



Established: 1st April 2020

Harlestone Manor Parish Council

Community Liaison Officer
Transport and Highways
West Northamptonshire Council
One Angel Square
Northampton
NN1 1ED

16th February 2026
By email

Dear Sir or Madam,

Harlestone Manor Parish Council is writing to formally raise a number of ongoing and escalating highway safety concerns following the opening of the Northampton North West Relief Road (NWRR). The parish lies adjacent to the Harlestone Road (A428) and the NWRR, and the council has a duty to represent residents' serious concerns regarding road safety, parking and pedestrian access.

The Parish Council considers the matters outlined below to be **public safety issues** that fall within the **statutory responsibilities of the Highway Authority**, and we therefore expect appropriate assessment and action.

1. Poppy Fields Way (formerly York Way) – Illegal Parking and Enforcement

Poppy Fields Way, immediately adjacent to a busy roundabout and forming the entrance to the Harlestone Manor estate and the NWRR, is now subject to double yellow line restrictions. Despite this, vehicles continue to park on the double yellow lines and on the adjacent verges.

During peak periods, particularly weekends and bank holidays, this parking becomes extensive and hazardous. Vehicles are frequently parked close to the roundabout and junctions, restricting visibility, impeding safe traffic flow and presenting a clear risk to road users, pedestrians and emergency vehicles.

While the Parish Council acknowledges that restrictions are in place, **a lack of visible enforcement has rendered these measures ineffective**. We therefore request confirmation that this location will be included in a programme of **targeted enforcement**, particularly

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during high-risk periods such as weekends and bank holidays. Even periodic enforcement would act as a strong deterrent and materially improve safety.

In addition, we request the provision of **“Do Not Park on the Verge”** signage along this stretch of road. The Parish Council is willing to install such signage on existing lamp-posts, subject to Highways’ approval.

2. Reporting of Vehicles Parked Illegally

To support enforcement and public engagement, we request details of a **direct reporting mechanism** (email address or online portal) through which councillors and members of the public can report vehicles parked on double yellow lines or verges, including the submission of photographic evidence.

Once confirmed, the Parish Council will actively promote this reporting process via its website and social media channels to assist the Highway Authority in monitoring ongoing issues.

3. Pedestrian Safety and Crossing Assessment – NWRR

Since the opening of the NWRR, residents of Harlestone Manor Parish are experiencing significant difficulty crossing the road due to increased traffic volume and speed. This crossing point is regularly used by pedestrians, including families, dog walkers and elderly residents, accessing The Firs and the nearby garden centre and café.

The Parish Council formally requests that a **pedestrian safety assessment** be undertaken as a matter of urgency, with a view to determining the need for a **formal pedestrian crossing facility**. Given the increase in traffic and the established pedestrian desire line, the council considers this assessment to be essential in order to meet public safety obligations.

4. Review of Parking Restrictions – Harlestone Manor and Loxton Fields

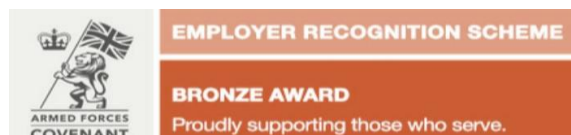
Finally, the Parish Council requests a review of parking arrangements across the Harlestone Manor and Loxton Fields estates. The popularity of The Firs as a destination has resulted in increased visitor parking, with vehicles frequently parked in unsafe locations near roundabouts, junctions and narrow sections of road.

We believe that further parking controls may be required to prevent dangerous obstruction and to ensure safe access for residents, pedestrians and emergency services.

Next Steps and Expected Response

Given the nature of the issues raised and their impact on public safety, the Parish Council requests:

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- Written confirmation of how each of the above matters will be addressed
- Indicative timescales for assessments, enforcement activity and any proposed interventions
- Details of a named officer or team responsible for progressing these issues

We would appreciate an initial response within **28 days**, outlining proposed actions and next steps. The Parish Council would also welcome a meeting or site visit if this would assist in progressing solutions.

We look forward to your response and to working constructively with the Highway Authority to ensure the safety of all road users and residents within the parish.

Yours sincerely,

Stewart Clark
Chairman, Harlestone Manor Parish Council

Paul Thomas | Harlestone Manor Clerk | Executive Officer | RFO | Email: Clerk@harlestonemanorpc.org.uk

