

**DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL**

**At a Meeting of the Highways Committee** held at the County Hall, Durham on **Friday 12 June 2009 at 10.00 a.m.**

**Present:**

**Councillor D Morgan** in the Chair

**Members of the Committee:**

Councillors Arthur, A Bainbridge, Hugill, D Marshall, J Robinson, Shiell, Woods, Wright and R Young.

**Other Members:**

Councillors Cox, O'Donnell, Richardson, Wilkes and Williams.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Maslin, Naylor, Todd, Tomlinson and Zair.

**A1 Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 11 March 2009 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**A2 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**A3 Proposed Traffic Regulation Order at Seaham Trinity Primary School, Princess Road, Seaham**

The Committee considered a report of the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services regarding objections to the proposed traffic regulation Order at Seaham Trinity Primary School, Princess Road, Seaham (for copy see file of Minutes).

Mr McGhin, a resident of Princess Road advised the Committee of the difficulties that his family and neighbours would have in parking their vehicles on the street if the proposed restrictions are imposed. He was also representing the taxi firm, and the dentist in the street. He pointed out that prior to the school being built there had been no parking difficulties. Residents had perceived that the side entrance of the school was now being used as the main entrance, which had led to an increase of traffic passing their properties. He pointed out that there are only 12 parking spaces in the school grounds so with this and the pick up/drop off of children to the school there are already difficulties for residents parking in the street. If the restrictions are imposed this would compound the problem further.

In response to a question from Councillor Woods, the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services advised that there is a school travel plan in place and many children do live close to the school and walk there.

**Resolved:-**

The report together with the recommendations included therein be approved.

**A4 Proposed Traffic Calming Scheme- Unc. Coopers Close, Thornley**

The Committee considered a report of the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services regarding representations received for the proposed traffic calming Scheme for Unc. Coopers Close, Thornley (for copy see file of Minutes).

The Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services advised of an alteration to the report, in that the mean speed was 28 mph and not 38 mph as printed. The location of the speed cushions was pointed out to the Committee.

In response to a question from Councillor Wilkes, it was reported that there were no objections to the proposals by the emergency services.

**Resolved:-**

The report together with the recommendations included therein be approved.

**A5 Proposed Parking Restriction- (No Waiting/No Loading At Any Time)-  
Unc. Front Street, Stanley**

The Committee considered a report of the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services regarding representations received with regard to a scheme on Unclassified Front Street, Stanley to introduce a No Loading At Any Time parking restriction (for copy see file of Minutes).

**Resolved:-**

The report together with the recommendations included therein be approved.

## **A6 Proposed Traffic Calming Scheme- Unc. Kings Road, Wingate**

The Committee considered a report of the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services regarding representations received to a proposed traffic calming scheme on Unc. Kings Road, Wingate (for copy see file of Minutes).

The Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services advised of an alteration to paragraph 2.10 of the report, in that it was Joan Maslin, the Local Member who was in support of the scheme.

Councillor O'Donnell, the Local Member, advised that they now had funding in place for this scheme and advised of his support for it.

### **Resolved:-**

The report together with the recommendations included therein be approved.

## **A7 Proposed Parking Restriction- (No Waiting/No Loading At Any Time)- Unc. Paradise Lane, Easington**

The Committee considered a report of the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services regarding a scheme on Unc. Paradise Lane, Easington to introduce a No Waiting/No Loading At Any Time parking restriction (for copy see file of Minutes).

The Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services advised that Mr Robinson of 10 Paradise Lane had advised of his objections to the scheme.

