

RECEIVED VIA EMAIL

From: Julia Hinds Email: [REDACTED]
Sent: April 21, 2021 7:27 AM
To: Council & Clerk <councilandclerk@thebluemountains.ca>
Subject: Contact Form from Julia Hinds

Good morning council,

I hope you are all well. Every so often, the issue of the speed limit on Hwy 26 through the Craigleith area is discussed on the Forum (Facebook - The Forum/Town of The Blue Mountains). The reduction of the speed limit on the highway last summer was met almost unanimously in our group with disapproval. The reduction of a main thoroughfare from 80 to 50km for a long stretch of the highway concerned many who use this main thoroughfare to/from Collingwood and beyond.

A recent correspondence to council from Ann and Tim King noted "there has been more focus from the town through various media and most seem to support maintaining the 50 kph speed through Craigleith and hopefully all the way to Thornbury." I am not sure where the data was collected to suggest that most people support the reduction. I have read the letters and deputations submitted by the residents of Craigleith most directly affected by this issue, and have spoken with a few people who live in the area and who have a more thorough understanding of the issues. What has become apparent from talking with residents is that these reductions are part of a bigger picture being contemplated by the town. If this is indeed the case, if they are designed to address longer-term traffic needs in our area (by-pass), why are council not sharing this information with the public? From the casual observer, the roll out of the speed reductions last year was seemingly arbitrary and chaotic. If council are intending to repeat the same measures this year, I hope consideration has also been given to the message that will be conveyed to the public ahead of the roll out.

This is one particular "rift" within our community that I believe can be fixed, from speaking with a range of people, I think consensus can easily be reached, a compromise, for example a reduction to 60km for a shorter period, looks on the surface like it would be acceptable to both the residents of the area, and those who pass through. If, however, there is another reason why the 50km limit is being sought by council, would it not help if this information were shared with the public? If the community beyond Craigleith, which represents the majority, understood the bigger objectives, perhaps they would be more understanding, and less critical, of the process? I know it has been a challenging year, thank you for all your hard work carried out on our behalf.

Best wishes, Julia Hinds