

Middleton Tyas Parish Council

Clerk: Mrs C. Jones

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2 July 2018

**The Old Chapel
Middleton Tyas
Richmond
North Yorkshire
DL10 6PP**

Thomas Howard
Regional Investment Programme (RIP) Yorkshire and North East
Senior Project Manager
Highways England
Lateral
8 City Walk
Leeds, LS11 9AT

Dear Mr Howard,

Road Signage in Middleton Tyas

Over six months ago, we became aware that new signs for the local access road to Moulton were about to be installed in a location that obscured the existing signage indicating that the centre of Middleton Tyas was unsuitable for HGVs. On 6 December 2017, we raised this in an email from our Chairman, Bob Davies, to Stuart Culley. This email was copied to you at the time. The photo below shows the position of the 5 poles placed in front of the existing signage.



Since that time there have been several site visits and extensive further correspondence between Morgan Sindall, NYCC and representatives of the Parish Council. Despite various positive conversations in the course of these meetings, the underlying message in the most recent email from Stuart Culley, on behalf of Morgan Sindall, is that nothing is going to be done to rectify the situation and that the matter is effectively closed.

This has created a totally unacceptable situation. Before the A1 upgrade, drivers leaving the Scotch Corner roundabout were faced with three clearly visible signs:

- A pair of blue signs indicating that the centre of Middleton Tyas was unsuitable for HGVs
- A stone sign marking the entrance to the village.

As a result of the A1 upgrade, we now have a situation where, on the left-hand-side of the road, both the village sign and the adjacent blue sign are obscured by the new signage for the little-used new local access road to Moulton. The remaining blue sign, which was on the opposite side of the road, disappeared during the construction of this new road and has not yet been replaced.

In simple terms, the appearance of the entrance to the village has been spoilt with the attractive stone and copper sign being obscured by steel poles supporting the new signs. At the same time, the signage indicating that the centre of Middleton Tyas was unsuitable for HGVs is largely invisible with the result that the village centre is again being damaged by these vehicles. A typical example of this occurred last week when the driver of a foreign articulated HGV tried unsuccessfully to turn around in the centre of the village. During the course of this manoeuvre, he drove the tractor unit of the articulated truck on to the village green. We were very fortunate that he missed the stone sundial and Listed historic milestone, and only damaged the grass as shown below.



The optimum solution is to have weight restriction/unsuitable for HGVs signs at the exit from the roundabout. Three posts have already been installed indicating “no waiting” and that the pavement can be used by both pedestrians and cyclists. It would be a simple matter to add “unsuitable for HGVs” signs to these posts using internationally recognised symbols so that they are easily understood by non-English speaking drivers. If for some reason this is not feasible, an alternative solution would be to relocate the existing blue signs to a position nearer to the entrance to the Services Area or to add them to one of the posts under the first sign for the new local access road to Moulton. At the same time, the stone village sign should also be relocated to a position ahead of the new signs. If this action is not taken, Middleton Tyas will not only have suffered from three years of disruption and damage but will also be at significantly increased risk of continued damage to its historic centre as a direct result of the A1 upgrade. This would be completely unacceptable and would also reflect very poorly on those responsible for designing and managing the project.

This is a straightforward but very serious issue. Over the past seven months, we have worked hard to try to resolve it through the normal channels without making any progress whatsoever. Please would you now take action to resolve this issue on an urgent basis.

Yours sincerely,



Christine Jones
Clerk to the Parish Council

Cc Mr Jim O’Sullivan, Chief Executive, Highways England
Mrs Sandie Forte-Gill, Regional Delivery Director, Highways England
Rishi Sunak, Member of Parliament, Richmond