Mr Copeman, a resident of Paradise Lane, advised of his objection to the restriction of waiting proposed for the opposite side of the road to his property. He welcomed the restrictions at the junction, however pointed out that there are already difficulties for residents in being able to park their vehicles in the street. He advised that residents had welcomed the Health Centre being built, however the plans for parking there had been inadequate. Originally there were to be 20 spaces, however there are plans for an extension to the centre which would mean that there will only be space for 4/6 cars in the health centre grounds. The volume of cars in the street has increased significantly and residents are struggling to find alternative parking, and some had parked in the bus turning circle. They have been forced to park in the back street however this means that emergency vehicles and refuse vehicles cannot access the street. He pointed out that he had asked the Health Centre Manager to put up notices to advise cars to park at the rear of the Health Centre however this had not been done. There had been an incident the previous week where an ambulance was at the Health Centre, however it had blocked the road which is a bus route.

The Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services advised that there is to be a meeting with Health Centre staff next week to discuss the situation. He pointed out that temporary bollards have been put up on that stretch of road outside of the Health Centre in order to prevent vehicles from parking on the highway. If cars are parked there without having partly been on the pavement, buses are unable to move through the street.

**Resolved:-**

The Committee determined that the recommendations to have restrictions at the junction be agreed, however deferred making a decision on the remaining lengths proposed until the discussions with the Health Centre about alternative parking, and the plans for the extension had been held.

**A8 Proposed Traffic Calming Scheme- Unc. Kingston Avenue, Bearpark**

The Committee considered a report of the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services regarding a proposed traffic calming scheme on Unclassified Kingston Avenue, Bearpark (for copy see file of Minutes)

Councillor Wilkes, the Local Member, advised of his support for the scheme.

**Resolved:-**

The report together with the recommendations included therein be approved.

**A9 Proposed Traffic Calming Scheme- Unc. Valley Drive, Hamsteels Estate, Esh Winning**

The Committee considered a report of the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services regarding representations received with regard to a traffic calming scheme on Unc. Valley Drive, Hamsteels Estate, Esh Winning (for copy see file of Minutes).

**Resolved:-**

The report together with the recommendations included therein be approved.

**A10 C44 Newgate, Barnard Castle- Proposed Speed Limit Order Amendment**

The Committee considered a report of the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services regarding the proposed amendment to the speed limit on the C44 Newgate, Barnard Castle in the vicinity of Barnard Castle School (for copy see file of Minutes).

Councillor Richardson advised of his support for the scheme.

Some Members advised of their concerns that there would be a 40 mph speed limit on that stretch of the road. In response the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services advised that similar projects elsewhere in the County had resulted in a reduction in vehicle speeds. It was also confirmed that traffic speeds would be recorded and carefully monitored.

Councillor Woods advised that she did not support the introduction of 40 mph speed limit outside of the school, as in her opinion the speed limit outside of all schools should be 20 mph.

**Resolved:-**

The report together with the recommendations included therein be approved, and that the situation be monitored and a report be presented back to the Committee in six months after the speed limit is introduced.

**A11 Objections to the Proposed Permanent Prohibition of Driving on the Unclassified Side Road Adjacent to Woodside Cottage, Shincliffe Village**

The Committee considered a report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development regarding the objections received following the advertising of proposals to apply a permanent prohibition of driving to an unclassified side road that connects the main A177 road to Low Road in Shincliffe Village (for copy see file of Minutes).

The Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services advised of the letters of objection to the scheme that had been received since the report had been written. The correspondence was circulated to the Committee (for copies of letters see file of Minutes).

Councillor Williams, the Local Member, advised that he supported the scheme, however he had asked for sometime that the sharp corner at the junction be removed in order to make the corner at the junction easier to manoeuvre. He was aware that there was a phone box which would need to be moved. He asked the Committee to make a site visit in order to see first hand the sharp bend.

Councillor Arthur shared the member's concerns at the difficulty with the junction and that a site visit may be appropriate.

Councillor Woods commented that she had travelled that way on many occasions and had not thought of that corner as difficult to manoeuvre.

The Chairman pointed out that if the junction was to be re-modified it could be taken up by Local Members in consultation with the Parish Council.

The Chairman pointed out that this lane was temporarily closed at the moment. If it were to be re-opened it was too narrow for there to be a safe refuge for pedestrians.

**Resolved:-**

The report together with the recommendations included therein be approved.