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Eythome Parish Council & Tilmanstone Parish Council

A/O

Elvington Community centre

St Johns Road

Elvington

Kent

CT15 4DZ

Case Against:

Closures of Slip Roads Leading to :-

- 1. Tilmanstone Village**
- 2. Eythome Village**

Directly from the A256 dual carriageway

[Otherwise known as the Eastry Bypass]

Submitted by: Ms Patricia Gulliford: Parish Clerk
Dated this 6th day of October, 2010

1 **Overview:**

2 The A256 is a dual carriageway travelling southwards towards Dover and southwesterly toward Sandwich.

3 In 1996 it cost **£25million** to build to reduce the numbers of vehicles travelling through villages such as Eastry & Tilmanstone.

4 It is regularly used as a diversion route from adjoining 60/70mph carriageways to support ongoing street works.

5 It consists of a roundabout either end & a further 2 roundabouts within .There are 4 slip roads leading to Whitfield; Eythorne and Tilmanstone & Eastry.

6 The road is attractive to those travelling at speed. However, there are a number of points on the A256 where visibility is poor.

7 **Statement:**

8 This case refers to the temporary closure of 2 slip roads namely those leading to and impacting upon Tilmanstone and Eythorne Parishes. Temporary closures were put in place in March 2010, following a Coroners report relating to a fatal accident occurring in 2007.

9 There have been 3 fatalities on the A256 since its launch & by driver error.

10 **1. Slip road leading to Tilmanstone: A temporary water filled barrier of around 96 metres is being used to**
11 **delineate the movement of traffic. Signage is available travelling southerly, denoting the change of use**
12 **& has been erected to allow access to buses only. Signage is not in place south-westerly. [107]**

- 13 • This barrier has suffered at least 2 impacts by buses using this slip which has caused the barrier
14 damage and movement. This barrier is not equipped with a crash cushion to protect those still able
15 to use the lane. It is not designed for head on impact and in this case is being used as cones would
16 be. We consider there is an increased risk to other road users should this barrier be impacted at
17 speed.
- 18 • The costs involved in the introduction of this barrier and continual works carried out has amounted
19 to £49,000.00. This is money we feel would be better spent on investigating other options that work
20 with our communities in harmony and not cause us the cost , inconvenience and the suffering we
21 currently endure.

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- The lack of signage south- westerly results in Class 1 & 2 vehicles making U – Turns on this Dual Carriageway –increasing risk to other road users.
- The restriction re/ access to cars and motorcycles & cycles, means residents and visitors have to drive a distance exceeding 500 metres to the Barville Roundabout [a roundabout whose purpose was to be used by a local industrial estate with Class 1& 2 vehicles. The approach to Barville Roundabout [Dover bound] has poor visibility (due to an incline and curve)
- Many of our residents are elderly and as such the impact of this restriction raises a risk of accidents occurring.
- **The Barville Roundabout is a well known blackspot for accidents – furthermore there is a footpath (EE402) and a bridleway in the same area. Slip Road closing access from the A256 to Eythorne. This has been impacted in the last week.**
- This is forcing local traffic to use either the Barville Roundabout [a distance of 2 miles] or the Whitfield slip – which has poor visibility from a southerly direction.
- There is additional motoring expense and inconvenience placed on those wishing to enter the villages [such as other road users including cyclists]
- The original concept for implementing the build of the A256 was to reduce traffic through the villages. However, these closures have resulted in local traffic opting to take the slip leading though Eastry to gain access to those villages affected where in parts roads are single track. This has significantly increased the flow of traffic once again.

This statement is supported by Tilmanstone and Eythorne Parishes.

PGulliford

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