether proposed or in this case retrospectively then my opinions would be/are the same. Firstly, they create a lot of additional traffic noises on an already busy road. These calming measures means that there is now the constant sound of vehicles slowing up and accelerating compounded by vehicles blaring out loud music. There is also the noise of lorries and vans bumping and clattering as they hit the raised section and as they draw away and this is happening in the early hours of the morning. Then there is the potential danger of vehicles shedding their loads on the road as a consequence. Has anyone thought about lorry drivers who are going about their work who are impeded in this way? Obviously not. Then there is the crossing point that has been positioned right outside my home. This means neither myself, any visitors nor deliveries can stop and park outside my home all for a crossing that will not be and on my observation is not used; a crossing which is of great inconvenience to me. The positioning of the crossing means that if I am driving home from the direction of Ewood then I have difficulty in turning into my drive from this direction as there is insufficient space causing an obstruction to me. On one of my attempts, I turned to manoeuvre into the drive and had not the space to turn and would have hit the wing on my gatepost had I not stopped. In the mean time a car had been tearing down the road behind me. Thankfully he stopped and allowed me to reverse back out into the road and then straighten the car up draw forward into my drive. But not all drivers are a

considerate or as accommodating as this and why should I put up with this inconvenience or be potentially subjected to fits of road-rage from the unsympathetic drivers that travel on this road, just to get to my own home? The narrowing of the road in the vicinity of Moorlands Drive is also a danger and I have seen cars coming from the direction of Feniscowles have to make a last-minute swerve out into the middle of the road to avoid hitting the protruding kerb and for what reason is that there? In my view this is another accident waiting to happen.

It seems to me that regulations, policies, procedures have all been totally disregarded as Blackburn with Darwen Council knew what the reaction would be from the residents in proximity to the measures and so by putting them in place beforehand means that it would be more difficult to have them removed. Objections beforehand should have been investigated delaying any such measures being imposed on us. This is an appalling underhanded tactic and the "proposal" needs to be rejected in the name of integrity.

I trust that my comments will be met with the appropriate courtesy; read, considered, presented to the Planning Committee and I would be interested in receiving your comments in this matter. For reference I am copying in my ward councillors who as previously stated are fully aware of the situation.

Response 2:

Dear Sian Roxborough

We write in relation to the notice recently attached to a lamp post outside our property at 445 Livesey Branch Rd pertaining to the raised speed table that has been constructed at the bottom of Moorland Drive.

Whilst the notice is a proposal, the construction work had begun prior to the notice date of the 20th December 2018 and is now complete well before your notice period of 11th January 2019

We wish to fully object to the placement of this speed table. It has served to introduce excessive levels of road noise both from goods vehicles but also from "boy racers" with loud exhausts. The loud exhausts were always an annoyance, however now as the drivers slow for the speed table and accelerate away the noise is far louder and for a longer duration. We have never had problems with excessive road noise from goods vehicles prior to the placement of the speed table.

As Livesey Branch Rd is a major trunk route it is used at all hours of the day and night. We submit that the speed table is unsuitable for the road given the excessive noise it causes that residents must endure. We are repeatedly woken at 4-5am by goods vehicles crashing over the speed table. This is affecting our sleep, including our 9 yr old daughter who also sleeps at the front of the house.

Furthermore when using this section of Livesey Branch Rd as a pedestrian we would feel far safer not having the road level with the footpath. Especially in snow and ice the kerb forms a vital safety barrier to cars sliding from the road and into pedestrians on the footpath. Now the council have removed this barrier and it makes that section of the road feel far more dangerous than any other to us.

We would like to point out that we have already raised a complaint with Blackburn with Darwen council as to the placement of the speed table and traffic island outside our property and we also refer to that complaint. Given that Blackburn with Darwen council could not be bothered to re paint the speed camera markings after the road was last resurfaced many months ago, it seems clear to us

that this whole affair is far less about road safety and far more about drawing potential buyers to the Green Hills development and inconvenience to existing residents be damned !

Also please could you advise whether or not Kingswood Homes require planning permission for the illuminated signage that has appeared on the foot path? If so where was the planning notice issued please?

Response 3:

I write my email of concerns and complaints about the problematic speed table that has been situated outside my property of 449 Livesey Branch Road.

It has been brought to my attention by one of my neighbours that there has been a notice fixed to a lamp post just higher up the road at 441 Livesey Branch Road to inform us that the speed table was to be put in place and that if we had any concerns or objections then we should contact yourself.

Firstly I nor my neighbours were informed of any new road layouts until they were already taking place!

There is now as I would consider a hazardous road traffic island outside my neighbours home of 447 and 445. This is affecting myself and visitors as we are unable to park outside safely.

I am very upset and disappointed by the ridiculous speed table that has been introduced to the bottom left of my drive outside my adjoining neighbour at 451 currently owned by the Kingswood Development.

I find the whole road layout to be a hazard to both myself, other road users and pedestrians.

Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council have widened the footpath outside 451 and again on the opposite side of Mooreland Drive at 453. This has made the road narrower and causes me issues when trying to manoeuvre onto my own driveway.

I have never really had any issues with reversing into my driveway over the 38 years of living here nor have I been faced with abuse off other road users for doing so as I am now faced with since the new road layout.

I now have to put my hazard lights on, pull in front of 451 and make my reverse when safe to do so. Other road users now have to completely go on the opposite side of the road to overtake me before I can reverse, this is due to the narrowing of the road.

The public footpath is now a hazard for pedestrians as it runs level with the raised speed table.

I have been informed that the speed table is in place for traffic calming measures! My answer to this is rubbish! The whole new road layout has caused and still is causing me nothing but problems.

Instead of having a steady flow of traffic as we did before this speed table was introduced, we are now faced with those drivers that are over cautious driving over at approximately 15mph whilst cranking their heads to look at the new Kingswood development, the hot heads that rev their engines and speed over the table and then we have those travelling at the current 30mph limit when the traffic allows.

Now onto the noise disturbance.

The road has become VERY noisy due to the new speed table at all times of the day and night and I am quite often woken up in the middle of night with lorries and other heavy goods vehicles bouncing over the speed table.

Both my external and internal doors vibrate now due to the traffic travelling over the speed table, I am now very nervous thinking that someone is trying to gain access into my property.

Lastly Blackburn with Darwen are saying that these measures are all in place for the safety of all road users. May I bring it to your attention that since re surfacing the road some time ago I would have thought that the road markings would have been a priority to be re painted for the speed camera near Holly tree to be effective.

I do hope that my concerns and complaints are taken seriously and that the speed table and road traffic island be removed as these are not helping in the calming of traffic but hindering myself and my neighbours in many ways.