

**DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL**

**At a Meeting** of the **Highways Committee** held at County Hall, Durham on  
**Tuesday 29 June 2010 at 2pm**

**Present:**

**Councillor G BLEASDALE**

**Chair**

**Members of the Committee:**

Councillors Arthur, A Bainbridge, Burn, Foster, Hugill, Morgan, Naylor, Robinson, Todd, Tomlinson and Woods

**Also present:** Councillors Martin and Wilkes (local members for Framwellgate Moor and Neville's Cross electoral divisions – for item A3 below)

**Officers:**

D Wilcox (Strategic Highways Manager), D Wafer (Business Manager, Regeneration & Economic Development), P Holding (Legal Adviser), D Battensby (Area Traffic Engineer) and D Roberts (Democratic Services)

**Apologies:**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hancock, D Marshall, Maslin, Shiell, Stradling, Taylor and Thomson

**A1 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**A2 Minutes**

The Minutes of the meetings held on 19 March and 23 April 2010 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**A3 Objections to the Traffic Regulation Order advertised for Framwellgate Moor Parking Area**

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development advising of objections to the controlled parking area order for the Framwellgate Moor area of Durham City.

The report summarised the background to the proposal, which was aimed at balancing conflicting demands for parking from residents, visitors and commuters and at addressing problems caused by displacement in mixed residential and commercial areas. Concerns had been raised by residents regarding parking issues associated with long stay parking by staff and visitors to nearby workplaces such as the hospital and college in the Dryburn area. It was noted that, following a public consultation exercise, the majority of residents in some streets had not been in favour of the scheme and so those streets had been excluded from the final proposal.

The consultation had resulted in three objections and these were detailed in the report, together with the response in each case. Councillors Martin and Wilkes both expressed their support for the proposals.

**RESOLVED:**

That the objections be set aside and that the Traffic Regulation Order, as advertised, be introduced, as outlined in the report.

**A4 Proposed Traffic Calming: Various Streets, Pittington, Durham**

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services advising of representations received with regard to a proposed traffic calming scheme for streets in Pittington, Durham.

The report summarised the background to the proposal, which had been made following representations about vehicle speeds on Front Street, Hallgarth View, Coalford Lane and Hallgarth Lane. The scheme would involve the installation of a speed visor (vehicle activated speed indicator device), a chicane and 12 sets of speed cushions, supplemented by appropriate signs and road markings.

A public consultation exercise resulted in 43 objections (from a total of 611 letters sent to residents) and these were summarised in the report, together with the Council's response. It was noted that an initial objection lodged by the Council's Passenger Transport Section on behalf of local public transport operators had since been withdrawn. Local members and the police were supportive of the proposals.

In response to a query from a local resident (Amanda Carroll), the Strategic Highways Manager indicated that it was not anticipated that the scheme would result in an increase in traffic on Hillside Grove.

Mr J Charlton addressed the meeting; he explained that, whilst he had originally objected to the proposed scheme, he had since spoken to many local people who had expressed support and he had concluded that it would in fact have a positive impact on speeding and would improve the quality of life for people in the area.

Mr Ingham was also present and outlined his objections to the proposals; he believed that road users could focus on traffic cushions to the detriment of pedestrians and other road users. He suggested that the installation of a zebra crossing should be considered.

The Strategic Highways Manager responded to issues raised by speakers and by members and emphasised that he believed that the proposed traffic calming scheme would help to reduce the levels of speeding in the area.

**RESOLVED:**

That the representations be set aside and that a traffic calming scheme be introduced in Pittington, Durham, as outlined in the report.

**A5 Proposed Parking Restriction (No Waiting at Any Time) C66 Horse Close Lane, Trimdon Station**

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services advising of representations received with regard to the proposed introduction of a 'No Waiting at Any Time' parking restriction on C66 Horse Close Lane, Trimdon Station.

The report summarised the background to the proposal, which had been made following representations regarding parking close the junction, the location of a school crossing patrol and railway line walkway crossing point. It was noted that local members and the police were in support of the proposal.

One objection to the proposal was received as the result of a consultation exercise; the objector, Mr Booth, was present at the meeting and outlined his concerns to members. Mr Booth believed that the imposition of parking restrictions could have an adverse effect on his business, which was very close to this location. However, it was noted that the restriction would not prevent loading/unloading and that there were alternative locations for parking in the vicinity.

**RESOLVED:**

That the representation be set aside and that the proposed parking restriction (No Waiting at Any Time) be introduced, as outlined in the report.

**A6 Proposed Traffic Calming: Acre Rigg Road, Peterlee**

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services advising of representations received with regard to a proposed traffic calming scheme for Acre Rigg Road, Peterlee.

The report summarised the background to the proposal, which had been made following representations about vehicle speeds and pedestrian safety. The scheme would involve the installation of 6 sets of speed cushions along the length of Acre Rigg Road, small sections of pedestrian guardrail (adjacent to Chester Place) and associated signage.

A public consultation exercise resulted in 26 objections (from a total of 419 letters sent to residents) and these were summarised in the report, together with the Council's response. Local members and the police were supportive of the proposals.

Mr Sillitoe was present at the meeting and outlined his objections to the proposal; he felt that there were too many speed cushions proposed, that traffic could be 'stalled' in wintry weather conditions and that they would slow down emergency service vehicles. Another local resident, Mrs King, was also concerned about the possible effects of the cushions on traffic in winter and expressed the view that the proposed traffic calming measures were unnecessary.

The Strategic Highways Manager responded to issues raised by speakers and emphasised that he believed that the proposed traffic calming scheme would help to reduce the levels of speeding in the area.

**RESOLVED:**

That the representations be set aside and that a traffic calming scheme be introduced on Acre Rigg Road, Peterlee, as outlined in the report.

**A7 Proposed Traffic Calming: Back North Terrace, Seaham**

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services advising of representations received with regard to a proposed traffic calming scheme for Back North Terrace, Seaham.

The report summarised the background to the proposal, which had been made following representations about vehicle speeds and 'rat running' resulting in pedestrian safety issues. The scheme would involve the installation of a series of 4 road humps along the length of Back North Terrace and associated signage.

A public consultation exercise resulted in 4 objections (from a total of 139 letters sent to residents) and these were summarised in the report, together with the Council's response. Councillor Arthur confirmed that he and the other local member, Councillor Walker, were supportive of the proposals, as were the police.

**RESOLVED:**

That the representations be set aside and that a traffic calming scheme be introduced on Back North Terrace, Seaham, as outlined in the report.

**A8 Proposed Traffic Calming: Unc. Wood View, Trimdon Station**

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services advising of representations received with regard to a proposed traffic calming scheme for Unc. Wood View, Trimdon Station.

The report summarised the background to the proposal, which had been made following representations about vehicle speeds. The scheme would involve the installation of a series of 4 speed cushions.

A public consultation exercise resulted in 1 objection (from a total of 46 letters sent to residents) and this was outlined in the report, together with the Council's response. It was noted that local members and the police supported the scheme.

**RESOLVED:**

That the representation be set aside and that a traffic calming scheme be introduced on Unc. Wood View, Trimdon Station, outlined in the report

The meeting closed at 3.40pm

**CHAIR**