



This Road Safety Week, the Park Bridge Residents' Action Group & Fund demand urgent, meaningful action to address the immediate danger and risk to life on the roads through Park Bridge.

Our village has experienced multiple serious collisions in 2025 alone, including a tragic fatality in August. Just this week, during Storm Claudia, fallen trees, damaged overhead cables, and abandoned vehicles highlighted once again how unsafe and unsuitable these roads have become. Waggon Road, Mill Brow, Dean Terrace and Alt Lane were never designed for the volume, speed and type of traffic that now uses them daily as a cut-through.

Park Bridge is a historic conservation area, a gateway to nature, and a place where families walk, children play, and visitors come to enjoy the Medlock Valley. Yet every day, residents and visitors must navigate dangerous speeding, stolen vehicles, rat-running, and near-misses. The situation is no longer sustainable and the risk to life is too great to ignore.

As part of our community outreach, we have gauged the opinions of residents and visitors of Park Bridge with an online survey, and the message from the 47 respondents is unambiguous:

- 98% believe urgent action is needed
- 94% are concerned about speeding vehicles
- 92% concerned about rat-running traffic
- 98% concerned about road safety for families and children
- 92% concerned about pedestrian, cycling and horse-riding safety
- 83% concerned about destruction of wildlife habitats
- 77% concerned about damage to heritage buildings

These results reflect years of residents feeling ignored, unsafe, and let down. The community now speaks with one voice: action must be taken, and it must be taken now.

We are proposing an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) enforced using Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras outlines a fair, enforceable and balanced solution that protects residents, visitors, and the unique heritage environment,

and this approach is strongly supported by those in the Park Bridge community. Our full proposal accompanies this open letter.

We have a clear mandate for this proposal. More than eight out of 10 of those who shared feedback agree, ANPR is fair and effective, with 85% supporting ANPR enforcement (with or without small adjustments).

The majority of people who took part overwhelmingly agree (81%) that our proposal successfully balances reducing dangerous through-traffic while maintaining access for residents, visitors, business and essential services.

This is critical, the community wants safety, not isolation.

Because the Park Bridge access routes span both Tameside and Oldham, responsibility must also be shared.

We are calling for the formation of a formal joint working group, including:

- Tameside Highways
- Oldham Highways
- Tameside Estates & Greenspace
- Greater Manchester Police
- Cross-borough councillors
- Park Bridge Residents' Action Group & Fund

We are fully prepared to support this with evidence, engagement and ongoing community liaison.

We write to you during Road Safety Week. Nationally, five people die on UK roads every day, and six children a day are killed or seriously injured.

In Park Bridge, we have already seen the devastating consequences of inaction.

Our question to you is simple: How many more people must be seriously injured or killed on Park Bridge roads before decisive steps are taken?

Park Bridge deserves safe roads. Residents deserve to feel protected. Visitors deserve a safe, welcoming environment. And our heritage and landscape deserve safeguarding for future generations.

We look forward to your response, and to working together to deliver meaningful, lasting change.

Yours sincerely,

Park Bridge Residents' Action Group & Fund

www.parkbridgeaction.co.uk