

Highways Committee

12 June 2009

Proposed Traffic Calming Scheme Unc. Coopers Close, Thornley



Report of Terry Collins, Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To advise Members of representations received with regard to a traffic calming scheme on Unc. Coopers Close, Thornley.
- 1.2 This report requests that Members consider the representations received in relation to the proposals and endorse the recommendation.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Public concern regarding speeding on Coopers Close was highlighted by the Local Member. Residents have also been concerned due to the close proximity of the school to the road. As a result, Councillor Brian Wilson requested that a traffic calming scheme be proposed and to proceed with the usual consultation exercise for schemes of this nature.
- 2.2 A draft scheme comprising of 4 No. speed cushions was prepared.
- 2.3 A total of 113 properties received a letter, a plan of the scheme and a pre-paid reply card and residents were invited to respond with their comments.
- 2.4 A total of 25 cards were returned. Of these, 23 indicated support for the scheme and 2 raised at least one representation.
- 2.5 The formal advertisement of the proposal, in the press and on-site, started on 18 March 2009 and ended on 8 April 2009. During this period, no formal objections were received.
- 2.6 Residencies from which representations were received are shown on attached drawing no. N84513/02.
- 2.7 A speed survey carried out on Coopers Close showed that 19% of vehicles were travelling between 31 and 35mph, 5% were exceeding 36mph and 1% exceeded 41mph. The mean speed of traffic was 38 mph.
- 2.8 The Police are in support of the scheme.

2.9 The Local Members, Councillors Brian Wilson and Morris Nicholls, support the scheme.

3.0 Current Position

3.1 Each topic of objection is reported together with the County Council's response.

3.2 Representation 1

“Speed ramps in village now are not working.”

Response: The proposed speed cushions on Coopers Close will differ from less effective ones in the area. We have designed this scheme in line with 'Traffic Advisory Leaflet 1/98 SPEED CUSHION SCHEMES' which identifies the effective design of traffic calming within a bus route.

3.3 Representation 2

“I find these (*speed cushions*) cause you to concentrate on positioning your vehicle rather than watching for pedestrians.”

Response: Rule 153 of the Highway Code states that drivers should reduce their speed as they approach speed reducing features. Reducing the speed of traffic is beneficial to the safety of pedestrians and other road users.

4.0 Recommendations and Reasons

4.1 Members are recommended to endorse the proposal to set aside the representations and proceed with the scheme.

Background Papers

Correspondence on Office File

Copies of correspondence have been placed in the Members' Resource Centre.

Contact: David Battensby Tel: 0191 332 4404

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance

Funding will be provided by Local Member from the Local Area Measures Allowance.

Staffing

None

Equality and Diversity

None

Accommodation

None

Crime and Disorder

The measures will reduce the problem of inappropriate driving along Coopers Close.

Sustainability

None

Human Rights

None

Localities and Rurality

As detailed in report.

Young People

Possible safer highway environment due to reduction in traffic speeds.

Consultation

Consultation was carried out with residents on 19 December 2008.

Health

None