



Established: 1st April 2020

Harlestone Manor Parish Council

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

17th February 2026
By email

Dear Sir or Madam,

Re: A428 – Pedestrian Safety

This correspondence is submitted on behalf of Harlestone Manor Parish Council and constitutes a formal request for action by West Northamptonshire Council in its capacity as the statutory Highway Authority.

The Parish Council is increasingly concerned about pedestrian safety on the A428 and Harlestone Road following a Road Traffic Collision and demonstrable changes in traffic volume, speed and road function arising from the opening of the Northampton Western Relief Road (NWRR) and ongoing development in the area.

1. A428 – Pedestrian Safety, Footpath Width and Crossing Provision

On 31st December 2025 at approximately 13:00, a road traffic collision occurred on the A428 in which a pedestrian was struck on the arm by the nearside wing mirror of a passing car travelling towards The Hart Public House. The pedestrian was walking towards the Harlestone Manor estate from the Duston direction and was accompanied by another pedestrian, walking side by side on the footway. The incident occurred approximately 50 yards before the first pedestrian access into the Harlestone Manor estate.

The Parish Council considers this incident to be a clear indicator of unacceptable risk on a footway that is substandard in width, heavily used, and known to be the primary pedestrian route between Harlestone Manor and Duston. This route is regularly used by school children, families and other vulnerable pedestrians.

Harlestone Manor Parish Council
<https://harlestonemanorpc.org.uk>



EMPLOYER RECOGNITION SCHEME

BRONZE AWARD

Proudly supporting those who serve.



Despite the introduction of a 30mph speed limit, traffic volumes and speeds remain a concern. Since the opening of the NWRR, this section of the A428 has experienced a measurable increase in traffic, a trend which will intensify further with planned development. Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) data has been provided with this submission and demonstrates the scale of the issue.

In light of the above, the Parish Council expects West Northamptonshire Council to undertake:

- A formal safety assessment of the existing footway with a view to widening to an appropriate and safe standard.
- A pedestrian crossing assessment, including but not limited to the suitability of a zebra crossing, at or near the pedestrian access into the estate

The Parish Council notes that pedestrian safety and the provision of safe highway infrastructure fall within the statutory duties of the Highway Authority. We further confirm that the Parish Council holds CIL funding and reserves and is willing to engage constructively on funding contributions where appropriate, following the assessment.

Given the nature of the site and the seriousness of the risks identified, the Parish Council considers an on-site meeting essential as part of this process.

2. Harlestone Road – Urgent Pedestrian Crossing Assessment

Since the opening of the NWRR, pedestrians are experiencing significant difficulty crossing Harlestone Road between Loxton Fields and Harlestone Manor estates. Traffic speeds and volumes have increased to the extent that informal crossing is no longer safe.

This crossing point is a critical pedestrian link used daily by residents, families, dog walkers and children, providing access to schools, The Firs, local amenities, and a busy garden centre and café. VAS data demonstrates that this location now functions as a major strategic route, carrying traffic moving north, south, east and west across the county with the introduction of the NWRR.

The Parish Council therefore formally requests an urgent crossing assessment at this location. Given the evidenced change in road function and pedestrian demand, we believe delay would be inconsistent with the Highway Authority's duty to promote and maintain safe use of the network for all users.

3. 30mph Speed Limit Signage – Harlestone Road

The Parish Council also requests that the existing 30mph signs on Harlestone Road near the bus stop on both sides of the carriageway be reviewed and upgraded to larger terminal signs. The current signs appear to function as repeaters and are insufficiently prominent given the prevailing traffic conditions.



Next Steps and Expected Response

Given that these matters relate directly to public safety and statutory highway responsibilities, the Parish Council requests:

1. Written confirmation that the above assessments will be undertaken
2. A named officer as point of contact
3. An indicative timetable for:
 - Site visits
 - Completion of assessments
 - Feedback to the Parish Council
4. Confirmation of arrangements for an on-site meeting

The Parish Council looks forward to working constructively with West Northamptonshire Council to deliver timely safety improvements. However, we must be clear that inaction on known and evidenced risks would be of serious concern.

We would welcome a response within **28 days** of the date of this letter.

Yours sincerely,

S. Clark

Stewart Clark
Chairman, Harlestone Manor Parish Council

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