

A Selection Residents Statements 1-9

Resident Statement 1 - Peter Fletcher

The below photos refer to an accident that occurred on Southport Road when a vehicle coming from the direction of the Rose and Crown towards Chorley took the bend too fast and ended up hitting a number of vehicles which were parked on driveways, and writing them off, demolishing fences and ending up in the garden of 132A Southport Road causing structural damage to the house.



Below are a list of other accidents and incidents observed by local residents on Southport Road:

Pumping station adjacent to 138

Two occasions when vehicles went through the hedge in front of the Pumping station

Resident of 138

Motor bike through his hedge

Car through his hedge

Car through the hedge and into his pond

Car colliding into back of resident's car whilst resident's car waiting to turn into driveway.

In addition to this the occupant of 138 employed a company to cut his hedge but they ceased the contract as they considered it too dangerous

due to the speed of traffic passing the house. This is contained in his objection letter to the Planning Department.

Residents of 134 (next door to 132A)

On two separate occasions they have had cars ending up in their front garden knocking the wall down. These two occasions are in addition to the very serious one forwarded to you earlier.

Resident of 132A

We are not able to contact the previous owners and even if we did, they are unlikely to provide any details, however I can certainly affirm to one very near miss that I personally witnessed as a vehicle was exiting from the driveway onto the road. This is in addition to the accident where the occupants had a car written off, a further vehicle damaged, the dividing hedge destroyed and structural damage to the house.

Resident of 143

Driver lost control as he came out of the bend and smashed into the resident's fence and the farmers gate opposite 132A writing off his car.

Resident of 132

Rider knocked off his bike ending up on the grass verge opposite 132/132A.

Resident of 130

Driver lost control of his car as he came out of the bend and ended up travelling a good fifty yards on the opposite carriageway eventually ending up in a ditch

Resident Statement 2 - Pete Lucas

I do not have the exact dates.

Junction of New Lane and Southport Road. Both happened in 2022.

Incident 1

Traffic backed up as people tried to turn into New Lane. A stationary car was hit with such force from behind that it was flipped onto its roof.

Incident 2

Fire Engine on emergency call out trying to get to Southport Road from New Lane. Struggled with the weight of traffic and cars parking on the opposite (Gilson's) side of the road.

A tractor carrying hay bales moved onto the narrow pavement, clipping it, and a very large bale of hay landed on top of a queuing car.

Fortunately, no one was hurt but the Fire crew couldn't continue with their emergency call out as they stopped to help.

Both incidents caused closures of New Lane and Southport Road.

This junction is extremely dangerous.

Especially turning right out of New Lane.

It's a blind bend and there are near misses on regular basis.

The air ambulance has landed on the pub field twice.

Resident Statement 3 - Lorraine Cross

I live at **Ashlands on New Lane** at the petrol station end, and experience quite heavy traffic particularly at rush hours.

The speed limit is 30mph outside the houses but changes to 60mph, at the last house, consequently many people think that they should be reaching 60 as they pass the road sign, which means they are actually doing well above 30mph outside the houses. I personally feel that the max speed limit should be 40mph, as particularly in the dark I think 60 is unsafe when driving along this unlit lane.

I regularly walk into Eccleston, but as there are no pavements it doesn't feel very safe, and I certainly wouldn't do it in rush hour or when it's dark!

There are many cyclists who use this lane, but they must feel quite worried as there are lots of wagons, school buses and tractors who take up nearly all of the lane. I think that this lane is most unsuitable for larger vehicles, but it's a slightly shorter route for those heading to Croston.

I have witnessed one crash a couple of years ago, outside our house, when a prison officer, hit a car head on that was coming in the other direction.

I understand that a pedestrian was killed here too, but that will be about 7 years ago, and you are probably aware of that.

Resident Statement 4 - Sarah Bentley

I am writing to provide details of incidents and near misses on the roads around the vicinity of Ulnes Walton Lane.

Firstly, I live almost opposite the junction on Southport Road, and already find it extremely difficult to pull out of my drive to join the road during times of high traffic. As my neighbour has a high hedge, we have to pull out into the road before we can actually see anything coming. Every day I feel like there is an accident waiting to happen- which will only be ever more likely with a higher load of traffic caused by the new prison. It is that dangerous that my Mum is too scared to come and visit due to the danger of pulling out into the already busy road. Some days I have to wait for up to 5-10 minutes outside my own house to reverse onto my drive from the road due to the constant stream of traffic.



