

# HOLCOMBE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

[www.holcombedevon.co.uk](http://www.holcombedevon.co.uk)

*Please reply to:*

*John Watson  
Secretary, Holcombe Residents Association,*

28<sup>th</sup> January 2009

Dear Mr George,

**Concerns about the safety of pedestrians using the pavement running south from  
Holcombe Cross towards Teignmouth on the A379.  
Very poor state of repair of this footpath**

I am writing to you on behalf of Holcombe Residents Association to express our serious concerns about the poor state of the footpath which runs along the pavement on the western side of the A379 between Holcombe Cross and the 30 mph speed sign as the road enters Teignmouth. The Association represents over 350 members living in the village of Holcombe and concerns have been raised at our well attended general meetings.

You will be aware that this footpath runs alongside a very narrow stretch of the main road as it passes through a deep cutting in the local rock and that the road bends sharply at this point. This has the effect of bringing fast moving traffic very close to pedestrians on a blind bend. You will also be aware that there have been serious road traffic accidents at this point recently.

Even when well maintained the pavement is very narrow. It is in a very poor state of repair, the verge alongside it is overgrown and there is significant loss of pavement area due to soil falling on it over some period of time. The effect of all this is that it is under two feet wide for much of its length round the bend.

**In our view this means that the pavement presents a significant risk of serious injury to anyone using it.**

This is particularly true of elderly people or of anyone with children. It would be virtually impossible to use if pushing a children's push chair but there is no way of knowing this before getting to this point. Two people cannot pass without stepping into the road and risking collision with fast moving vehicles round a blind corner. There is a real danger that pedestrians on the pavement might be struck by the wing mirror of wide vehicles in some situations.

**We ask that you bring about remedial action as a matter of urgency.**

*Contd. Over*

In the first instance the situation could be somewhat alleviated by removing the accumulated soil on the inside edge of the pavement and by cutting back to bushy growth alongside it. This would need to be followed up by regular maintenance of these features.

Following this we ask that the state of the footpath be carefully assessed by your engineers with a view to re-establishing it in a much safer condition. Whilst we are not experts in such matters it would appear that this would require resurfacing in the shorter term and then the establishment of a higher curb and pavement through the length of the path. Ideally the footpath would be further widened in some way.

In further support of our position we note that the path is already well used and that we are all being rightly encouraged to walk much more than we previously did.

We understand that Councillor John Clatworthy, our local County Councillor, has brought this matter to your attention previously.

We have a general meeting of our Association is on 13<sup>th</sup> February and it would be most helpful if it were possible to receive your reply by then please.

Yours sincerely,

**John Watson**

John Watson, Secretary Holcombe Residents Association

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Copy sent by email

CC Councillor John Clatworthy