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TRAFFIC HAZARDS IN JULIANSTOWN

"It's one of the most serious traffic problems I have come across in a long time, and there doesn't seem to be anyone treating it as seriously as they should," declared Duleek Co. Councillor, Mr. J. Cudden.

He was commenting on a meeting last week between Slane area councillors and Meath Co. Council officials on the traffic crisis in Julianstown. Also present were Messrs. G. Marry, R. Doonan, T. Kelly, P. Traynor, P.J. Kelleghan (Co. Engineer), E. Breen (Co. Secretary) and Garda Inspector J. Nolan, Navan.

The meeting was called in the light of concern, shown by Julianstown Residents' Association, over the recent spate of accidents in the village, many of which involved articulated lorries jack-knifing and causing damage to walls and other property.

The present speed limit in the village is 40 miles an hour and Inspector Nolan was requested to have this reduced to 30 m.p.h. and the limit extended on both sides of the village. The Gardai also were asked to ensure that this revised speed limit was enforced.

Only five public lights exist in the village, and the meeting was informed that Julianstown was third on the council's lighting programme, behind Enfield and Kinnegad. However, it was hoped that finance

would be made available shortly to upgrade lighting in the village.

"I can't see anything being done in the near future to improve the situation - that's being realistic about it," remarked a disappointed Mr. Cudden.

He added: "It's the main Dublin-Belfast road which carries a large volume of articulated traffic from north and south. The approaches from both sides leave way for heavy vehicles to travel at high speeds. They suddenly arrive in a quiet village, and when they have to brake they nearly always finish up jack-knifed."

Mr. Cudden declared: "The reality of the thing is that they just tear through Julianstown, the same as if they were on a motorway."

He pointed to Whitecross,

about half a mile outside the village, where over 400 children attend the local national school. "There's one traffic warden, taking his life in his hands every day, trying to help the children across the road," he claimed.

Mr. Cudden said all five councillors contributed to the debate and "highlighted the problems in no uncertain terms." "But I was disappointed with the meeting because I don't see any quick solution to it," he added.

The members have asked for a full report of the meeting to be forwarded to the residents' association. "As far as I'm concerned, the councillors in the Slane area are doing everything in their power to have the problem resolved. But there's so much we can do and that's all," Mr. Cudden concluded.