Furthermore, there has been numerous occasions where cars have pulled out of Ulnes Walton Lane without signaling left, almost causing a crash as I have pulled out my drive. When at home, we frequently hear cars beeping around the junction on a daily basis.

On August 27th 2022 a driver drove into our front fence, knocking it down, as well as into our wheelie bin which then hit into the side fence. I have attached a photo as evidence.

I believe the new prison will make the roads so much busier and even more difficult to pull out from and park on my own drive. As all the vehicles will undoubtedly be passing my house, I certainly am strongly opposed to the plans and find it a huge concern for myself and my family's safety on the roads.

Resident Statement 5 - Nicky Watkinson

We have lived in Ulnes Walton Lane for nearly 15 years.

Ulnes Walton Lane is a rural narrow lane, it has no pavements or street lighting.

My daughter has grown up here but having children who live in the lane has impacted on their independence, we have had to drive her everywhere, due to poor public transport and its not at all safe to walk on the lane. I used to meet her off the college bus in the winter wearing high vis because the cars sped past and it was the prison shift change time.

We don't see our neighbours as you'll never see them walking past.

Those of us who own dogs in the lane have to drive them to a safe walking area, we drive daily to the prison tracks to walk our dog, during lockdown this was frowned upon, however we were safer driving to exercise than risk needing an ambulance, being run over on Ulnes Walton Lane as the NHS were stretched enough.

Any walkers wear high vis jackets and still cars drive at them. I have experienced this several times whilst delivering leaflets.

You can't own cats living here as they wouldn't survive, I have had 3 chickens killed by speeding car drivers.

The road is used by horse riders at the weekend when its quieter, cyclists use it too.

When its bin day in the village, its chaos, cars overtake you on blind bends in the lane, on their way to work in the prison.

Whilst working on the lane Lancashire council workers commented to me on how fast the cars drive down the lane.

Lots of prison staff and visitors have been reported for dangerous driving.

Along the part of the lane I live in there are haulage businesses, one of them Matthew and Leigh Construction Ltd they have many deliveries of

building materials delivered via HGVs.

When these HGVs drive past my house it shakes. When construction work is being done at the prison grab wagons and HGVs also access the lane and there are many narrow and winding bends to negotiate.

The Nursing home has a regular HGV delivery of pellets for its Bio mass boiler, this parks on the lane and causes chaos. Many tractors and trailers use the lane as they are commuting from the many local farms.

There recently was damage to our overhead phone cables from 7.30am March 30th - 6.30pm on May 18th 2022, that's 8 weeks of no phone line or internet due to an oversized HGV tearing down the cables, leaving 10 properties without connection and many many phonecalls.

This was a huge inconvenience for everyone affected from a 95 year old who lives alone to myself working from home for the NHS.

Also there is planning permission for 12 houses to be build 7 at Eccleston Equestrian centre and 5 at Roe Croft Farm, which is at the junction of Ulnes Walton Lane and Southport Road.

At busy times we often hear cars beeping at each other as they fight for space on the narrow lane. We often struggle to get in and out of our driveway due to aggressive drivers.

At peak times our road is like the Wacky races, this can go on for hours from 6am to 10am and 3pm to 7pm. The traffic is so busy that when we are in our front garden we have to raise our voices to speak to each other.

The grass verges outside our house are constantly getting ruined by 2 large vehicles trying to pass each other.



