



5<sup>th</sup> September 2016

Mike Hedges AM  
Chair- Petitions Committee  
Welsh Assembly Government  
Tŷ Howell  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Your Ref P-05-701

Re: Road Safety Improvements along the A487 Trunk Road from Cardigan to Aberystwyth.

Dear Chair and Petitions Committee,

As the principal petitioner and a Ceredigion person I write in an attempt to give you some reasons for my action to petition.

1. The A487 runs from Fishguard to Holyhead along the Cardigan Bay, it is the main artery, backbone running North / South and Vice Versa and is essential for trade, tourism, commuters and attracting investment into the County and it therefore needs to be fit for purpose.
2. There is no alternative 'A' road heading North / South and when there is an incident along this road, the diversion route usually means travelling along narrow 'B' and 'C' class roads. A road closure usually results in hours of disruption with confusion as drivers of HGV, PCV, cars, Caravans etc try to negotiate narrow back country lanes to reach their desired destination.
3. The volume of traffic has increased and the infrastructure has not evolved at the same rate. As quoted by a politician recently ' Wales is in danger of falling behind the UK in respect of transport Infrastructure'. Certainly I feel the A487 is falling behind.
4. The volume of HGV and PCV traffic has increased, and there are no guaranteed passing places between Cardigan and Aberystwyth or vice versa whereby an overtaking manoeuvre can be carried out without using the on-coming traffic lane. The only tract of dual carriageway is at Cardigan and this has a speed restriction of 40m.p.h.
5. As there are no dedicated passing places, drivers take risks to overtake slow moving vehicles at locations undesirable.
6. Visibility and safety at junctions along the A487. There are Cross Roads and Junctions which cause me concern or have been brought to my attention along the route including (but not an exhaustive list) :-
  - a. Gogerddan Cross Roads(north of Blaenporth);
  - b. Sarnau Junction with Rhydlewis;
  - c. Brynhoffnant Junction with Llangrannog;
  - d. The village of Plwmp and the Cross Roads there

- e. Synod Inn where the A486 Llandysul to New Quay and A487 intersect (although grateful improvements have been made along the A486, concerns have been raised that its very difficult to negotiate at this junction due to the volume of traffic.
  - f. Pen Croes Castell (North of Llanarth) visibility approaching this junction from Pencae is impossible (B4342).
  - g. Junction with Llanddeiniol (North of Llanrhystud)
  - h. Junction with A485 at Llanfarian.
  - i. Junction of A4120 (Devils Bridge Road) and B4340 with the A487
7. There have been other issues raised in respect of pedestrians crossing at various locations within villages along the A487; Blaenplwyf being one and Llanfarian being mentioned to myself.
  8. On the 11<sup>th</sup> March 2016 I made freedom of Information requests to the Emergency services; Police, Ambulance and Fire Services for figures relating to incidents that they have been in attendance during the last five years. The Ambulance Service noted they had attended to 257 incidents with 382 of their vehicles involved in providing services. The Fire Authority 110 appliances, the police did not provide details. The above incidents are ones where services were called to the scene, there are others where minor incidents have happened and the matters dealt between parties.

It should be noted that the coastline of Ceredigion between Cardigan and Aberystwyth has only the road infrastructure to rely on as a transport link No Railway or Metro !.

Having started the petition I'm quite proud to state that 99 people signed the on-line version and 860 signatures, were received via the written version a **Total of 959**, a statement in itself that people are asking for improvements.

I do not ask for by-passes built for villages, I don't ask for dual carriageways the length of the route, I don't ask for roundabouts or traffic lights at every junction; however I do ask for a study into making improvements which would allow safe overtaking lanes at sensible locations, make modifications at Junctions and Cross Roads in order to increase visibility and safety.

Currently there are tracts of land along the A487 undeveloped, some of them as wide grass verges, others running along straight lengths of road which in my opinion would seem suitable for allowing some improvements.

I understand that the A487 cannot be transformed overnight, but do ask for a forward work political commitment to improve our Main artery in order to Preserve Life, allow better investment, employment, tourism but above all Increase in Road Safety with reduction in incidents.

I thank you for your time in considering the petition.

Yours Faithfully



Maldwyn Lewis

CC:- Elin Jones AM; Ceredigion County Council.