

Kirkby Ireleth Parish Council

CHAIRMAN: Mr. M. A. McPherson, 1, Combe Crescent, Tel: 889 382

Although the A595 is the main strategic connection between Furness and West Cumbria there is no doubt that from Askam-in-Furness to Grizebeck it is not fit for purpose in these days of mass movement of goods and services by road.

It is substandard for the 5 miles from Askam-in-Furness to Grizebeck due to its alignment vertically, horizontally and especially with regard to width.

In the words of one Parishioner it was made for horse and cart and nothing has changed.

The problems with access for emergency vehicles and the fact that many areas need attention and not just at Grizebeck is highlighted by the Council.

Where it passes through the hamlet of Grizebeck and particularly at Dove Ford two vehicles are unable to pass without one moving into the side. If two heavy goods vehicles are involved the road can be closed for some time to allow manoeuvring to take place. Walls are damaged and farm animals escape adding further problems. At ten separate points along this stretch the total road width is less than the single standard lane width of 3.65 metres. There is no pedestrian access despite a Community Hall being situated here.

But this is not the only place such events happen.

There are at least six places that are so narrow it is only wide enough for safe single file traffic. These being:

- a) The bend at the top of the hill leaving Paradise.
- b) The junction with the minor road at 'Mere Beck Farm'.
- c) The bends at 'Muirlands'.
- d) The 50 yard stretch from north of 'Gargrave Farm' to 'Longhead Bridge'
- e) The 100 yard stretch from 'Longhead Bridge' to Soutergate.

And of course

- f) The ½ mile stretch of very substandard road passing from the farm buildings at Dove Ford through to Grizebeck village.

The result of all of this is congestion, frustration and a risk of accidents.

Many parts of the road are being continually eroded by the heavy goods vehicles travelling along. The number of these vehicles is set to rise due to the proposed new nuclear site at Moorside and its necessary infrastructure, the continued development taking place in Barrow-in-Furness and the stone being taken from Scar Gyll Quarry near Millom. A number of houses abutting the road are already suffering from the shake of heavy vehicles passing by. This is particularly noticeable in Soutergate and Four Lane Ends.

This Council recognises the importance of good communications between developing areas and would ask that consideration is given to the improvement of the A595 and its inclusion in any forthcoming upgrading of the road network.

It also recognises that residents are looking for improvements to the Dove Ford / Grizebeck area but do not want the problems of large lorries and speeding traffic going through Kirkby in Furness. Thus, the Council would be looking for a "Desk Top Study" to identify the best way to deal with traffic going through the villages of Grizebeck and Kirkby in Furness.