

Nature of Petition	Appropriate Service/Officer	Summary of Information	Status of Petition
<p>Petition 419</p> <p>Reduce 40mph speed limit at Vigo Lane</p> <p>Received 11.06.22 No. of signatures - 308</p>	<p>Michelle McIntosh Traffic Assets Team Leader</p>	<p>Petition asking the Council to reduce the current 40mph speed limit at Vigo Lane, provide vehicle activated speed signs and to provide safe crossings adjacent to all junctions along Vigo Lane and to facilitate reduced emissions.</p> <p>We can appreciate that residents often have a desire for a lower speed outside or close to where they live. The Council take these concerns seriously and give them full consideration when we evaluate changes to speed limits. When undertaking these speed limit reviews we use the guidance issued by the Department for Transport and our own considerable local experience of implementing speed limits within the County. We also work closely with Durham Constabulary when considering changes to speed limits.</p> <p>It is an intention of the Department for Transport guidance to ensure that speed limits are credible with the aim that they become self-evident and enforcing by virtue of their surroundings.</p> <p>During the review process many criteria and factors are considered and evaluated. The existing vehicle speeds, nature of the road and its surroundings, local needs, existing highway infrastructure, frontage property development, highway signs, road markings and street lighting, the various road users, the credibility of the speed limit and accident history are some of these factors being considered. The length of speed limit, distance between speed limit terminal points and the number of changes along the route are also considered.</p> <p>The section of 40mph speed limit on Vigo Lane has no direct frontage development, wide verges, properties set well back or obscured by vegetation or walls and good footway provision. All these elements are conducive to a credible 40mph speed limit</p>	<p>Petition <b>CLOSED</b></p>

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		<p>and no changes have been considered appropriate when the provision of the new development along Vigo Lane has been considered at the planning stage.</p> <p>Unfortunately, the setting of speed limits can be quite an emotive issue with some motorists and residents generally demanding lower speed limits on roads. However, in many cases when motorists are travelling through similar environments where a speed limit may lack credibility a converse stance may intentionally or unintentionally be taken. We therefore have a difficult task in striking a balance and providing a compromise based upon the national and local strategies and also taking local factors into account.</p> <p>As is often the case, a speed limit which lacks credibility results in a significant proportion of motorists ignoring the limit and potentially driving at even higher speeds and, can also lead to greater risk taking. In addition the imposition of non-credible lower limits can raise expectations that the speeds of vehicles will suddenly reduce but this is seldom being achieved in practice, thus creating further annoyance for both residents and motorists, and also unfair criticism of and demands on the police who have to enforce the speed limits.</p> <p>Having checked the accident recording database shared with Durham Constabulary, I can report that there has been one personal injury accident along this section of Vigo Lane in the past 4 years, this being our standard search criteria. The incident involved a car and bicycle where it is recorded that the passenger of the vehicle has made contact with the cyclist. This accident was not recorded as being attributable to the highway or speeding. Whilst we would wish to see no accidents occurring, compared to many other locations within the county, this represents a very favourable accident record.</p>	

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		<p>Given the accident details, existing vehicle speeds and road environment, the current 40mph speed limit is considered to be the appropriate speed limit for this road.</p> <p>Further response sent clarifying that local needs, safety of residents and the wider community, health and safety and various other factors were considered and evaluated throughout the decision making process. Traffic Assets team to carry out a speed survey following the school summer holidays, when traffic flows and speeds will reflect a more normal pattern, to allow a review the current speed conditions on this road. If the survey data warrants a further review of the speed limit on this section of road, then the team will investigate fully.</p> <p>With regards to the loose manhole covers, our Highways Maintenance team are going to investigate and if they are a council asset, they will be repaired. If they belong to a third party utility company, then we will report it to the company responsible and request that they are fixed as a matter of urgency.</p>	
<p>Petition 422</p> <p>Road Safety Improvements – A177 Shincliffe Village/High Shincliffe</p> <p><b>E-Petition</b> Received 15.08.22 No. of signatures</p>	<p>Michelle McIntosh Traffic Assets Team Leader</p>	<p>Petition asking the Council to reduce the speed limit to 30mph on a 735m stretch of road, from the start of Willow Tree Avenue to part-way up Shincliffe Bank. (Note that a 40mph speed limit within County Durham is enforceable from 10%+2 = 46mph.) - Improve road signage to advise people of the approaching risks to reduce the number of accidents travelling southbound out of the city.</p>	<p>E-Petition to run from 20.8.22 – 20.11.22</p>

