

From: Roy Milnes

Mr. Gwyn Morris Jones  
Head of Highways and Municipal  
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Dear Mr. Jones,

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By email and Recorded Delivery

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### Gwynedd - dangerous speed humps

Firstly I would like to express my thanks to you and your staff for the excellent highway services provided by Gwynedd Council.

The attention given to highways and "A" route improvements is impressive even down to details such as the traditional black/white cast aluminium village signs. I think good, safe major roads plus our network of minor roads and footpaths are an invaluable resource for healthy outdoor activities - essential elements to increase tourism and employment for the region.

However there is one item I would like to take issue with you is speed humps. In an era when there are increasing pressures on budgets, why are Gwynedd Council are using highly maintenance intensive speed humps and then failing to maintain them?

The Council do not appear appreciate they have a legal liability to ensure that speed humps must be installed, maintained and marked exactly in accord with the DfT specification at all times.

This photo is typical of humps in Gwynedd

The sharp jagged edges tear at inner tyre sidewalls putting the lives of drivers at risk.

A consequential a blow-out at speed can be lethal.

Many other Gwynedd humps have faded markings distracting a drivers attention from spotting real hazards such as children and cyclists.

Legally, the Council must ensure that humps comply 100% of the time with DfT Highways (Road Humps) Regulations 1999.



Two weeks before Christmas new humps were installed in Nefyn but the legal markings were only painted last week. For five weeks, black faintly marked humps were virtually invisible on dark wet nights. Anecdotal of reports said vehicles were bouncing into the air - what hidden damage was caused to tyres and steering of these cars? The new humps are already crumbling at the edges.

The Council is creating a high future maintenance liability, causing unnecessary pain to people with spinal problems, damaging residents cars, reducing property values and most important of all, putting lives at risk.

The officers responsible through to the Chief Executive are exposing themselves to claims under the Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007 and the Council to claims for damages.

As a life and cost saving measure, please may I suggest that the Council urgently review their policy regarding speed humps and take immediate measures to remove or rectify existing dangerous humps.

No sensible driver wants to speed past schools or through villages and I'm sure your road safety team are aware of more effective and less maintenance intensive methods of increasing safety. Please keep up the good general highway work and do not let budget restrictions reduce your high standards achieved.

Yours sincerely,



Roy Milnes