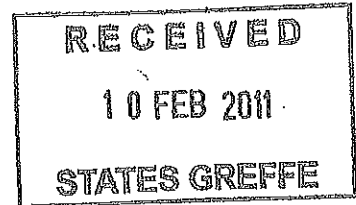


9/2/11

The Chairman and Panel
Environmental Scrutiny Panel
Le Mourier House
Halkett Place, St Helier. JE1 1DD



Dear Mr. Rondel,

I was largely responsible for setting up the Green Lane scheme, which was supported by the Constable of St Peter and the first Green Lanes were in our Parish. This scheme has now spread across the Island because the whole concept of roads, which were as safe as possible for other users such as pedestrians, cyclists and riders, was something people in Jersey wanted. The safety aspect rested on the 15mph speed limit.

The 15mph limit was not randomly arrived at: a UK road traffic accident research showed clearly that serious injury and death increased sharply from 18mph. As speed limits are set in bands of five, we therefore settled on 15mph as being the nearest speed under 18mph. It is notable that throughout the UK, where pedestrians specifically mix with traffic — such as housing estates/hospitals etc — there is frequently a 15mph (or even 10mph) limit.

The Green Lane scheme has operated for over a decade in Jersey. Therefore, the 15mph limit has been accepted. A legal point would surely arise if this limit were increased, in the face of all commonsense, and an accident were to occur, in that the States would have

wilfully and deliberately raised the speed limit. Any increase in speed would surely be a factor in any accident on a Green Lane.

If non-motorists are to be specifically invited onto a road, because it has a Green Lane sign and is therefore deemed to be both safe and attractive, then I do not think it right to raise the speed limit on these roads — the States would not be exercising their duty of care to the public if they did so.

Personally, I would go even further on this point: if the 15mph limit were to be replaced by a higher limit, then I think the Green Lane signs should be taken down and the scheme disbanded. I know many people who would decry this — and I know that a major selling-point on the island's attractions would also be lost to Tourism. One cannot deliberately increase a speed limit to a greater speed one knows is not safe, and then deliberately mix pedestrians, riders, children, dog walkers, cyclists etc. into that road use. The only people who do not like the Green Lanes are motorists — but they can easily use alternative roads nearby. Green Lanes uniquely prioritise other road users. I hope they will continue to do so.

Yours sincerely

Pamela Nisbet
(MRS P.M. NISBET.)