

Highways Committee

15th April 2024

Bridgehill

Proposed Traffic Calming

Ordinary Decision/Key Decision No.



Report of Corporate Management Team

Amy Harhoff Corporate Director of Regeneration, Economy & Growth

Councillor Elizabeth Scott, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Economy, and Growth.

Electoral division(s) affected:

Benfieldside

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To request that members consider objections received in response to a consultation on a proposal to introduce traffic calming measures on Pemberton Road in Benfieldside.
- 1.2 In accordance with the Council's Constitution, Members are asked to decide, in principle only, whether to proceed with the Traffic Calming scheme, which will then guide the Corporate Director of Regeneration, Economy and Growth in the exercise of delegated decision making. The final decision is therefore one for the Corporate Director, under delegated powers.

2 Executive Summary

- 2.1 Two representations have been received in relation to a proposed traffic calming scheme on Pemberton Road, Bridgehill.
- 2.2 Having considered the points raised in the objections, Officers have contacted the objectors but have been unable to resolve their objections. Overall, the scheme has been well received from other consultees. The scheme aims to improve road safety and maintain

lower traffic speeds by providing traffic calming in the form of a series of 6 road humps along a 450m length of Pemberton Road.

2.3 Local Members and Durham Constabulary have been consulted on the proposals. Responses in support of the proposals have been received from one local member as well as Durham Constabulary. There are no other outstanding objections to the proposals.

2.4 Consultation Period:

	From	To
Statutory Consultees/Informal Consultation	04.10.23	25.10.23
Formal Consultation	15.02.24	07.03.24

3 Recommendation(s)

3.1 Committee is recommended to:

Endorse the proposal, in principle, to introduce the traffic calming on Pemberton Road with the final decision to be made by the Corporate Director under delegated powers.

4 Proposal, Objections & Responses

4.1 The proposed location for the traffic calming that received objections during the consultation stages are detailed below.

4.2 Location – Pemberton Road, Bridgehill (to introduce traffic calming).

4.3 Proposal Background

Bridgehill is a suburb located to the northwest of Consett near Shotley Bridge in County Durham. The area predominately consists of residential properties, with on-street parking available, and a primary school situated to the south of Pemberton Road. Pemberton Road is a C class road that runs between Blackhill to Allensford.

In January 2023, officers from Durham County Council met with one of the local members to discuss road safety concerns, and potential solutions, to address concerns raised by the public regarding pedestrian safety and traffic speed on Pemberton Road.

Durham County Council investigated concerns and, in consultation with the Durham Constabulary, are proposing the most appropriate solutions to the issues raised.

The proposals include 6 consistently spaced road humps, over a 450m length of Pemberton Road, at locations adjacent to St Mary's RC VA Primary School, 45 Pemberton Road, 15 Melrose Court, 23 Pemberton Road, Bridgehill Playing Fields and 1 Pemberton Road. The proposal will maintain lower traffic speeds and enhance road safety.

4.4 Informal Consultation:

We directly consulted with our list of statutory consultees and although comments were forwarded, there are no outstanding objections to the scheme. We also consulted directly affected roadside frontage properties, where initial consultation responses were positive, with one response was received that wished to extend the scope the scheme.

4.5 Formal Consultation:

Consultation dates	Expressions in favour	Expressions against
15.02.24 to 07.03.24	0	2

4.6 Summarised objections & responses:

4.7 Objections:

2 residents who have objected to this proposal at the formal consultation stage. The reasons for their objection have been summarised below:

Objection 1:

- “I am disappointed that other methods of speed awareness have not been applied such as the electronic speed displays which are in use in local areas such as Durham Road, Blackhill and Shotley Bridge.”
- “Pemberton Road is the only access route to local streets and residential areas”.

- “It is also the access route to St Mary’s school and, rather than facilitate the flow of traffic, speed humps will contribute to greater congestion and traffic management issues”.
- “That will make crossing the road less safe for pedestrians in those areas”.

Objection 2:

- “I feel that the construction of road humps is a heavy-handed way of dealing with the issue”.
- “It will have a negative effect on people living in the surrounding area and using local facilities as they will not be able to access residential areas or community spaces without having to go over the road humps”.
- “Would the correct way to manage the situation be to identify any offenders and deal with them rather than penalise the entire community? The vast majority are aware of speed safety and stick to speed limits”.
- “If the concern is not only speeding, but also the build-up of traffic, then I feel that road humps will create a stop/start effect which contributes to congestion rather than facilitating the flow. This results in an increased risk of accidents for vehicles and pedestrians”.

