

Danworth Lane TRO Application Supporting Documents

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1. Initial Enquiry Correspondence

1a. To Hurstpierpoint Parish Council

From: Steve Corcoran

Date: Thursday, 27 March 2025 at 13:58

To: office@hurstpierpoint-pc.gov.uk

Subject: Danworth Lane

Good Afternoon,

As you will know Danworth Lane is a single-track lane with blind bends.

We were very disturbed to see a new road sign appear at the entrance to Danworth Lane from Chalkers Lane indicating that the lane is subject to the National Speed limit (60 mph).

Ironically the other side of the sign advises that traffic coming from Danworth Lane into Chalkers Lane is subject to a 30 mph limit.

As previously advised speeding traffic in Danworth Lane is a continual hazard, particularly with college traffic and lorries using the lane as a cut through. Attempts to remonstrate with speeding drivers invariably generates the response, *"but I am allowed to do 60 here"*. This new sign simply reinforces this argument.

As well as residents, the lane is also used extensively by joggers, walkers, cyclists and horse riders. I recall that some years ago there was a proposal to designate the lane as a recreational amenity with a 20mph speed limit.

Obviously, nothing ever came of this proposal and an increased level of speeding traffic suggest that it is only a matter of time before we see a serious accident.

My questions are:

- What was the reasoning behind the installation of the new signs (money could have been better spent repairing potholes) ?
- Would a sign advising a width restriction not have been more appropriate ?
- Is there any prospect of having a 20mph speed limit imposed on Danworth Lane ?

1b To West Sussex County Council

From: Steve Corcoran
Date: Tuesday, 1 April 2025 at 16:38
To: joy.dennis@westsussex.gov.uk
Subject: Fwd: Danworth Lane

Dear Ms. Dennis,

I am contacting you at the suggestion of Hurstpierpoint Parish Council.

You will find our correspondence below.

In summary, many of the residents of Danworth Lane, including myself have serious concerns about the speed, nature and volume of traffic using the lane. This is a particular problem with Hurstpierpoint College traffic.

We have made previous representations to the Parish Council about this matter.

The issue has recently come to the fore again with the installation of new National Speed Limit sign at the Chalkers Lane entrance to Danworth Lane.

Can we ask the County Council to consider applying a 30 mph speed limit or, better still, imposing a "quiet lane " designation as previously considered by the Parish Council ?

I look forward to receiving your comments,

2 Confirmation of Support from WSCC

E- Mail from Joy Dennis WSCC

From: Joy Dennis <Joy.Dennis@westsussex.gov.uk>
Date: Thursday, 10 April 2025 at 21:41
To: Steve Corcoran, Gemma Wallis <Gemma.Wallis@westsussex.gov.uk>
Cc: Kinga Jasik <kinga.jasik@westsussex.gov.uk>, Sarah Groom <sarah.groom@hurstpierpoint-pc.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Danworth Lane - 3827178

Hi, Very happy to do so!
Regards
Joy

From: Steve Corcoran
Sent: 10 April 2025 16:33
To: Gemma Wallis <Gemma.Wallis@westsussex.gov.uk>
Cc: Joy Dennis <Joy.Dennis@westsussex.gov.uk>; Kinga Jasik <kinga.jasik@westsussex.gov.uk>; Sarah Groom <sarah.groom@hurstpierpoint-pc.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Danworth Lane - 3827178

Dear Ms. Wallis,

Thank you for your email.

I have today sent the attached note to interested residents. Once I have their responses, I will make application for a TRO.

Assuming that we receive a significant level of support it would be useful to know from both WSCC and the Parish Council whether they will be inclined to support a "Quiet Lane" designation for Danworth Lane ?

3 Confirmation of Hurstpierpoint Parish Council Agenda Item

Dear Mr Corcoran,

I hope you are well.

Further to your email of 10 April below, I am preparing my agenda for the Parish Council meeting on 24 April and I wonder if you are ready for me to ask the Parish Council formally to support your TRO application?

I have to circulate the agenda on Wednesday morning due to the Easter weekend, so I would be very grateful to hear from you if possible by the end of tomorrow. Otherwise, I can of course leave it to next months meeting.

Thank you.

Kind regards,



Sarah Groom, Clerk to the Council
Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common Parish Council
T: 01273 833264 | E: office@hurstpierpoint-pc.gov.uk
W: www.hurstpierpoint-pc.gov.uk | Find us on [Facebook](#)
Office Opening Hours: Monday to Friday, 9.30am to 1.30pm

4. Request for wider community support



Dear Neighbour,

You will have no doubt noticed the erection of a new National Speed Limit Sign at the Chalkers Lane entrance to Danworth Lane.

