

Swale Joint Transportation Board – 8 September 2014

Tabled Paper for Item 5

Dear Committee,

I write as a resident of Swale for the past 32 years. I grew up on the Isle of Sheppey and am strongly against any lowering of the speed limit over the Sheppey Crossing. I feel that providing drivers pay attention the Crossing is safe. I use it daily and have done most days since the new bridge was opened. Several of the suggestions mentioned are largely pointless:

- There is no room for a hard shoulder;
- All the noteworthy accidents have taken place in the daytime, so lights wouldn't have helped. On that foggy morning, the lit section of the A249 was just as treacherous;
- There's no room for a layby and thus no place for an emergency phone;
- A 50 limit would be ignored by drivers unless it was heavily enforced - the speed most people do over the bridge is well in excess of 50, as people will drive to the conditions;
- A 50 limit wouldn't have helped on that foggy day as even 40 was too fast! People who for whatever reason feel the bridge is unsafe should in my view use the old road instead, which already has a 50 limit for most of its length. Assuming a daily commute, even a minute's delay a day due to a 50 limit would mean around 4 hours of wasted time each year - purely because some people feel uncomfortable doing 70.

If Swale Borough Council wishes to complain about the A249, please complain about Cowstead Corner instead - that impacts thousands of drivers every single day, causing wasted time, road-rage and needless pollution.

Regards, Darren Prescott (Leysdown)