4.8 DCC Response:

- Other methods of addressing the road safety concerns, such as electronic speed displays/vehicle activated signage is used where standard traffic calming features are not considered to be appropriate and only where there is an established excessive speed problem.
- At the time of design, the appropriate measures are based on the case that although there was not an excessive speed issue, concerns were raised regarding inappropriate speed. Inappropriate speed is where drivers are not driving to prevailing conditions but remain within the enforceable speed limit. As the concerns are not related to excessive speed, no police escalation is required, however, traffic calming aims to provide a consistent method of self-enforcement of lower speeds.

- Pemberton Road is an access route to local streets, residential areas, and St. Mary's school and it is these reasons that traffic calming measures are proposed, to maintain appropriate speeds and to enhance overall road safety.
- The traffic calming will assist in regulating traffic speeds, but such schemes are not expected to contribute to noticeable congestion within the area. There is no reason to expect this will have a negative impact on the safety of pedestrians crossing the road due to the expected lower traffic speeds.

4.9 See appendix 3 for full details of the objection(s).

5 Conclusion

5.1 Having considered the points raised within the objections. Officers have offered a substantive response to the key points. Accordingly, Officers remain of the view that it is necessary to introduce the proposals to enhance road safety for all road users in this location. It is therefore recommended that Members agree in principle to endorse the proposal to proceed with the implementation of the Traffic Calming with the final decision to be made by the Corporate Director under delegated powers.

6 Background papers

6.1 Correspondence and documentation in Traffic Office File:

<L:\Traffic Assets\101 - Traffic Calming Schemes\TA703 - C131, Pemberton Road, Bridge Hill - Traffic Calming>

Author(s)

[Thomas Burton]	Tel: 03000 262821
[Michelle McIntosh]	Tel: 03000 263685
[Kieron Moralee]	Tel: 03000 263368
[Dave Lewin]	Tel: 03000 263582

Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

All orders have been advertised by the County Council as highway authority and will be made in accordance with legislative requirements.

Finance

Regeneration

Consultation

Is in accordance with SI:2489.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

It is considered that there are no Equality and Diversity issues to be addressed.

Climate Change

It is considered that there are no Climate Change issues to be addressed.

Human Rights

Any interference with human rights is considered to be necessary in accordance with the law and proportionate in order to address highway safety issues.

Crime and Disorder

No impact on Crime and Disorder.

Staffing

No impact on staffing.

Accommodation

No impact.

