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Our ref: JG/306

**By e-mail – Mr Peter Boughton**

25 July 2017

Dear Mr Boughton

**Petition 307 – Nevilles Cross 30 mph and road safety review**

Further to previous correspondence relating to this petition, I have received the following update from the Traffic Asset Senior Engineer:-

Thank you for contacting us requesting that a review be undertaken on the A167 and A690 in the Neville's Cross area of Durham City.

**Road Safety**

Throughout the length of the A167 between Merryoaks and Sniperley, there is provision made for pedestrians to cross the A167 comprising numerous pedestrian refuge islands, traffic signals with pedestrian phases, a toucan crossing and two footbridges.

Having checked the Road Traffic Accident database, there are 'personal injury' accidents recorded on the section of road in question. These accidents are mainly associated with the traffic signals at the Duke of Wellington, Neville's Cross and Crossgate Moor involving junction- related accidents and rear end shunts. Of the accidents which have occurred, none were identified by Police investigation as involving excessive speed as a contributory factor in the incident. Two of the accidents involved pedestrians. However, these were attributable to pedestrian error where the adult stepped out into the flow of traffic at Neville's Cross signals without looking properly.

Whilst we would wish to see no accidents on the road network, it has to be appreciated that the A167 carries in excess of 20,000 vehicles per day and incidents which generally have a causation of 'driver error' is comparable to much of the road network nationally.

The Council is currently making changes to the islands at Neville's Cross traffic signals to improve the crossing facilities. This work will be followed by refurbishment of the signals and resurfacing of the junction and Neville's Cross Bank.

**Speed Limits**

The Council is required to follow Department for Transport (DfT) legislation and guidance to ensure that speed limits are credible with the aim that they become self-evident and enforcing by virtue of their surroundings. During the review process various factors and criteria are considered and evaluated, such as:

**Resources**

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- Existing vehicle speeds;
- Nature of the road and its surroundings;
- Local needs;
- Existing highway infrastructure;
- New housing development;
- Highway signs;
- Road markings and street lighting;
- The various road users;
- The credibility of the speed limit; and
- Accident history.

A speed limit which lacks credibility results in a significant proportion of motorists ignoring the limit and driving at even higher speeds, and can also lead to greater risk taking. The majority of drivers will travel at what they consider is a credible speed for their environment, with the average speed being a good indicator.

The current 40mph speed limit has been reviewed in accordance with DfT guidance and is considered a credible speed limit for this location. This is due to many factors including the properties along this length being set well back from the road, the width of the road, the good pedestrian crossing facilities, the function of the road as a primary route, the existing speed profiles, the general road environment and favourable accident history.

### **20mph Speed Limits and Zones**

The Council has reviewed its policy on 20mph speed limits and zones and this review was approved by our Cabinet on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2014. Please see the Cabinet report at the following link:

<http://democracy.durham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=154&Mid=7384&Ver=4>  
Please see the updated 20mph Speed Limits and Zones Policy at the following link:

<http://www.durham.gov.uk/media/9203/20mph-Speed-Limits-and-Zones-Policy-2016/pdf/20mphSpeelimitsandZonesPolicy2016.pdf>

As part of the above review our Cabinet approved the implementation of 20mph part-time speed limits around 33 schools within County Durham and this has been extended to include 66 schools within County Durham.

We are pleased to confirm that Neville's Cross Primary School is included within the School's 20mph Part-Time Speed Limit Project for implementation this financial year.

Please see the Cabinet update report on the Schools 20mph Part-Time Speed Limits Project at the following web link:

<http://democracy.durham.gov.uk/documents/s61900/Item8FinalSchools%2020%20mph%20Part-Time%20Speed%20Limits%20Project%202.pdf>

The Council's policy on 20mph limits and zones is that they can be provided where:

- Where meet Department for Transport legislation and guidance; and
- Fully funded from third party sources such as Schools, Town/Parish Councils, local Councilor's Neighbourhood Budget and Area Action Partnerships.

If you would like to discuss further please contact David Battensby, Traffic Asset Senior Engineer, on telephone number 03000 263681 or by email at [david.battensby@durham.gov.uk](mailto:david.battensby@durham.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely

**Ros Layfield**  
Committee, Member and Civic Services Manager

Copy for the attention of:

Councillors L Brown & E Scott

(Local Member)

Councillor B Stephens

(Cabinet Portfolio Holder)

Councillor R York

(Cabinet Support)

Councillor C Kay & S Morrison

(Chairman & Vice-Chairman of Highways Committee)

Chief Executive's Office

Director of Transformation and Partnerships

Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Leader's Office

Corporate Director of Regeneration and Local Services

