



22 April 2021

By email to:

Councillor Peter Hall  
Councillor Mike Cox  
Councillor Avril Coulton  
Councillor Michael Tarling  
Councillor Sue Bungey  
Councillor Tom Lane  
Councillor Wendy Grace

Cc: The Mayor of Christchurch (sroxby@christchurch-tc.gov.uk)

*Dear Councillors*

**TRAFFIC IN SOPERS LANE**

In a letter dated 14 September 2020 I wrote expressing my concerns over the ever increasing speed of traffic along Sopers Lane and I have enclosed this letter for your reference.

Some 7 months on the situation is no different and in my opinion is getting worse, with traffic travelling at speeds in excess of the 30 mph limit at all times of day, but particularly in the evenings when the road is perhaps less congested?

Only on Tuesday of this week there was an accident near the pedestrian crossing in front of Twynham School. I understand a car drove into the rear of a vehicle waiting at the crossing. All emergency services were present and the road was closed for some time, which resulted in a wonderful "air of quiet." It is regretful that this observation is borne out of an accident to indicate how noise polluted our town has become, let alone the negative impact the traffic is having on air pollution. On the latter, it is sobering to note that on yesterday's BBC News there was an article relating to the death of the little girl, Ella Kissi-Debrah in 2013, upon which the Coroner ruled that her death was caused by acute respiratory failure, severe asthma and air pollution exposure.

In my opinion, in and around Christchurch Town Centre there needs to be a speed limit of 20 mph applied to "a circuit" of say, Sopers Lane, the High Street, St Margaret's Avenue, Wick Lane and Whitehall; through to Castle and Bridge Streets. It is surely not much to ask or expect? Many towns I have visited have such zones, as do areas of Bournemouth close to schools and amenities.

In contrast, with the summer approaching and with COVID restrictions easing there will undoubtedly be an influx of visitors resulting in traffic congestion in the town centre and associated access roads. I have already noted air pollution as a pre-cursor to ill health and premature death<sup>1</sup>.

I have written previously, so “cutting to the quick,” I would be grateful if you would please advise what actions are being taken to resolve and mitigate this serious issue and the date when the actions to reduce the speed of traffic along Sopers Lane and in the town centre will be complete. I would appreciate a reply to this letter by 31 May 2021.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted name]  
Signed electronically

[Redacted contact information]

Enclosure:

1. Letter of [Redacted] dated 14 September 2020.

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<sup>1</sup> Fuller, G (2019). The Invisible Killer: The Rising Global Threat of Air Pollution – and How we Can Fight Back. Melville House UK.