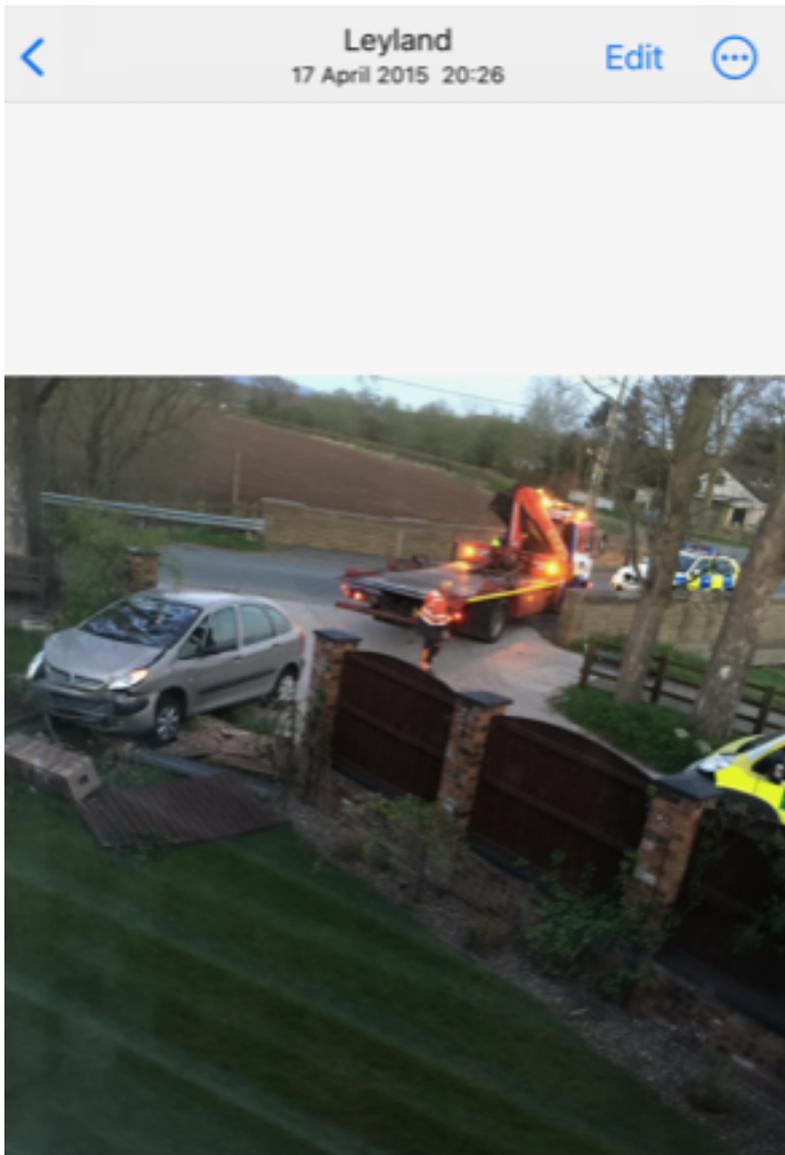
Resident Statment 6 - Jo Nightingale

Good evening,

A couple of incidents this week with regards to near misses.

22nd February 2023, approx 11:40am, a huge, long wagon came down Holker Lane turned right onto Ulnes Walton Lane. I had just turned out of my drive on the bridge, I had right of way but had to back up down the lane as it pulled out. To get round the bend/over the bridge it used both lanes. Fortunately, no one was coming either way.

Sat nav's direct traffic down Holker Lane. It's regularly used as a rat run by delivery drivers and ambulances. It's a single-track road with ditches either side, just not suitable for any traffic never mind vehicles of this size.



On the 24th February 2023, lunchtime whilst driving north down Ulnes Walton Lane I had to stop my car so a wagon could get past as it was too wide for the southbound lane. The driver had no intention of stopping or moving over although he would have been on the grass verge. This wouldn't be the first time this week as there are visible tyre tracks from tractors and wagons along the lane.

We have lived here since 2007 and have had several crashes into our garden wall from speeding cars/careless drivers. I don't have a note of

the dates as there haven't been any since 17 April 2015, I attach photos of this incident. Our whole garden wall had to be re built. Fortunately we

were not in the garden that night but did watch it happen through the window. All others were reported to the police and had crime references for insurance purposes as they each caused substantial damage. I hope you can obtain access to these.

Resident Statement 7 - Lynette Morrissey

I was recently approaching the junction of Ulnes Walton Lane and Southport Road, and was forced to pull into the hedgerow and come to an emergency full stop some 20-30ft from the junction of Ulnes Walton Lane and the A581 Southport Road. A large articulated low-loader travelling east on the Southport Road turned right into Ulnes Walton Lane, his angle of approach to turn right, was impeded by vehicles parked outside residential properties on Southport Road.

He had to cut the corner, completely blocking the entire width of Ulnes Walton Lane. The driver of the HGV jumped out of his cab and berated me for not seeing the parked vehicles on the Southport Road and stating I should have stopped further back from the junction to allow him to negotiate the turn. It was only when I pointed out to him that it was not possible to see his or the parked vehicles through two hedgerows and round a corner that he reluctantly acknowledged the validity of the point.

