

Highways Committee

2 December 2010

Proposed Traffic Calming Scheme. Mickle Hill Road, Blackhall Rocks.



Report of Terry Collins, Director of Neighbourhood Services Councillor Bob Young, Cabinet Portfolio Member.

1.0 Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To advise the Committee of representations received with regard to the proposed traffic calming scheme for Mickle Hill, Blackhall Rocks (see attached plan numbered N14509/03).
- 1.2 This report requests that the Committee consider the representations received in respect of the proposed scheme during the initial consultation process. No objections to the proposed scheme were submitted to the Council during the statutory advertisement period.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Representations have been made by the Parish Council, local members and members of the public from the area of Mickle Hill Road, Blackhall Rocks with regard to the issue of vehicle speeds near the junction with the A1086 and associated pedestrian safety.
- 2.2 Following these concerns a traffic calming scheme was entered onto the Local Member's Pool List of schemes for future consideration.
- 2.3 A number of options were considered, however the characteristics of the road, the parking of vehicles, the number of accesses / driveways on this street and budgetary considerations has determined the form of traffic calming measures proposed in this scheme.
- 2.4 No apparent consequences are expected as a result of the options taken forward.
- 2.5 A consultation was undertaken with the residents of Coast Road, Coast View, Mickle Hill Road, Sea View and Ocean View between 29 April and 20 May 2010, where all properties, a total of 43, were provided with details of the proposed scheme and their occupants invited to comment. In addition, statutory consultees such as the emergency services were also informed of the proposals and invited to comment.

- 2.6 Out of 43 letters sent to residents, a total of 18 replies were received, of which 15 were in support and 3 were opposed.
- 2.7 The three respondents against the proposal raised different representations. Each issue is detailed below together with the Council's response.

3.0 Representations

3.1 Representation 1

“Speed cushions cause damage to vehicles / suspension”

One resident stated this reason

Response: The Highway Code advises in Rule 153 that motorists should reduce their speed when approaching traffic calming features that are intended to slow them down. Therefore, the principle applies that if the speed cushions are negotiated at a reasonable speed they will not cause discomfort, damage or constitute a danger to the road user. The proposals are based on national guidance for traffic calming measures and these take into consideration all classes of vehicle likely to encounter these features.

3.2 Representation 2

“Road cushions don't work” or “do nothing to reduce speed”

One resident stated this reason

Response: 'Before and After' studies on previous traffic calming schemes show that road cushions are an effective means of reducing vehicle speeds on residential roads.

3.3 Representation 3

“Parking on humps is a problem”

One resident stated this reason

Response: A motorist may park a vehicle on a speed hump. Experience shows that traffic calming measures of this nature do not increase the likelihood of an accident but have, in practice, the reverse effect

4.0 Statutory Representations

- 4.1 The Ambulance Service and Durham Constabulary both responded offering their support to the proposals.

5.0 Local Member Consultation

- 5.1 County Councillors Alan Cox and Robert Crute are minded to support the proposals.

6.0 Recommendations and Reasons

- 6.1 The Committee is recommended to endorse the proposal, set aside the representations and approve the scheme.
- 6.2 The presence of the traffic calming measures on Mickle Hill Road will reduce traffic speeds along the route to a more acceptable level, thus enhancing road safety. The benefits expected through implementation of the scheme outweigh the negative representations received.

7.0 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 the County Councillor Local Area Measure's Allowance.

Staffing

None

Equality and diversity

None

Accommodation

None

Crime and disorder

The proposal is likely to result in a reduction of some anti-social speed related offences, reduce the likelihood of unnecessary through traffic and improve road safety.

Environment

None

Human rights

None

Localities and rurality

As described in the Report

Young people

None.

Consultation

Consultation with affected residents in addition to statutory bodies.