Petition Table – Active Petitions

Appendix 2

Nature of Petition	Appropriate Service/Officer	Summary of Information	Status of Petition
<p>Petition 423</p> <p>Request for traffic mitigation measures on Lowes Barn Bank</p> <p><b>E-Petition</b> Received 15.08.22 No. of signatures</p>	<p>Michelle McIntosh Traffic Assets Team Leader</p>	<p>Petition asking the Council to provide short and long-term solutions to the continually worsening traffic problems on Lowes Barn Bank, a residential 'c' road:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- to mitigate the exceptionally large increase in car and HGV traffic using this road as an unofficial / unsigned diversion route in Summer/Autumn 2022 during the multi-month B6300 closure, and the resultant stationary traffic / chaos for much of the working day - including air quality monitoring.</li> <li>- to propose workable solutions to restrict HGVs from using this steep road as a short-cut, which we feel is a completely inappropriate and unsafe route for such vehicles, given the 'c' classification and character of the road - especially given the proximity to the alternative 'A' road routes.</li> <li>- to propose solutions to limit the speed of all vehicles to a safe speed at times of day when traffic is flowing - especially on the downhill approach to the sharp bend.</li> </ul>	<p>E-Petition to run from 19.8.22 – 30.9.22 Deadline extended to 31 December 2022</p>
<p>Petition 425</p> <p>Request for bus service to run around Picktree Lodge Estate, Chester-le-Street</p> <p>Received 6.09.22 No. of signatures 137</p>	<p>Cathy Knight Integrated Passenger Transport Manager</p>	<p>Petition asking the Council to provide a bus service around the Picktree Lodge estate, similar to or a continuation of 702 that serves the North Lodge estate so that the whole community has better access to Chester-le-Street town centre.</p> <p>Much of Picktree Lodge Estate is a considerable distance from the nearest local bus route and this must pose a particular challenge for residents without a car or with a desire to leave the car at home. The community's aspiration for a local bus service will be recorded but there are currently a number issues that are impacting the local bus service industry, namely:</p> <p>a. Difficulties recruiting and subsequent retention of driving staff</p>	<p>Petition <b>CLOSED</b></p>

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		<p>b. The end of central government pandemic related financial support for the sector</p> <p>c. Passenger numbers are not recovering to pre pandemic levels and are not forecast to do some for some time</p> <p>d. Increased costs for bus operators</p> <p>As a result bus operators are reviewing their networks and making adjustments to ensure that they are financially sustainable and reliable going forward. Unfortunately a service to Picktree Lodge is unlikely to be commercially sustainable and would require continuing financial support from the Council on a continuing basis. In the meantime the Council’s Link2 dial-a-ride service (information and bookings available through 03000 269999 or <a href="https://www.durham.gov.uk/link2">https://www.durham.gov.uk/link2</a> ) does provide an option for people to undertake journeys of up to 5 miles where they do not have access to a mainstream bus service.</p>	
<p>Petition 427</p> <p>Hett Bus Stop</p> <p>Received 03.10.22</p> <p>No. of signatures - 72</p>	<p>Cathy Knight, Integrated Passenger Transport Manager</p> <p>Tony Leckenby, Sustainable Transport and Advertising Team Leader</p> <p>Peter Ollivere, Policy Team Leader (Spatial Policy)</p>	<p>Petition asking the Council to place a bus stop in Hett to connect Hett with the rest of the county.</p> <p>The council’s Link2 bus service does provide an option for people to undertake journeys of up to 5 miles where they do not have access to a mainstream bus service. The Link2 service will pick you up and set you down at your address, therefore there will be no requirement to provide any new bus stop infrastructure.</p> <p>The council note your interest to reducing pollution in County Durham and applaud your commitment to organising a petition in Hett village about how to improve sustainable transport links in your local area. You might be interested to know that the council are always looking at ways to promote transport modes that reduce pollution.</p>	<p>Petition <b>CLOSED</b></p>

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		As well as helping support people to use buses more frequently, the council are also putting in more walking and cycling paths to make it easier for people who do not want to travel by car. For those people that need to travel by car, the council are putting in hundreds of electric vehicle charging posts because electric vehicles are less polluting than cars that run on fossil fuels.	
Petition 428 The Play/Recreation Area is at The Wynd, Pelton.  <b>E-Petition</b> Received 10.10.22 No. of signatures	Anna Wills Asset Management Team Leader	Petition asking the Council to stop discussions with a housing developer, Bellway Homes. Bellway Homes have been given permission by Durham County Council to carry out site investigations on land registered as an Asset of Community Value.	E-Petition to run from 10.10.22 – 20.1.23
Petition 429 A181 near Thornley and Cassop  <b>E-Petition</b> Received 10.10.22 No. of signatures 36	Dave Lewin Strategic Traffic Manager	Petition asking the Council to make changes to the road A181 near Thornley & Cassop to avoid accidents & increase safety.	E-Petition ran from 10.10.22 – 14.11.22 Awaiting response from service