Resident Statement 8 - Pat and Trevor Symonds

As residents of Southport Rd, Ulnes Walton for the past 18 years, we regularly see near misses, shunts accidents and congestion on our stretch of the road between The Rose and Crown, New Lane, Gilson Garage and Mayors Wood Yard . The Congestion usually caused by delivery vehicles waiting access to unload, this happens on a daily basis, also large vehicles parking on the highway while visiting the shop. (See picture taken 2/3/23 8.30am). This obviously is extremely dangerous when traffic attempting to overtake and vehicles blindly pulling out of New Lane.



We have contacted the council with concerns many times but never hear back from anyone. The road as the council must be aware is always crumbling especially around the drains. Obviously more heavy traffic on a narrow road is a continual problem already. Also in heavy rain the road is flooding more and more outside Gilsons, causing us personally to worry at times as there is no adequate drainage on that side of the road to take the water away.. On an already very narrow main road the pavement in places is very narrow not suitable for prams, wheelchairs, disabled buggies etc and if two people pass one has to step on the road.

The extra traffic a 3rd prison would create in an already overloaded small residential road not just at the Ulnes Walton Lane junction but the whole of Southport Rd is ludicrous and extremely dangerous.

Resident Statement 9 - Hugh and Pam Sloan

STATEMENT FROM MR H SLOAN AND MRS PAMELA SLOAN

DELIVERING NEWSLETTERS: I have been a Parish Councillor for over fifteen years and twice a year I take out Parish Council newsletters to residents on Southport Road, Leyland Lane, Holker Lane and Ulnes Walton Lane.

Originally, I did this on foot. It is a lovely country area and should have been a pleasant walk. Over the years, however, I began to dread taking out the newsletters because of the near misses and close shaves I'd experienced with traffic giving me no space and speeding past. There are no foot paths on Ulnes Walton Lane and Holker Lane.

My fellow councillor then drove for me and I delivered the leaflets in the hope that the less time I spent on foot the safer I would be. This, however, was no solution. On **Friday 24th Feb. 2023** my husband drove for me and I delivered. My husband will not be doing this again because sitting in the car with speeding traffic scraping past at speed was very scary. Whilst on foot I had to run on three occasions to get into a safe space away from the cars. I am not tasking the leaflets out again.

A simple task like this has become impossible because of the existing danger of these roads.

STOPPING TO BACK INTO OUR DRIVE: Wed. 8th Feb. 2023. Approx. 16.30.

Approaching our house in my car from the Chorley direction I tapped my brakes to show the brake lights and I put on the left indicator. I stopped just beyond my driveway and waited so that I could back in. I could see in my mirror a white van approaching at speed and wondered when/if he would pull out to overtake. He obviously wasn't expecting a car to stop, despite my house being one of a large number of houses close together lining the road and there being a thirty-mph speed limit. He pulled out at the last minute and blasted me on his horn.

This is typical of hundreds of similar incidents from the past when we've been afraid to stop to back into our own house and invariably get abuse, foul gestures, horns blaring etc.

30 AND 40 MPH SPEED LIMIT. The most common complaints of residents of Ulnes Walton is the danger of the roads. There is rarely a Parish Council meeting when this isn't discussed and we usually talk about the most recent traffic incident. SOUTHPORT ROAD IS ONE OF THE TEN MOST DANGEROUS ROADS IN ENGLAND. One way to improve things is to enforce the speed limits and to this aim the Parish Council paid for a pair of SPIDS on Southport Road and later another pair on Ulnes Walton Lane. It demonstrates what a serious problem this is that, despite being a very small village meaning PC has little money, we were so concerned we decided to use most of it for the Spids.

DOG WALKING Friday 10th Feb approx. 9.30am I had to wait approx. four minutes until the road was clear so that I could take my dog across Southport Road to avoid two large dogs being walked on the narrow pavement approaching me. Before I got to the other side a fast car came and I had to drag my dog to safety. Kitt, my Border Collie is sixteen years old, deaf and almost blind and can only walk slowly. This is only the latest incident of this kind and there are dozens of similar previous ones.

A few years ago, Kitt survived being knocked down by a car on Southport Road. My previous dog, an eleven year old Border Collie, Toddy, was killed by a car on Southport Road.

The above incidents are, of necessity, recent events because I haven't got dates and times of the hundreds of other similar incidents which have taken place earlier.

Having such dangerous roads as our main routes in and out of the village has been a major concern for many years and has blighted our feeling of safety. The coming of a third prison will exacerbate all this and make everyone's lives more vulnerable and seriously affect the quality of life.

