

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Special Meeting of the **Highways Committee** held at County Hall, Durham on **Thursday 4 March 2010 at 11.30 a.m.**

Present:

Councillor D MORGAN in the Chair

Members of the Committee:

Councillors Arthur, A Bainbridge, Foster, Hugill, Magee, D Marshall, J Robinson, Todd, Tomlinson, Wright and R Young

Other Members:

Councillors Cox, Rodgers and Walker

Officers:

D Wafer (Business Manager, Regeneration & Economic Development), P Holding (Legal Adviser), A Leadbeater (Section Manager – Infrastructure), D Battensby (Area Traffic Engineer – North) and D Roberts (Democratic Services)

Also present: Mr Gray (in respect of item 4), Mr Pattinson (item 5), Mr Turnbull and Mr Richardson (item 6)

Apologies:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hancock, Shiell, Thomson and Woods.

A1 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

A2 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 12 February 2010 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

A3 C10A Front Street, Consett: Proposed Introduction of Loading Bay

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development advising of a representation received in relation to the proposed introduction of a loading bay on Front Street, Consett.

The report summarised the background to the proposal, which had been made in response to representations concerning congestion caused by loading operations being done in the running lane due to parked cars in the adjacent lay by. Following consultation, one objection was received and this was outlined in the report, together with the Council's response. It was noted that there was alternative parking available in the area and that the police and local members supported the proposal.

RESOLVED:

That the objection be set aside and that a loading bay be introduced, as outlined in the report.

A4 Unclassified West Street, Blackhall Colliery: Proposed Traffic Calming Scheme

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development advising of representations received in relation to a proposed traffic calming scheme on West Street, Blackhall Colliery.

The report summarised the background to the proposal, which would introduce 6 full width road humps. Members were informed that the local member had regularly received concerns from members of the public with regard to the speed of vehicles on West Street; consultation had been undertaken in 2007 but, following receipt of a significant number of objections, a scheme had not been progressed. However, further representations were made and a revised proposal was consulted on in 2009. The report referred to speed surveys which had been undertaken and noted a significant level of support for the proposed scheme, although a number of objections had also been received. These were detailed in the report, together with a response in each case; the police and local members supported the current proposals.

Mr R Gray was present at the meeting and outlined his objections to the proposal; he questioned the need for speed humps in this location and noted that, whilst he had lived on West Street for 40 years, he was not aware of any serious accidents occurring there. He queried the location of a speed hump outside his property and suggested that this would make the dropped kerb, which he had financed, obsolete. He also questioned the need for so many speed humps and asked whether consideration had been given to alternative traffic calming measures.

Councillor A Cox, local member, was also present at the meeting and explained to the Committee his reasons for requesting traffic calming measures on West Street, which he believed would benefit the majority of road users.

The Business Manager responded to the issues raised by Mr Gray and emphasised that he remained confident that the introduction of the scheme would be successful in reducing the mean speed of traffic to an acceptable level.

RESOLVED:

That the representations be set aside and that a traffic calming scheme be introduced to West Street, Blackhall Colliery, as outlined in the report.

A5 C128 Pelaw Avenue, Stanley: Proposed Traffic Management Measures

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development advising of objections received in relation to proposals to introduce traffic management measures on Pelaw Avenue, Stanley.

The report summarised the background to the proposal; speed surveys undertaken in the summer of 2008 had shown that a significant number of motorists exceeded the 30mph speed limit. It was noted that the existing speed limit lacked credibility on the upper part of the C128 Pelaw Avenue, which had no direct property frontages and had open sections of land to the north. The proposed scheme was made up of two distinct elements - a change in the speed limit from 30mph to 40mph on the upper half of Pelaw Avenue and the introduction of a gateway feature and a series of 4 sets of speed cushions on the lower half. The benefits of creating a 40mph 'buffer zone' were outlined in the report. It was noted that local members had raised no objection; that the police supported the proposals and that there had also been considerable support from local residents. The small number of objections received were detailed in the report, together with the Council's response in each case.

Mr T Pattinson was present at the meeting and expressed his support for the proposal; as a member of the former Derwentside District Council, in 2008 he had allocated some of his 'local member funding' to the provision of speed advisory signs. Two signs had been erected and had had a positive effect; he hoped that the balance of the allocation could be put towards the scheme now proposed and urged members to support the proposals.

RESOLVED:

That the objections be set aside and that the necessary Traffic Regulation Orders be implemented to enable the scheme, as outlined in the report, to be introduced.

A6 Waldridge Road – Chester Moor Link Road: Proposed installation of bus shelter adjacent to Aberwick Drive

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development concerning objections to the above proposal; members were reminded that consideration of this matter had been deferred from the meeting held on 15 January 2010 to allow further information to be provided to the objector. Mr Turnbull was again present and confirmed his objections to the proposal. He questioned the need for a bus shelter in this location and reiterated his belief that it could lead to incidents of anti-social behaviour; he also suggested that further consultation should take place with local residents.

Mr Richardson (Waldridge Parish Council) spoke in support of the proposal and it was noted that local members also supported the provision of a bus shelter in this location.

RESOLVED:

That the objections be set aside and that the Council proceed with the installation of a bus shelter.

The meeting closed at 12.40pm

CHAIR