

Dear Councillor Grogan and Councillor Duncan,

We hope you are both well.

Councillor Grogan, in your campaign materials for the North Yorkshire Council elections of May 2022, you recognised that traffic on the A63 in Monk Fryston is “extremely heavy and challenging to cross the road”. You stated, “it is my priority that a pedestrian crossing be provided”. We are grateful for the positive conversations you have had with us on this matter over the last year, and we are now asking that you take action to fulfil this election pledge.

Councillor Duncan, in your role as North Yorkshire Council’s Executive Member for Highways and Transportation, we are asking you to use your authority and influence to deliver improved road safety for the residents of our village. We are aware that you have visited Monk Fryston within the last year, and have seen first-hand the difficulties that our residents face.

The road is dangerous. As recently as Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2023, a serious RTC in the middle of Monk Fryston involving a pedestrian required emergency services to attend the scene. In the evidence we have collated (which accompanies this letter) you will find many, many examples of unreported near-miss incidents on A63 in our village, along with testimonies of how residents’ quality of life is impaired by the dangerous nature of the road.

Monk Fryston Parish Council has requested on many occasions that something is done to improve road safety for residents.

Enclosed, you will find the following supporting evidence related to the dangerous nature of the road and the swell of public opinion in favour of the installation of a pedestrian crossing:

- Over 800 signatures on an [online petition](#) in favour of a pedestrian crossing on the A63 in Monk Fryston, and 30+ comments left on the petition.
- Over 140 signatures on a hard-copy petition signed by customers of the Post Office and shop situated at the heart of Monk Fryston on the A63.
- Over 150 responses to a road safety village survey, demonstrating:
  - The vulnerability of many residents
  - The needs of pushchair and wheelchair users
  - The need for residents to cross the road to live their daily lives and access essential facilities
  - The fact that 97% of residents report feeling unsafe while crossing the A63
  - The fact that over 40% of residents report changing their lifestyle due to road safety fears
  - The fact that 99% of A63 road safety incidents have been unreported
- A recent analysis of data from our village’s Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS), which demonstrates that traffic through Monk Fryston is challengingly high, with over 9,000 vehicles passing through the village each day.
- A HGV traffic survey demonstrating that, on average, 35 HGVs (excluding buses, tractors, light goods vehicles, emergency vehicles) pass through Monk Fryston each hour of the day on a typical weekday

In addition to the portfolio of fresh evidence that we are providing, we also ask you to consider that in July 2021, Selby District Council published their Monk Fryston Conservation Area Appraisal (produced by Alan Baxter Associates in conjunction with Selby District Council). The Appraisal acknowledged that the A63 is a “substantial negative feature” of the village, and also noted that

there are “no traffic calming measures or formalised crossing points across the A63”. The Appraisal goes on to conclude that traffic through Monk Fryston is “extremely heavy” and it is “challenging to cross the road”. The Appraisal made a very strong recommendation, stating that it is “essential... that the situation is ameliorated through traffic calming and formal pedestrian crossings”.

Our village currently has no pedestrian crossing or any other pedestrian-friendly features (in contrast to other towns and villages in our area). This makes it extremely difficult for Monk Fryston residents to cross the A63 safely, which they must do so to access key village facilities such as the school, church, post office and community centre.

As a Parish Council, we have assessed possible locations for a pedestrian crossing in our village which ensure safety for pedestrians and motorists alike.

Our residents are asking you to take action and to provide a pedestrian crossing in Monk Fryston.

We await your response.

Best wishes,

Monk Fryston Parish Council