

Dear Sir,

I would like to, firstly, thank you for your time and effort in considering the above mentioned petition.

I was disappointed not to have been able to attend but was so grateful to Mike Rumbles for speaking on our behalf.

If I may, I would like to address some of the points raised at the meeting.

Mr Harper asked about the number of drivers prosecuted for speeding on the stretch of road. When I asked for these figures, under the freedom of information act, I was told that I could not have them as it would lead to queries on other sites and could then let motorists know where speed cameras have actual working cameras installed. I now suspect that the camera at Laurencekirk does not, in fact, have a working camera installed. However in July 2007 the Dundee Courier did report that after a week long study by Grampian Police at Laurencekirk over 200 motorists were caught speeding during that week period. I am assuming that this was done by a mobile unit.

In order to realise the full impact of this junction, accident figures should be observed at Laurencekirks middle and Northern Junction and also the NorthWaterbridge junction just south of the town.

Because of the build up of queues of traffic at this junction, many commuters from Laurencekirk are now using the two Northern junctions to join the A90 whilst some commuters from Montrose and surrounding areas are joining the A90 at NorthWaterbridge.

We all, locally, believed that when the safety measures were put in place in 2005 that this was to be a temporary measure. However these measures are looking more and more permanent and they have brought new danger, frustration and genuine fear to commuters. This junction not only serves the people of Laurencekirk. It is also on the main route for commuters from North Angus, Montrose, Arbroath, and surrounding areas travelling to and from the North. The growth of traffic commuting through the junction has grown immensely since 2005. I believe this is due to the huge amount of new houses being built in the area.

I truly believe that no report you ever see will give you a true indication to the dangers that commuters face at the junction on a daily basis, some of the things I have witnessed myself have been unbelievable. The only way to realise the danger is to experience this junction first hand and that is why I would like to invite any member of the petitions committee to cross the junction themselves during peak time. This will then give you a better indication as to what we are campaigning for and the strength of feeling about this issue.

A good route to take would be to leave from Montrose as this eleven mile approach to the junction can only be described as a race track at peak times with commuters desperate to get to the junction just a little bit further up the queue.

I have also posted videos on the junctions bebo page. The page can be accessed through www.bebo.co.uk if you type in a937junctioncampaign in the navigation bar it will lead you to the page.

I can only add that it is nothing short of a miracle that no one has died here since 2004 but we all believe, here, that it will happen and is only a matter of time.

I realise that even if a grade separated junction was to be approved for the junction it would be a length of time before it was built. A short term addition to what is already in place could perhaps be signs warning of a dangerous junction ahead and let motorists on the A90 realise that it really is 50mph for a reason and not their own inconvenience. Any report you gain access to on speeding offences will not report on the amount of drivers, well aware of the camera, who use brakes and then accelerate to the point they are at national speed limit at the point of the junction itself.

Once again I thank you for your consideration and I hope you will accept my invitation to experience for yourselves just what this campaign is all about.

Yours faithfully

Jill Campbell