

AYCLIFFE VILLAGE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

F.O.A. Andrew Bailey

Aycliffe village residents formed an association during September 2018. After electing a committee and agreeing a constitution, brainstorming sessions took place where all ideas, concerns and desires were listed. At the next meetings this list was ranked using paired comparisons. By far (11 points) concerns about the traffic on the A167 came top.

The A167 is an extremely busy road. It has to be negotiated entering or exiting the village by all living to the East of it and isolates 85 dwellings (23%) to the West.

Due to excessive speeds by much of the traffic, parents on the West side insist on accompanying children to the primary school, the play park and activities in the village hall. We do have a light controlled pedestrian crossing but along with the police I hear of several instances a year about people nearly coming to grief using this. The same for those on the East when attending church or travelling to work on the industrial estate. Even if driving, crossing at the crossroads or using the North junction is hazardous. Residents of the high street are reluctant to park in front of their homes. One lady having had three cars written off.

Speed is the main concern but the volume of traffic compounds this. Rough observations estimate between 10:00 am and 15:00 pm 40% of the traffic is in the form of HGV's, the majority entering or exiting the Industrial park at the St. Cuthberts way junction. Then there are those occasions when the A1(M) is closed. The A167 through the village is the primary diversion route causing a lock down for residents.

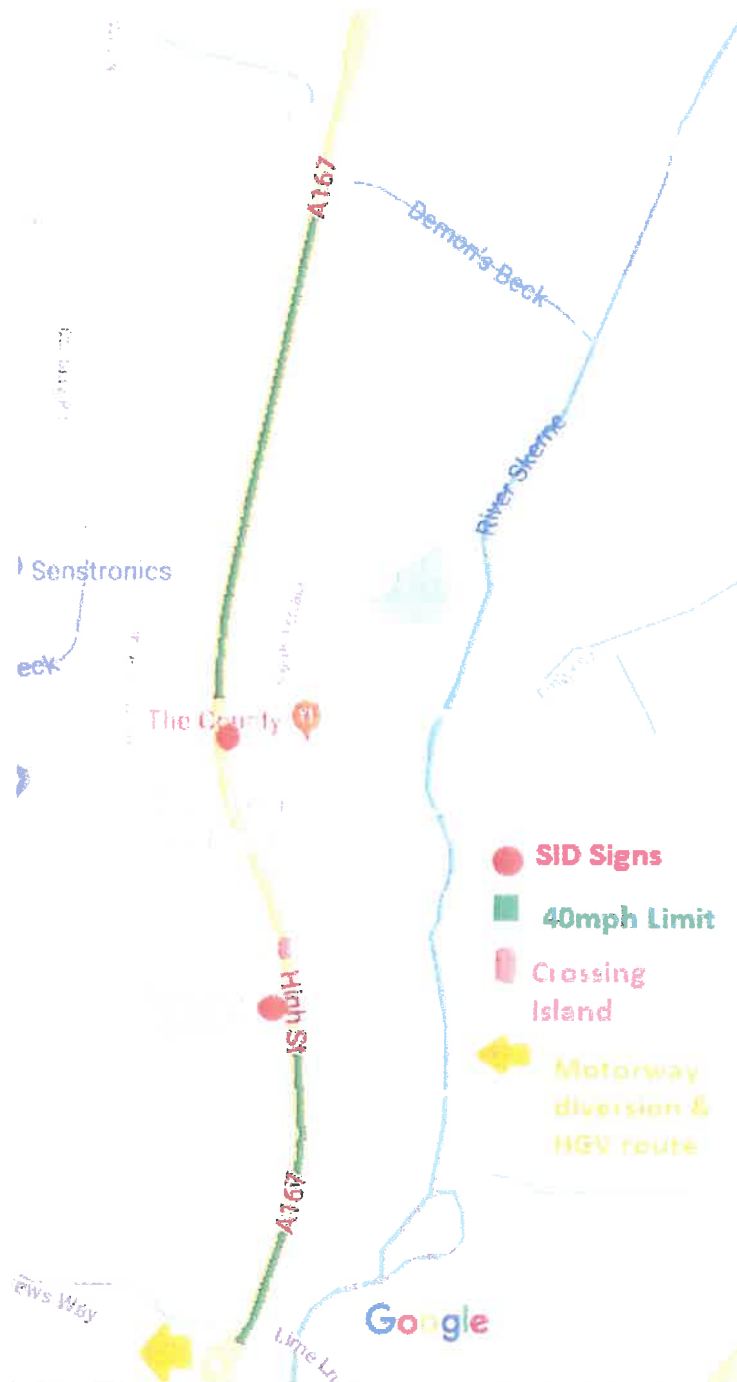
It has been noticed that while roads close to all other schools in Newton Aycliffe have the temporary flashing 20 mph limit signs and crossing guards. We in the village have neither.

What the association would like to institute to alleviate the issues are as follows:-

- A 7.5 tonne 'except for access' limit
Use of Saint Andrews Way is a simple and viable solution
- Reduction in speed limits from 60mph to 40 mph from the end of the dual carriage (North) and from the St Andrews Way roundabout (South)
- Electronic SID signs just after the 30 mph limit (North & South)
- Re route the motorway diversion through the industrial park
- An extra traffic island just before Church Lane

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We are aware all of the above are the responsibility of DCC but having already encountered resistance from this body we would value your support, advice or any other assistance you feel you are able to provide.



Advancing and Improving the Village for All