

People who hog the middle lane - your number's up. The men in yellow - the Highways Agency - began a publicity campaign on Monday to get people to move over.

They are going to be flashing messages on the overhead motorway signs, reminding people that they are clogging up the motorway if they pootle along, ignoring the empty lane to their left. It is a pity that the Highways Agency won't be naming and shaming these motorists in their overhead signals: "Hey, you in the blue Peugeot 307", "Yes, you - Get over!"

Of course, the dears probably aren't doing it deliberately. They are probably just carried away, singing along to Steps or listening to the Archers. Nevertheless, this is the driving equivalent of stealing the duvet. You may not know that you are doing it, but it still causes suffering to others.

Hogging the middle lane is just one of the motoring misdemeanors that send the nation's collective blood pressure rocketing. HGVs that overtake going up a hill and the dangerous cases of people who drive nose-to-tail, park on bends and leave their fog lights on when visibility is perfect are other cases along with my own pet hate - motorists who cut up cyclists.

Most motorists have no clue what it is like to ride a two-wheeler, powered or pedaled. Before you take your driving test, you should have to spend sometime on the roads on a bike and this should be repeated every few years - along with a shortened road test. If you are not up to scratch, then you have to re-take the whole thing. Does this sound over the top? I don't think so. British roads are safe compared to other countries, but still people die needlessly on the roads.

It is ridiculous that at 17 you can be put in charge of a lethal weapon - i.e. a car - and there be next-to-no oversight over the way that you use it ever again in your life. We have regular checks to make sure that our cars are roadworthy, but nothing on the driver. As part of the MoT, I would like drivers to have to sit at a computer that simulates the consequences of speeding in the rain and fog, driving too close to the car in front and having to tell parents that their child has been killed by someone who was late for work.

Leicester Regeneration Company boss John Nicholls says that pulling the plug on the replacement Haymarket theatre due to rising costs could damage Leicester's reputation for being able to deliver. But he and the city councilors need to remember that the new Scottish Parliament building, which came in £10m over budget, has only given that institution a reputation for mismanagement.

The glass and steel theatre has already had to be re-designed because it would act like a greenhouse. Now rising steel prices are adding to the bill. It's time to look at a new design - in brick. Seriously, bricks are practical, cheap and in keeping with Leicester's industrial past. Look at Barcelona for examples.