

## Highways Committee

15 January 2010

**Proposed Removal of Traffic Calming  
B1285 Church Lane, Murton**



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### **Report of Ian Thompson, Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development**

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#### **1.0 Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 To advise members of representations received with regard to the existing traffic calming chicane.
- 1.2 This report requests that Members consider the background and representations received in relation to the proposals.

#### **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 Members may recall that in February 2007 the Highways Committee considered the proposal to introduce traffic calming on the B1285 in Murton. A number of representations were received however this proposal was agreed and two chicanes were installed.
- 2.2 Traffic calming measures were requested following on-going justified complaints by the local community with regard to excessive speed along the B1285 through Murton. Former County Councillor John Maddison provided funding from his Local Area Measures Allowance and supported the scheme.
- 2.3 Since the installation of the two chicanes, the one located on Church Lane has been subject to numerous complaints from residents. These complaints result from the noise generated from traffic approaching and pulling away from the stop line, litter cast from stopped vehicles and difficulties accessing to and from driveways. Residents are advising that their sleep is severely affected by the noise.
- 2.4 It is noted that a suitable period for motorists to become familiar with the traffic calming has passed and that the residents have reported that issues are still occurring.

- 2.5 The chicane has proved to be successful in reducing vehicle speeds at this location. Average speeds prior to the chicane were 32mph and afterwards this reduced to 29mph which is a reasonable reduction considering there are over 8000 vehicles per day using the road. The numbers of vehicles exceeding the speed limit where the police would consider taking action against the drivers has also reduced from 19% to 10%.
- 2.6 At a meeting which took place with the residents and Councillor Napier an alternative location for a chicane was suggested by the residents. This alternative was investigated and unfortunately found not to be suitable due to consequential road safety issues. Further investigations were carried out for other possible features but were also discounted.
- 2.7 The police do not object to the proposed removal of the chicane due to its effect on the local community but indicate their disappointment at the loss of a valuable speed reducing feature.
- 2.8 The Local Members are minded to provide their support for the proposal.

### **3.0 Recommendations and Reasons**

- 4.1 It is recommended that Members consider the proposal and proceed with the removal of the chicane.

### **4.0 Background Papers**

Highways Committee Minutes  
Northern Area scheme file

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**Appendix 1: Implications**

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**Finance**

Funding will be provided by the County Councillor Local Area Measures Allowance.

**Staffing**

None

**Equality and Diversity**

None

**Accommodation**

None

**Crime and Disorder**

The proposal is likely to result in a resumption of some anti-social speed related offences

**Environment**

None

**Human Rights**

None

**Localities and Rurality**

As described in the Report

**Young People**

None

**Consultation**

A meeting with residents took place on 8 July 2009