

Highways Committee

18 September 2009

Proposed Traffic Calming Scheme Unc. Back Palmerston St., Consett



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

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To advise Members of representations received with regard to a traffic calming scheme on Unc. Back Palmerston Street, Consett.
- 1.2 This report requests that Members consider the representations received in relation to the proposals and endorse the recommendations.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Public concern regarding speeding on Back Palmerston St. and obstructive parking on a number of junctions was highlighted by the Local Member. As a result, it was requested that a traffic calming scheme and 'Keep Clear' roadmarkings be proposed and to proceed with the usual consultation exercise for schemes of this nature.
- 2.2 A draft scheme comprising of 4 No. road humps and 5 No. white 'Keep Clear' roadmarkings was prepared as shown on the attached drawing.
- 2.3 Each of the 65 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 20 cards were returned. Of these, 80% (75) indicated support for the scheme and 20% (25) raised at least one representation.
- 2.5 The formal advertisement of the proposal, in the press and on-site, started on 16 July 2009 and ended on 7 August 2009. During this period, no letters of objection were received.
- 2.6 Residencies from which representations were received are shown on attached drawing No.N81402/002.
- 2.7 A speed survey carried out on Back Palmerston Street in September 2008 showed that 67% of vehicles travel at less than 20mph, 33% travel between 21 and 30mph and 0% of vehicles exceeded the 30mph speed limit.

- 2.8 The Police are in support of the scheme.
- 2.9 The Local Members, Councillors Bob Young and Jane Brown, 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

"Too much noise."

Response: *Research has shown that overall traffic noise is actually reduced when traffic calming is implemented on roads where the traffic flow consists mainly of light vehicles. It is accepted that empty large vehicles generate noise when passing over humps, however it is not expected that this will be an issue in this location.*

3.3. Representation 2

"I think the humps need to be either side of both openings to Front St. These would force the traffic to slow down should pedestrians be walking out."

Response: *The scheme has been designed to traffic calm the whole of the street rather than one particular area. There will be humps located in advance of both openings. The distances from the hump to the openings vary from approximately 8m to 25m depending on the direction of travel. There is also a bend in the road in advance of the link to the Front Street which would naturally encourage vehicles to slow down.*

3.4 Representation 3

"Reduced car parking facility."

"Because I want to be able to park outside my own home. Permit parking for residents would settle the problem."

Response: *Having considered the responses and that such markings do not comply with the Parking Strategy, we are omitting the Keep Clear markings from the scheme.*

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 through the Local Area Measures Allowance.

Staffing

None

Equality and Diversity

None

Accommodation

None

Crime and Disorder

The measures will discourage the issues associated with inappropriate driving along the road.

Sustainability

None

Human Rights

None

Localities and Rurality

As detailed in report.

Young People

Potential safety improvements.

Consultation

Residents and statutory consultation carried out on 26 November 2008.