

North Road Traffic

You will hopefully all remember us briefly discussing the matter of the traffic on North Road at our October meeting. Whilst I completely understand and agree that we would not want to upset local businesses and certainly not alienate any of them; I do believe we have a duty to the residents of our town to hear their concerns and at very least acknowledge that there is a problem here.

We will all acknowledge I am sure that there was a lot less traffic on the road in the years that preceded the tunnel (in fact it will have been the increase or predicted increase in road use that led to the tunnels construction in the first place I would imagine) There were a number of questions that were asked at the meeting in October and I hope that this report brings answers to them.

There are 20 businesses regularly using this route; I do have a list which I will gladly pass on to anyone that would like to see it or hopefully we will be able to use the list in our efforts to seek to resolve this matter as it has very considerably been put together by a resident, but I see no gain in naming the businesses at this juncture. Seven of these regulars use the route once or twice a day six of them up to 5 times a day and the other seven uses the route 5 or more times a day the most being 15 to 20 times a day which is a lot of HGV traffic.

A resident has undertaken this study and has informed me that whilst the original list is ongoing there has been a significant increase in the number of fixed body tipper trucks.

From random timed observations traffic flows are typically 27 per hour and so 250/270 HGV per 10 hour day or 1 every 2 minutes all day long (from around 07.30 and calms at about 18.00 in the evening) During lockdown the number was reduced to between 16 and 18 per hour. This figure only includes HGV'S i.e. 7.5 tonne plus and only includes HGV west towards east and no vans of any size are included. Speeds vary but when the traffic is at its lowest the speeds increase.

The highest count of vehicles was on 03/12/2020 when between 13.30 and 13.45 there were 12 vehicles which equates to one every 75 seconds. If needed the resident that undertook this study has comprehensive notes of times and dates of other counts of HGV vehicles using North road, these have been taken at random times of the day and generally covering a 30 minute period although some are 15 minutes.

At the October meeting where this item was first raised it was suggested that priority was given to traffic at the traffic lights coming off the slip road onto North road. This is not quite the case although actually one could easily be forgiven for thinking this was the case because whilst the traffic lights are not programmed to give priority to traffic coming off of the A38, if a queue of traffic is detected on the slip road a hurry call will be triggered to allow the slip to sufficiently clear and prevent vehicles queuing back onto the A38. The traffic lights are owned, maintained and programmed by Cornwall Council not Highways England, however due to the junctions close proximity to the A38 Highways England's traffic flows and operational needs are taken into consideration.

I appeal to fellow councillors to see that this is a problem our residents need to know that we are in their corner and that we will seek to resolve this situation for them because quite frankly it is in my opinion intolerable.

End of Report
Cllr Julie Rance