



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

26 July 2022

Dear Resident,

I am writing to you today to ask you to take part in the National Highways A21 Road Safety survey for Hurst Green, if you have not already done so. Your voice and views are going to be really important in focusing on important road safety measures for the village.

In 2020, my MP colleagues and I on the A21 Reference Group, called a meeting with the Roads Minister to argue the case that a proposed £18m package of road safety measures for the A21 must be delivered in the current Road Investment Strategy period (RIS2) which runs from 2020-2025. The Department for Transport had decided that it would not be delivered until the next investment period (RIS3). This was not acceptable. Our argument was successful and the package of road safety measures for the A21 will now be delivered by 2025.

Since then, I have held a series of meetings with the project team at National Highways who are responsible for delivering the A21 safety package. I have placed a specific focus on Hurst Green in these discussions as your village is one of the communities most impacted by the A21. I asked them to consult closely with residents and the parish council.

In the week commencing 9 July, you should have received a survey from National Highways through your letterbox asking for further information about your travel patterns and the impact of the A21 on how you access areas of your village. Having stood with parents outside of the school in 2019 in protest at another accident and having walked the village many times with your parish councillors and local vicar, I know the issues which affect you and just how important it is for you to be safe going about your daily lives.

This road safety package will not deliver the ultimate solution of a by-pass around the village, which I will continue to lobby for, but I hope it will help make the village safer for both pedestrians and local drivers.

I firmly believe that speed cameras for the village will be the most effective way of slowing down drivers through day and night. The latest speed data for the village shows that the majority of vehicles pass through the village over the speed limit. However, it would appear from my latest conversation with National Highways that the speeding and road accident data for the village is not likely to be considered serious enough to make a strong business case for installation and enforcement of speed cameras. The decision-makers for speed cameras are National Highways,

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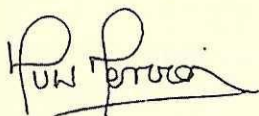
the Sussex Safer Roads Partnership and Sussex Police. I intend to argue that the village should be treated as an exceptional case for speed cameras, being located on a national trunk road, with a primary school and having junctions with two other A-roads. If you also support speed cameras for the village, then please do state this in your survey replies.

For many years, Hurst Green residents, the parish council and I have been promised further safety measures for the village by National Highways which have not materialised so I understand that many residents may feel this latest project may go the same way. However, this is a guaranteed £18m safety package for the A21 south of Lamberhurst which gives us a real opportunity to bring about some improvements but what gets delivered for Hurst Green will depend on your input on this survey, so please do get involved.

If you have not received a copy of the survey, please visit the parish council office or the Ashdene BP garages where spare copies are available. These are also the drop-off points for your completed surveys.

More information on the A21 Safety Package can be found at this website link: <https://nationalhighways.co.uk/a21-safety> . Any questions about the project can be emailed to [A21SafetyPackagescheme@nationalhighways.co.uk](mailto:A21SafetyPackagescheme@nationalhighways.co.uk) or telephone 0300 123 5000.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Huw Merriman', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Huw Merriman MP  
Member of Parliament for Bexhill and Battle  
Chairman of Transport Select Committee