



Dear Tameside Council,

Thank you for your response to our urgent road safety proposal. As you acknowledge, this isn't the response we were hoping for.

We understand that Tameside Council is still awaiting approval from the Secretary of State to exercise enforcement powers under Part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004, unlike many other local authorities that already use these powers to enforce low-traffic neighbourhoods, school streets, or other similar schemes via ANPR.

However, we must express our deep concern that your response does not reflect, or even acknowledge, the severity, frequency, and ongoing risk to life faced by vulnerable road users, residents, and visitors on the route through Park Bridge.

The response does not recognise the scale or urgency of danger

In 2025 alone, Park Bridge has experienced:

- Several major road traffic incidents
- One tragic fatality taking place on Waggon Road, which is still under police investigation
- Vehicles repeatedly losing control
- Damage to fencing, structures, bins and more
- Walkers, cyclists and horse riders forced to jump clear of speeding vehicles

To describe this as showing "no identifiable collision pattern" is inconsistent with lived experience, the volume of reported incidents, and it completely dismisses the fear and distress expressed by residents and visitors.

The data being relied upon is incomplete and cannot guide decisions alone

Your response makes it clear that Tameside Council relies solely on Stats19 police injury data, which ignores non-injury crashes, near-misses, vehicles hitting walls/verges, run-offs, daily risks to walkers/cyclists/children and more.

Yet:

- Many collisions in Park Bridge are not recorded by police
- Damage-only collisions often go unreported
- Residents and visitors frequently report near misses, forced evasions and speeding
- Multiple incidents have been reported directly to local ward councillors and officers, yet appear absent from central datasets

If the dataset excludes the majority of the real-world danger, it is not a safe foundation for decision making.

We have provided evidence showing how pressing this issue is and are prepared to share further evidence that highlights the gravity of this intolerable situation.

Tameside Council's commitment to Vision Zero demands meaningful action

Tameside Council, as part of the Safer Roads Greater Manchester Partnership, has signed up to the Vision Zero GM Action Plan, which aims to end all road deaths and life changing injuries by 2040, and has an interim target for 2030 to reduce deaths and life changing injuries by 50%.

As part of the Vision Zero GM Action Plan, it includes commitments to:

'Reduce speed where current limits are no longer appropriate'

There is a "commitment to changing speed limits where the current limit is no longer appropriate."

Does Tameside Council consider a national speed limit appropriate on a single-track rural residential lane used as a cut-through by thousands of drivers each week, as well as children, elderly and disabled residents, horse riders, cyclists, walkers and other vulnerable road users?

Collisions at higher speeds result in increased risk of serious injury, or death, particularly for people walking, cycling or horse riding as they are not protected by vehicle structure.

Reducing speed limits is one of the most effective ways to reduce the severity of collisions, particularly for unprotected vulnerable road users.

'Prioritise the safety of pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders'

There isn't appropriate segregation for the many vulnerable road users that use the route through Park Bridge.

There are large stretches with no pavements, blind bends, and heavy vulnerable-user footfall.

'Apply targeted intervention in high-risk areas'

Park Bridge is demonstrably one of the highest-risk rural routes in Tameside. As highlighted by the consultation and closure of Alt Hill Lane, Park Bridge in 2023.

'Act proactively, not wait for further casualties'

Vision Zero states clearly that deaths and serious injuries are preventable and unacceptable.

Concerns and warnings about the risk to life on the route through Park Bridge have been raised by residents and visitors to Tameside Council stakeholders and local ward councillors for years without any meaningful action.

'Use a full range of data and resident reports, not just police statistics'

The Vision Zero Action Plan explicitly states that decisions must be "evidence-led" using multiple data sources, exactly what we are providing and committing to sharing more.

Ultimately, by the standards of Vision Zero, the current dismissive and condescending response from Tameside Council falls significantly short of what is required.

A reminder of Tameside Council's statutory duties under Section 39

We appreciate and understand there are financial pressures on Tameside Council, and there are other dangerous roads in the borough that need attention, but for the reasons we have outlined, the reports and evidence residents and visitors have consistently raised for several years and the lack of meaningful action so far, **we are reminding Tameside Council of their statutory duty to residents in Park Bridge when it comes to road accidents.**

Under Section 39 of the Road Traffic Act 1988, councils have a legal duty to:

- Investigate road collisions and conditions
- Take steps to prevent/address danger
- Design, implement and promote road safety measures
- Consider the needs of vulnerable road users
- Work with partner authorities, including neighbouring councils and GMP

Our aim is simple: we want to work together to prevent another avoidable tragedy on Park Bridge's roads

We remain committed to working constructively and collaboratively with Tameside Council and request a meeting to discussing this urgent matter and next steps.

Our community wants:

- A road that is safe for all residents and visitors
- A living, walkable heritage environment
- A safe road that promotes active travel and encourages cyclists, walkers, and horse riders to the area
- An end to the dangerous rat-running that poses serious risk daily to residents and visitors
- Solutions that protect both access needs and the unique landscape of Park Bridge

We urge you to meet with us, treat this with the seriousness it demands and in full alignment with your own Vision Zero and Section 39 obligations.

We look forward to your urgent response and to arranging a joint meeting.

Park Bridge Residents' Action Group & Fund

parkbridgeaction.co.uk