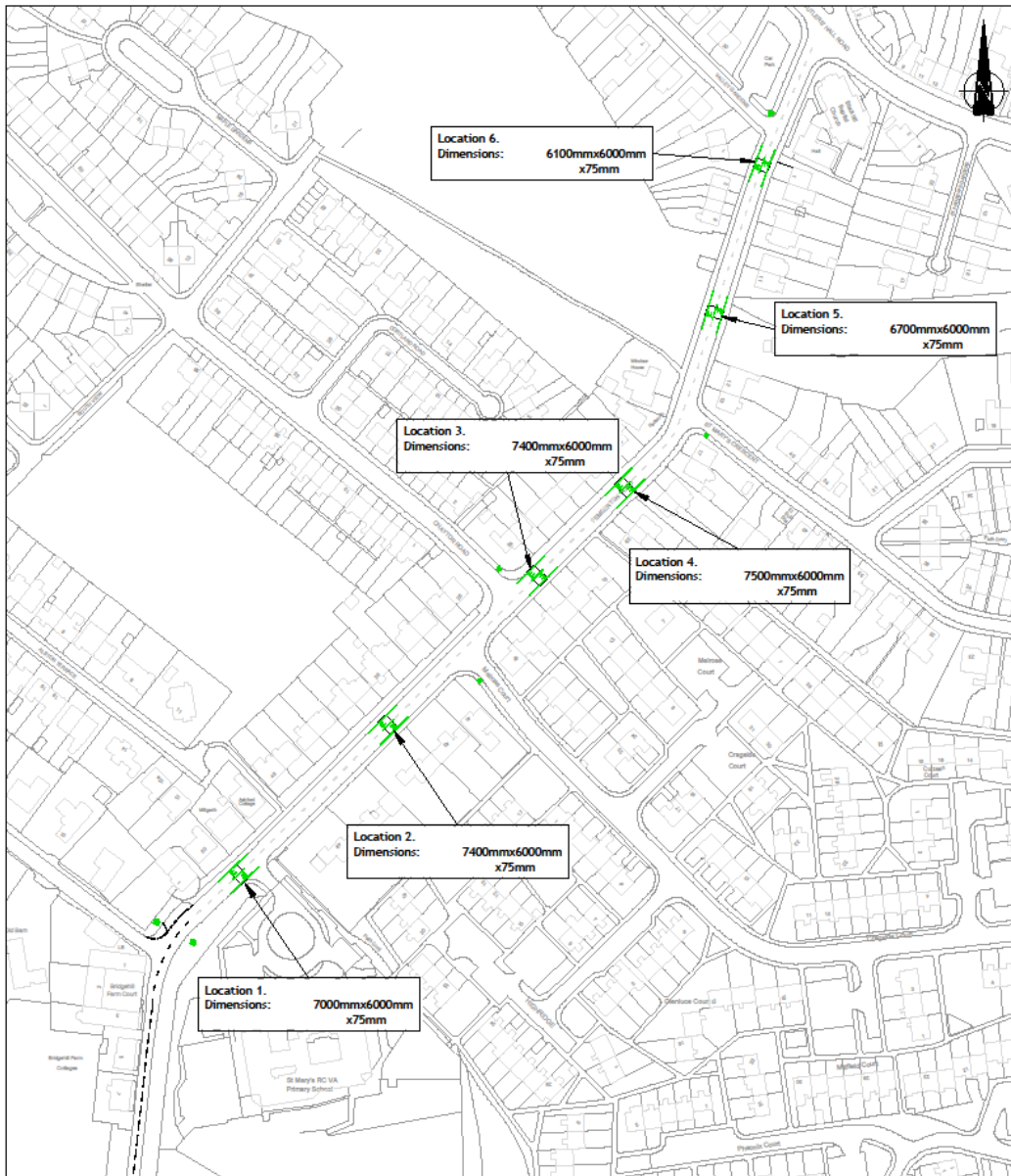
Risk


Not Applicable.

Procurement

Operations, DCC.

Appendix 2: Location of Proposals




 New Humps Ahead signage to be erected

Please note all traffic calming features are standard round top road humps 75mm maximum high

Rev	Drawn By	Approved By	Description of Amendments	
1	Name	Date	Name	Date
01	T. Turner	20/01/2023	J. Williams	20/01/2023

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey data with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Durham County Council LA 10004923 000

 **Project** 1A703 - C131, Pemberton Road, Bridge Hill - Traffic Calming

Corporate Director Regeneration, Economy and Growth

Strategic Traffic Management

County Hall, Durham DH1 1TA

Drawings General Layout

Scale: NTS @ A3 Project Number: 1A703 Rev: 0/-

Date: Traffic Report 03/23 - Traffic Calming Scheme 1A703 - C131, Pemberton Road, Bridge Hill - Traffic Calming

Appendix 3: Objection Details

Location: Pemberton Road, Bridgehill – Objection 1

Sent: Friday, February 16, 2024 8:12 PM
To: Highways Orders <Highways.Orders@durham.gov.uk>
Subject: [EXTERNAL]:FAO Sharon Renwick, Legal Assistant, County Hall, Durham DH1 5UL re Speed Humps on Pemberton Road C131 ref 5002717

[You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

[REDACTED]

I am complaining about the proposed construction of road humps on the C131 Pemberton Road, Bridgehill, Consett.

I am not aware of any accidents on the stretch of road concerned that would suggest that the construction of six road humps is required.

I am very disappointed that other forms of dealing with speeding traffic have not previously been applied eg speed activated signs etc.

I feel that the construction of road humps is a heavy handed way of dealing with the issue.

Would the correct way to manage the situation be to identify any offenders and deal with them rather than penalise the entire community? The vast majority are aware of speed safety and stick to speed limits.

If the concern is not only speeding, but also the build up of traffic, then I feel that road humps will create a stop/start effect which contributes to congestion rather than facilitating the flow. This results in an increased risk of accidents for vehicles and pedestrians.

It will have a negative effect on people living in the surrounding area and using local facilities as they will not be able to access residential areas or community spaces without having to go over the road humps. Eg Barley Mill Road and Allensford.

Durham County Council is constantly reminding the public of how it has had to reduce services as a result of cuts to funding from Central Government. I do not feel that the expense of this project is the best use of those limited resources.

Regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Location: Pemberton Road, Bridgehill – Objection 2

From [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 16, 2024 7:46 PM
To: Highways Orders <Highways.Orders@durham.gov.uk>
Subject: [EXTERNAL]:FAO Sharon Renwick, Legal Assistant, County Hall, Durham DH1 5UL or by email to Highways.Orders@durham.gov.uk (ref: 5002717)

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

[REDACTED]

I write to object to the proposed speed humps on Pemberton Road C131 ref 5002717

I am disappointed that other methods of speed awareness have not been applied such as the electronic speed displays which are in use in local areas such as Durham Road, Blackhill and Shotley Bridge.

Pemberton Road is the only access route to local streets and residential areas and it is also the access route to St Mary's school and ,rather than facilitate the flow of traffic, speed humps will contribute to greater congestion and traffic management issues.

That will make crossing the road less safe for pedestrians in those areas.

They will have an adverse effect on local businesses such as the newsagents on Pemberton Road and access to the Baptist Church.

Regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

To keep in touch:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] " and
follow)

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

To keep in touch:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]