

# Stalmine-with-Staynall Residents' Association

Old Post Office House  
Hall Gate Lane  
Stalmine  
Lancashire  
FY60LA  
Tuesday, April 14, 2026

## **Statement of evidence given by Peter Swarbrick, Chairman of Stalmine-with-Staynall Residents Association.**

I have lived in a house in Stalmine, thought to be around 200 years old, for 23 years which used to be a Post Office until it closed in 2014 along with 799 other rural Post Offices. I am asthmatic and use an inhaler twice a day. For security reasons there are no opening windows at ground level at the front and side of the property. Upstairs I can't leave the bedroom windows open day or night because of the noise and polluted air from traffic. At its narrowest point the pavement can't be more than 5ft from the carriageway.

As Postmaster I was used to seeing pensioners who had taken more than 10 minutes to cross the busy A 588 who arrived in the office anxious and scared. They had waited to find a safe gap in traffic so as to be able to cross. This situation has not changed even for customers of the next door convenience store.

The exterior of my house was painted all white some five years ago. The rear is still pristine white while the front turns a deeper shade of grey year by year because of the dirt thrown up by traffic. A pothole outside the house does not help with the splashes and spray. Heritage heirloom ornaments dance on my mantelpiece because of vibrations and on several occasions I have moved them to a safer place to avoid this.

Traffic on the A588 has increased over the years I have lived here. This can be attributed to increased commuting because of the growth in housing estate developments. In my submission of September 23, 2023 I quoted car and van usage figures from Lancashire's Transport Plan.

It has already been recognised that there is above average car use in this area. Some 81% car/van driver mode share for Hambleton and Stalmine-with-Staynall is high compared with Lancashire (70%) and the rest of the Wyre Borough area (72%). There is an existing and inherent dependence on the private car for residents in this area and an under use of public transport and pedestrian modes. This is because public transport provision is appalling and walking alongside the most dangerous road in the county is fearful.



In September 2021 the then Government's Climate Adviser Lord Deben, who chaired the independent Climate Change Committee, warned the Housing and Local Government Select Committee<sup>1</sup> against building hundreds of homes in villages where most workers would have to commute by car.

Since the inquiry date was announced two more mixed housing developments have been proposed for the village, one for 79 houses and another for 38 houses. This will bring an estimated additional 150 cars to the daily commute. When added to the daily HGV flow of traffic to and from the quarry this will make the situation intolerable. This traffic does nothing to help Lancashire CC achieve the goals of its Transport Plan.

I have seen traffic backing up as far as my house from the junction of Hall Gate Lane with Burned House Lane, Park Lane and Cemetery Road as an HGV tried to negotiate the turn from Burned House Lane into Hall Gate Lane. More HGVs will only exacerbate this situation. At times I have been in those queues. This junction is not fit for the proposed traffic load.

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