

Good afternoon.

I am writing to express my concern that the above proposal is even being considered, but, there again, there may be more people in this island now, who were not around when green lanes first came into being and who, therefore, do not appreciate why they were established in the first place.

So let's remind ourselves of the original main aim, which was to deter cars and vehicles from using the narrow lanes in the first place. This came about because it was becoming apparent that, with the number of larger cars being used in the island, the hedgerows, granite border walls and roadsides in general were increasingly being damaged by the need for such vehicles to pull in and let other vehicles pass.

In addition, it had become apparent that many drivers were not giving due consideration to pedestrians, who were forced to walk on the roadside due to there being no pavements, and horse riders, who were using the main roads as there was no alternative. These social groups were entitled to have their needs met.

From a tourism point of view (I am a travel and tourism tutor), green lanes are one of the last remaining Unique Selling Points (USPs) of the island and are a factor of appeal for those, who come on walking holidays and country breaks (2 major marketing factors of Jersey Tourism's marketing campaign). To take that away would be to lose a massive chunk of appeal and attraction.

From a resident's point of view, green lanes provide that escape from traffic, which is so necessary for children's safety and for outdoor pursuits. Also, it's a way of encouraging people to leave their cars at home and get out in the fresh air to get some exercise, through walking and cycling – something which we are continually being encouraged to do by Health and Social Services, to improve our fitness. To be able to do this in a relatively safe and peaceful environment is, once again, an appealing and attractive factor.

So please – don't give in to those who are proposing this increase – on the basis of the original aims and the benefits that accrue, green lanes should be maintained in their current format.

Thank you.

Jeanne Ward