

A VILLAGE GOING FOR A BURTON?

(Letter to the C.T. October 20, 1967)

When we moved to Burton nine years ago Stony Lane was just a quiet country lane, with fields and hedges running, without break, from Martins Hill Lane to Purewell. The lane flooded in the wet winter from heavy rain and rising tide. These were the days when one sat in a bus in a crowded Purewell and read the writing on the wall—"It's quicker by train!"

Now the march of progress has given us: (a) a by-pass to take the heavy traffic from Lyndhurst to Christchurch away from the Purewell and Bridge Street congestion area; (b) drainage to take the flood water from the roads: and (c) the factories in Stony Lane which are spreading towards the by-pass (although there is still room for the fair to visit the corner of Stony Lane and the by-pass, bringing even more young children to Stony Lane).

But in all this progress, no one has thought of the poor Burtonians, who like walking!

We are completely cut off from Christchurch and Highcliffe, by the by-pass. There is no pavement in Stony Lane or Burton Road to the by-pass. The safest way to Christchurch, therefore, is by bus—an hourly one in Stony Lane, and a half-hourly one in Burton Road. Do we not deserve one pavement in Stony Lane to ensure the safe walk to Christchurch for mothers with babies in prams, and young children? No pavement was needed in a sleepy road, but today's heavy traffic is definitely a very different matter. Jumping on to the wet side grass to avoid being run down by oncoming traffic could mean a cold, wet and slimy dip in the country ditch, which runs most of the length of the Stony Lane.

May I suggest that when the roundabout is finally laid out for next summer's season, a footpath is made through the centre towards Purewell. One has to face heavy traffic at whichever point one attempts to cross the by-pass, and this would be the simplest way to cross, without adding too many steps to the length of Stony Lane! Or am I supposed to walk to the crossing at Christchurch roundabout, cross over, and walk all the way back to Stony Lane in order to reach Purewell? At night time we have plenty of light from the roundabout and sewerage works, but they do not shine beyond the railway bridge to the junction of Stony Lane and Martins Hill Lane. A nightly walk can become a nightmare of headlights and deep water ditches.

Could we please have just one pavement to walk on if we miss the bus?

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Mallaig,

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A £25,000 widening scheme for Stony Lane, including the provision of pavements, was approved by the county council earlier this year. The necessary land is being acquired and work is expected to start next year. So far, there is no scheme for pavements along Burton Road--Editor.