A number of us are concerned that this gives further encouragement to speeding traffic in the lane. Some of us have approached both West Sussex County Council and the Parish Council with a view to getting Danworth Lane re-designated as a "Quiet Lane" with a 20mph speed limit.

In order to do this, we will need to apply for a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO). I am happy to make this application, but I have been advised that I will need to demonstrate the support of the wider community.

If you are happy to support this application could I ask you to drop me back a brief email indicating your thoughts on the matter.

For your reference I have provided my initial correspondence with the council below.

Best wishes,

Steve Corcoran

10th April 2025

5. Response Danworth Farm House

In agreement with our neighbours and local residents we would like to state our horror at the new 'National speed limit' signage that has been erected at the south entrance to Danworth Lane.

We have lived with our family here on Danworth Lane for 20 years and the behaviour of traffic has always been a great concern. As a single track rural lane it can only be driven safely at a low speed. Anything above 20 mph is unsuitable. However couriers, commuters and college traffic are often seen driving at 40-50 mph or more. It is very worrying. Drivers clearly treat it as a cut-through and completely ignore the safety of local residents and other visitors.

It is not just local residents who face dangerous drivers, but the lane is consistently used by families with children, dog walkers, cyclists, runners and horse riders. Wildlife is also endangered, we regularly see deer, badgers, hedgehogs, squirrels and foxes on the lane and sadly some have been hit by speeding cars. Sensible driving speeds are daily ignored because there is no deterrent.

We have raised our own young children here, but never felt safe letting them use the lane for walking or cycling. Even when teaching them to drive we would prefer to take them away from the lane. We had one of our pet cats killed by a speeding car on the lane and driving it ourselves have often had to break suddenly or swerve to avoid dangerous drivers that are speeding. Twice, following near misses we have written to Hurst College to give them the registration plate of a particular car, daily speeding dangerously on route to the college. Other Hurst College parents are also spotted speeding and courier vans are notoriously bad. It has been a long time concern for everyone.

We would kindly ask that the national speed limit sign be removed as soon as possible before someone is seriously hurt or killed. We also request that 20 mph signage replace it and be repeated along the lane. It has been granted for the college and makes obvious sense for the lane, which is half the width.

6. Response North Brooks

Of course you have our support.

7. Response 4 Danworth Lane

Thanks for your note about the road sign.

Signage impacts speed, this is well known and while you would hope people would note that Danworth is a narrow lane, and not suitable for 30mph+ speeds, no doubt people will see the national speed limit sign and accelerate upon entering the lane.

We are very keen to support your efforts to achieve a quiet lane or "20mph" outcome.

As a side note, I wrote to the council back in October asking for them to review the stretch of Chalkers lane, west of Danworth lane. Particularly regarding the speed limit, and the lack of pavement/verge provision around the bend prior to the new houses. They noted the speed limit was to be reduced but I didn't hear anything back about the second point. See the supporting evidence attached. Let me know what we can do, best.

8. Response South Danworth Cottage

On the matter of traffic on the Lane; the reckless speed used by some regardless of the potential impact upon other vulnerable users; the inappropriate use by college related commuter traffic who seem to view the lane as a challenge for the their 4x4's and, abuse by large vehicles for which the lane was never designed we wholly support and wish you every success with your endeavour to have restrictions in place that would at least deter if not deny such mis-use, before something truly awful and avoidable occurs.

I've tried to attach a short video captured by our cameras whilst we're away, a clip triggered by a large speeding HGV that aptly demonstrates your (all of our) concerns which you may think useful in your exchange with the relevant authorities.

9. Response from Danworth Brook Farm

We were pleased, after many years of representations to the Council at many levels, to see various local lanes and roads at last reduced from the existing limits to 30mph, including 20mph through Hurst College.

What we were NOT expecting, however, was to see a National Speed Limit sign erected at the junction of Chalkers Lane and Danworth Lane.

Our road, as any local will agree, is not only narrow and winding, but has few passing places, a number of blind bends, and myriad pot holes that the Councils repair efforts have failed to remedy for years past.

This makes it ENTIRELY UNSUITABLE for a maximum 60mph limit.

This new sign will act as a proverbial 'red rag to a bull' to drivers heading north up Danworth Lane, and we frankly are astonished that anyone involved with this new signage could have possibly thought this sign was a good idea.

We urgently request that this is reconsidered forthwith, and to have Danworth Lane designated as both max 30mph, as well as 'passing places only' (i.e. like New Way Lane to the south of Hurstpierpoint village).

This might serve to avoid a nasty if not fatal accident in future, given the number of dog walkers, horse-riders, child pram users, etc. that use it every day.

I look forward to hearing from you.

10. Verbal Indications of Support

2 Longfield Cottages
1 Longfield Cottages
Poets Cottage

11. Video Clip. (South Danworth Cottage)