

Maidwell with Draughton Parish Council

Clerk: Mrs S Smith
The Old Gateway
High Street
Naseby
Northamptonshire
NN6 6DD

5th August 2026

Dear Mr Lee,

I am writing on behalf of Maidwell with Draughton Parish Council about the growing concerns and frustrations regarding the repeated overnight closures of the A14 and the resulting diversion of traffic through the village of Maidwell.

While it is appreciated that maintenance and improvement works are necessary to keep the strategic road network safe and operational, the frequency and duration of these closures have placed an unreasonable burden on the village and its residents.

So far this year alone, the A14 has been subject to numerous overnight closures. These include:

- **A14 Kelmarsh Geotechnical Works – 26 January 2026 until May 2026.**
- **A14 Grand Union Canal Drainage Surveys – 11 and 12 July 2026.**
- **A14 Junctions 3–13 Cyclical Maintenance – 6 July to 22 July 2026.**
- **A14 Junctions 4–7 Filter Drain Renewals – 22 June to 30 September 2026.**

These works have resulted in repeated diversions through Maidwell, a small rural village that is simply not designed to accommodate large volumes of diverted motorway traffic. The consequences for residents have been significant, including increased noise throughout the night, vibration from heavy goods vehicles, congestion, reduced road safety, and disruption to the peaceful character of the village.

With the recent extreme temperatures, the road surface has significantly worsened and melted in many places causing new potholes and craters to appear which has added to the noise already being generated by this increase in traffic.

We have collected the key data from our speed signs regarding the recent diversion and summarised below. The table in Appendix 1 illustrates vehicle numbers and speeds in more detail.

- The busiest time period was Southbound, 22:00–00:00, with 2,814 vehicles
- Next was Southbound, 20:00–22:00, with 2,569 vehicles
- Northbound, 20:00–22:00 carried 1,501 vehicles, with 13.5% travelling at 39 mph or above
- The highest speeding proportion was Northbound, 02:00–04:00:

- 35.0% at 39 mph or above
 - 85th percentile 48.9 mph
 - Fastest vehicle 88 mph at 02:32 on 27 July
- Southbound, 04:00–06:00 also stands out:
 - 20.2% at 39 mph or above
 - 85th percentile 42.4 mph

I would appreciate answers to the following questions:

- What assessment has been carried out regarding the cumulative impact of repeated diversions through Maidwell?
- What measures are being taken to reduce the number of occasions on which traffic is routed through the village?
- Have alternative diversion routes or traffic management measures been properly considered?
- What plans are in place to minimise future disruption to residents?

The residents of Maidwell have shown considerable patience, but the ongoing disruption has now reached an unacceptable level.

I look forward to receiving your response and to understanding what actions will be taken to reduce the impact of future A14 closures on the community.

Kind regards,



Mrs Sarah Smith, Parish Clerk
Maidwell & Draughton Parish Council

Email: clerk@maidwellwithdraughtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Website: <https://maidwellwithdraughtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/>

Appendix 1 – Speed Data 27-31st July – Night time Breakdown

27-31 July Night-time Breakdown (20:00-06:00)							
Northbound and Southbound, 2024-2026, in 2-hour time blocks							
Direction	Year	Time block	Vehicles	Average speed	% >=39 mph	85th percentile	Fastest speed
Northbound	2024	20:00-22:00	1251	31	11.4	37.4	75
Northbound	2024	22:00-00:00	716	33.4	20	41.9	89
Northbound	2024	00:00-02:00	301	33.9	25.6	44.5	66
Northbound	2024	02:00-04:00	130	33.7	27.7	44.3	62
Northbound	2024	04:00-06:00	352	35.5	28.1	45.6	78
Northbound	2025	20:00-22:00	1322	31.4	14.2	37.9	72
Northbound	2025	22:00-00:00	605	33.1	20.3	42.4	77
Northbound	2025	00:00-02:00	291	34.7	24.1	43.5	75
Northbound	2025	02:00-04:00	165	36.5	32.1	46.5	71
Northbound	2025	04:00-06:00	384	34.2	23.7	43.2	77
Northbound	2026	20:00-22:00	1501	31.2	13.5	37.7	65
Northbound	2026	22:00-00:00	734	31.5	16.5	39.9	58
Northbound	2026	00:00-02:00	251	33.7	23.1	43.3	60
Northbound	2026	02:00-04:00	183	37.3	35	48.9	88
Northbound	2026	04:00-06:00	435	33.7	24.1	43.1	71
Southbound	2024	20:00-22:00	1534	30.7	11.5	37.3	71
Southbound	2024	22:00-00:00	1127	31.9	14.7	37.9	75
Southbound	2024	00:00-02:00	428	32.1	18.2	41.2	67
Southbound	2024	02:00-04:00	201	34.7	25.9	46.3	70
Southbound	2024	04:00-06:00	743	36.1	27.6	44.9	75
Southbound	2025	20:00-22:00	1571	30.2	8.2	36.8	63
Southbound	2025	22:00-00:00	768	31.6	15	38	70
Southbound	2025	00:00-02:00	321	31.9	19.9	42	99
Southbound	2025	02:00-04:00	199	34.5	24.6	46.3	64
Southbound	2025	04:00-06:00	824	34.6	24.8	43.6	79
Southbound	2026	20:00-22:00	2569	29.3	4.5	35.9	78
Southbound	2026	22:00-00:00	2814	29.4	3.9	35.7	59
Southbound	2026	00:00-02:00	1210	31	8.1	36.8	80
Southbound	2026	02:00-04:00	1145	31.5	9.7	37	65
Southbound	2026	04:00-06:00	1175	33.3	20.2	42.4	70