

Highways Committee

08 March 2013

Unc Burns Terrace, Shotton Colliery Traffic Calming



Report of Terry Collins, Corporate Director Neighbourhood Services

Councillor Bob Young, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Strategic Environment

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To advise Committee of representations received to the proposed Traffic Calming measures in the vicinity of Burns Terrace, Shotton Colliery.
- 2 It is recommended that the Committee endorse the proposal having considered the representation and proceed with the implementation of the advertised Traffic Calming as per the plan in Appendix 2.

Background

- 3 The local residents have submitted a 45 person petition requesting that Durham County Council provide road humps in order to slow traffic in the residential street where children are playing.
- 4 Representation was received from the local Member regarding the anti-social driving behaviour in the area.

Proposals

- 5 The proposed scheme is to introduce 4 road humps on Unc Burns Terrace, Shotton Colliery.

Consultation

- 6 An informal consultation was undertaken with the affected residents from the 9th August 2012 to the 23rd August 2012.
- 7 Of the 81 consultation letters sent to properties directly affected by the proposals a total of 13 responses were received. Of the 13 responses, 11 were in favour of the proposals and 2 were against. The remaining consultees who did not respond are deemed to have no preference. A further letter was sent to those objectors and as it stands there is now only 1 outstanding objection.

Objections and Responses

8 Objection 1

The consultation process is not the best way to gauge public opinion (1 objector stated this reason)

Response: The statutory requirements for a traffic regulation order process is only to advertise in the local press and to advertise by way of notice onsite. However with a view to engage with the public, Durham County Council consults with local residents who may be directly affected by the proposals, in an attempt to gauge a better understanding of public opinion. This is done by proving residents with free postage postcards with the option to say " I am in favour of the scheme" or " I am opposed to the scheme" and an opportunity to make comments.

9 Objection 2

There is no need for the speed humps at the on the two outer locations (1 objector stated this reason)

Response: To comply with the Road Hump Regulations it is deemed necessary to have a speed reducing feature at the beginning of a traffic calmed area. Humps are required at regular spacing's after these features to help maintain consistent reduced speeds and make the traffic calming feature safer for the road user.

10 Objection 3

"Twenties plenty" signs should be erected as opposed to the introduction of road humps (1 objector stated this reason)

Response: The provision of traffic signs on the public highway throughout the Country is restricted to those signs contained within the relevant legislation, specifically the "Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions" which is a UK Statutory Instrument. The Council endeavours to follow the requirements of this legislation to avoid introducing illegal signs on the highway. As the suggested sign is not an approved sign it cannot be provided without getting special approval from the Department for Transport nor is it enforceable. It is also acknowledged from research and experience that signs alone have almost no impact on vehicle speeds in residential areas.

Statutory Representations

- 11 The Statutory Notice for the implementation of the Traffic Calming was advertised on site and in the local press between the 25th October 2012 and the 16th November 2012.
- 12 Durham Constabulary and the North East Ambulance Service responded to the consultation giving their full support of the proposals.

Local Member Consultation

- 13 Both local Councillors Eunice Huntington and Robin Todd have been consulted. Councillor Huntington responded offering full support.

Recommendations and reasons

- 14 It is **RECOMMENDED** that the Committee endorse the proposal having considered the objections and proceed with the implementation of the Traffic Calming on Unc Burns Terrace as per the plan in Appendix 2

Background papers

- 15 Correspondence on Office File

Contact: Paul Duffy Tel: 03000 263697

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – The project is to be funded by the Councillor's LAMA

Staffing – None

Risk – If the scheme was not to proceed there is a risk that road safety would be compromised

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty – None

Accommodation – None

Crime and Disorder – The proposal could reduce the amount of anti-social driving behaviour

Human Rights – None

Consultation – As described in the report

Procurement – Works to be delivered by Durham County Council Highway Services

Disability Issues – None

Legal Implications – The measures are being introduced in accordance with the current legislation