



**North Yorkshire County Council  
Skipton and Ripon Area Constituency Committee  
10am on 14 March 2019**

**Update on road safety and improvement work that has been undertaken at the site of the Junction A6131 (Skipton North) crossing A65 (Harrogate)**

**1.0 Purpose of report**

To provide committee members with an update on road safety and improvement work that has been undertaken at the site of the Junction A6131 (Skipton North) crossing A65 (Harrogate), following a fatal accident there on 13 October 2017.

**2.0 Background**

At the meeting of the Craven Area Committee on 9 November 2017, a petition entitled 'Make safe dangerous Junction A6131 (Skipton North) crossing A65 (Harrogate)' was received and discussed. The petition had 5,301 signatories. The number of signatories has since increased to over 6,000.

The petition was in response to the death of a 20 year old man on 13 October 2017 at the junction.

The decision of the committee was that the matter would be considered after the release of the anticipated Coroner's report. The relevant extract from the minutes of the meeting on 9 November 2017 is in Appendix 1.

**3.0 Work to improve safety**

The driver of the vehicle involved in the accident was recently convicted of Causing Death by Careless Driving. As such, there will not be a Coroner's Inquest into the death.

A fatal collision investigation was carried out, which identified a number of pieces of work that could be undertaken by the County Council at the junction to improve safety. These are listed as below along with details of the progress that has been made:

- Replace speed limit repeater signs, removal of unnecessary and non-prescribed signs – completed in May 2018
- Replace street lighting columns with passively safe system and alterations to illuminated bollards – the lighting has been upgraded to LED lamps, which provide improved illumination at the junction. The groundwork for replacing the lamp columns with passively safe columns relocated from the central reservation

into the verge has been completed and an order to our contractors to carry out the physical works is imminent.

- Further alterations to the signage, and changes to the markings at the junction – these works will be undertaken during the next resurfacing/surface dressing of the junction, which is currently not scheduled.
- Proposal to make more substantial changes to the layout of the junction through altered screening for vehicles approaching the junction on the A6131 – this proposal is complex and there are discussions ongoing between the Traffic Engineering and Area 5 (Skipton) highways teams regarding whether the proposal would have a positive impact on reducing collisions at this junction.

#### **4.0 Recommendation**

Members are asked to maintain a watching brief on progress with the road safety and improvement work and receive updates from the Highways Area Office as appropriate.

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**Appendix 1 - Extract from the Minutes of the meeting of the Craven Area Committee held on 9 November 2017, relating to public concerns about the safety of the junction of the A6131 where it crosses the A65.**

**Public Questions or Statements**

Mrs Julie Holmes presented a petition to the Area Committee, making the following statement which had been circulated to all present:

“My name is Julie Holmes and I am speaking this morning on behalf of the group which was instigated by the sad death of local man, 20 year old Edward Brier on Friday, 13 October 2017 at the junction of the A6131 where it crosses the A65.

An online petition, which is still ongoing, was set up on Change.Org to ‘Make safe dangerous Junction A6131 (Skipton North) crossing A65 (Harrogate)’. As at Sunday, 5 November at 15.45 the number of people who have signed the petition stands at 5279 (will update this at the meeting). A paper petition is also being circulated around the area. I wish to present to the Committee the current list of online signatures together with some of the signatories on the paper petition.

A Freedom of Information request has also been submitted on the number of accidents at the junction, but unfortunately, the relevant authority which holds this information has not yet been determined.

There have been numerous accidents over the years (not all of them will have been recorded with North Yorkshire Police) due to the misleading and unclear road markings and the three ‘give way’ junctions which leave motorists confused and lead them to sometimes make impulsive/rash decisions whilst trying to enter or exit the junction.

There is also the development of the ‘pig field’ on the Knaresborough Road which will increase the use of this junction to be taken into account.

Some suggested safety improvements include a roundabout, 40 mph speed limit or improved signage. There is also the suggestion from District Councillor John Dawson which was reported in the Craven Herald last week. The right-hand turn from the east-bound side of the A65 into Skipton should be blocked off and traffic required to go to the roundabout at the A59/A65 junction and come back to the Skipton turning.

The Group is aware that Members of the Committee and Highways Officers are not able to report on or to comment on this matter until the Coroner’s Report has been issued.

However, the group wishes to make Members of the Committee aware of the depth of feeling of users of the road that some changes do need to be made.

If Members wish to view the online petition it can be found at [www.change.org](http://www.change.org)

Thank you for your time.”

The Chairman County Councillor Richard Welch thanked Mrs Holmes for bringing the petition to the Committee’s attention and he advised that the concerns raised would be debated at a future meeting after the release of the Coroner’s report.