

Maidwell with Draughton Parish Council

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

27th September 2026

Dear Mr Lee,

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

A reminder of the works carried out so far this year

- **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.**

Since our last letter dated **05.08.26** the Parish Council has collected some valuable data from its Speed Indicator Devices located outside the Loder Hall in the village.

We wished to share this data with National Highways below and ask two questions.

- 1) Please could we possibly have some more measures put in place within the village to slow down this traffic. For example some temporary average speed cameras similar to those commonly seen on the motorways when lanes are closed and speed of traffic is reduced?
- 2) Secondly, we would like to understand the process that is in place of deciding the diversions that will be put in place.

Other than the notification received a few weeks prior to the works taking place, the Parish Council does not receive any prior consultations or copies of assessments that have been used in determining these diversions. Specifically what risk assessments were completed as part of the decision-making process?

Speed Data

The data below illustrates dramatic increases in the volume of traffic and instances of speeding during the overnight diversions. We understand that there are cases where National Highways installs temporary average speed cameras on diversion routes on local roads to protect local communities, could this measure be considered for future works?

Total Number of Vehicles – 2025 vs 2026

June 138,180 vs 146,455 **+8,275 (+6.0%)**

July 143,334 vs 158,971 **+15,637 (+10.9%)**

August 141,726 vs 178,174 **+36,448 (+25.7%)**

The diversion effect is striking

Across the whole day, Southbound traffic averaged:

Before diversion: 4,947 vehicles/day

During diversion: 5,927 vehicles/day

About **980 additional Southbound vehicles every day**, an increase of **19.8%**.

Between **02:00 and 03:00**, Southbound traffic increased from an average of only **20 vehicles an hour to 111** — an increase of about **468%**.

Speeding - across these six months, we've recorded:

- **99 mph Southbound** — 27 July 2025 at 00:02
- **97 mph Northbound** — 14 July 2025 at 01:41
- Several recordings of **90–94 mph**
- And importantly, extreme speeding isn't exclusively overnight. For example, **90 mph Northbound at 10:02 on 22 June 2026** and **90 mph Northbound at 09:34 on 6 July 2026**.

During every identified diversion period, **Southbound overnight traffic was roughly double to two and-a-half times the equivalent 2025 level**. Once the main eastbound diversion ended after 23 August, traffic returned almost exactly to the previous year's level.

All graphs and tables collected can be found in the attached Appendix PDF file. More details data is also available if required.

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/>